

# THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY: ITS LIFE, TIMES AND MEMBERS

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'The one remains – the many change and pass' (Shelley)

## I: ROOTS

THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE of Archaeology and History had its birth 150 years ago, in the spring of 1848, under the title of The Bury and West Suffolk Archaeological Institute. It is among the earliest of the County Societies, preceded only by Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire (1844), Norfolk (1846), and the Cambrian, Bedfordshire, Sussex and Buckinghamshire Societies (1847), and contemporary with those of Lancashire and Cheshire. Others, equally successful, followed, and it is a testimony to the social and intellectual timeliness of these foundations that most still flourish and produce *Proceedings* despite a century and a half of changing approaches to the historical and antiquarian materials for the study of which they were created.

The immediate impetus to this movement was the formation in December 1843 of the *British Archaeological Association for the Encouragement and Preservation of Researches into the Arts and Monuments of the Early and Middle Ages*, which in March 1844 produced the first number of the *Archaeological Journal*. The first published members' list, of 1845, shows the members grouped according to the counties in which they lived, indicating the intention that the Association should gather information from, and disseminate discourses into, the counties through a national forum. The thirty-six founding members from Suffolk form an interesting group from a varied social spectrum, including the collector Edward Acton (Grundisburgh), Francis Capper Brooke (Ufford), John Chevallier Cobbold, Sir Thomas Gery Cullum of Hawstead, David Elisha Davy, William Stevenson Fitch, the Ipswich artists Fred Russel and Wat Hagreen, Professor Henslow, Alfred Suckling, Samuel Tymms, John Wodderspoon, the Woodbridge geologist William Whincopp, Richard Almack, and the Revd John Mitford (editor of *Gentleman's Magazine*). The list reveals a weighting towards an East Suffolk membership.

There can be little doubt that the short-lived *Suffolk Archaeological Association*, which produced a members' list in 1845 and published *Original Papers* (in Ipswich) between October 1846 and November 1848, was directly inspired by the British Archaeological Association, for a number of its members including Archdeacon Berners, Cobbold, Fitch, Hagreen, Wodderspoon, the Revd Stephen Jackson and W.P. Hunt belonged to the national body. In addition to a strong Ipswich contingent, the Suffolk Association attracted noble members, Viscount Acheson, the Marquess of Bristol, Lords Conyngham and Rendlesham and Sir Augustus Henniker, and antiquaries of note from various parts of the county, including Augustine Page<sup>1</sup> (Ampton), the Revd Henry Creed (Mellis), Richard Almack (Long Melford), Dawson Turner (Yarmouth) and the Revds J. and R. Hindes Groome. The *Original Papers* refer to Ipswich, Kersey, Cotton and Bardwell. The Ipswich membership included a small group active together as members of the *Ipswich Philosophical Society*, a predominantly Nonconformist society formed in 1842 (from the *Ipswich Scientific Book Club* of 1841), including Fitch, Wodderspoon, Thomas Baldock Ross, Frederic Pawsey (the *Association's* printer), Robinson Taylor, Dr H.P. Drummond<sup>2</sup> and Charles Silburn, the last two of whom were also prominent workers for the *Ipswich Mechanics' Institute* of 1824: others, including Jackson, were associated with the *Ipswich Literary Institute*. The leading Nonconformist names from the *Philosophical Society* – Biddell, Alexander and Ransome – are noticeably absent from the *Association*, however.

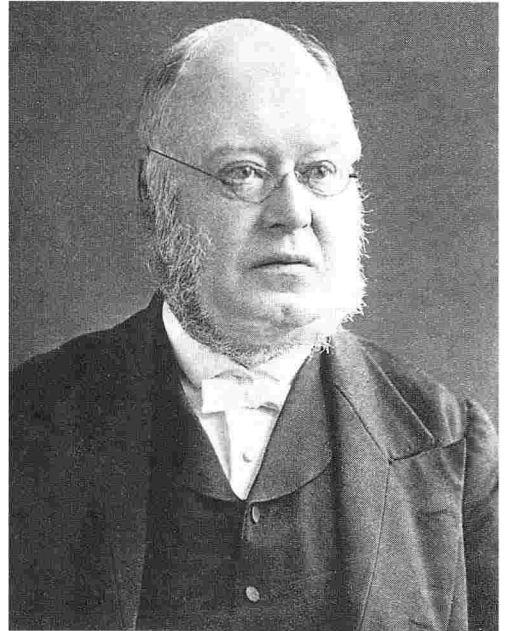


FIG. 43 – *Above left*: Frederick William Hervey, Marquess of Bristol (1769–1859), President, Bury and West Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1848-53 (*lithographic portrait by Thomas Maguire: Ipswich Museum Portraits*). *Above right*: Revd Professor Churchill Babington (1821–89), Secretary, Classical Antiquities; Rector of Cockfield and Disney Professor of Archaeology, Cambridge University (*photograph courtesy of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge*). *Below left*: Richard Almack (1799–1875), Secretary, Genealogy and Heraldry (*photograph, 1871, courtesy of the late Miss Dorothy Almack*). *Below right*: Revd Charles Robertson Manning (c. 1825–99), original member; also Secretary, Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, 1857–95 (*photograph by Cleer Alger, courtesy of Stephen Govier for the Cleer Alger Trust*).

The Suffolk Archaeological Association was clearly a serious attempt to convene patronage, antiquarian knowledge, artistic competence, bibliophily and educational purpose within a single project.

The British Archaeological Association was precipitated into crisis soon after its foundation. Its organ, the *Archaeological Journal*, became the property of a bookseller, prompting a schism in the Society which resulted in the formation of the (later Royal) *Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, who continued with *Archaeological Journal*, while in 1846 the Central Committee of the British Archaeological Association began the publication of the *Journal* which bears its name. The dissension and bad feeling generated by these events are not forgotten even today. In 1846 the Suffolk membership must certainly have been aware of them, and in an early members' list of the *Archaeological Institute* (1848), Capper Brooke, Richard Almack, D.E. Davy, the Revd John Wareyn Darby (transcriber of churchyard inscriptions, and Davy's companion on tour for twenty years), William Whincopp and two others are found, but the great majority of the 1845 members had not (at any rate, not yet) moved across from the Association. Among new members, the Institute had recruited the topographer G.A. Carthew, Robert Fitch of Norwich (brother of William), the antiquary Jonathan Gooding (Town Clerk of Southwold,<sup>3</sup> an early patron of Hamlet Watling's), and Weston Styleman Walford (who became an important early contributor to the Suffolk Institute's *Proceedings*). Meanwhile in 1846 Volume I of Suckling's work was published, which furnishes a valuable list of those Suffolk bibliophiles and antiquaries wealthy enough to subscribe, and reveals a potential interest and readership vastly greater than the forty-six members mustered by the Suffolk Archaeological Association in the previous year.

The labours applied to the work of creating the *Ipswich Museum* may have drained attention from the Suffolk Archaeological Association and contributed to its demise. At the end of 1846 Ipswich was bitten by a new enthusiasm as the plans were developed. This had been advocated since at least 1791 by the entomologist, the Revd William Kirby of Barham (1759–1850; grandson of the topographer John Kirby), and in December 1847 came to fruition (with the veteran Kirby as President) through the combined energies of the Revd Professor J.S. Henslow of Hitcham (1796–1861; Cambridge Professor of Botany, and mentor of Charles Darwin) with his friends Professors Whewell and Sedgwick, Sir W.J. Hooker and William Yarrell, the assembled Nonconformist forces represented by the Ipswich Philosophical Society, and other enlightened townsmen. This was at first a private concern, with a declared purpose of providing free education for the working classes, primarily as a Natural History Museum, but to include illustrations of Art, Antiquities and Ethnology. It was to all intents and purposes an *Institute*, for membership was available by subscription of at least one guinea per annum (or evenings only, five shillings), and the general public was admitted free only on Wednesdays and on Friday evenings. Regular lectures by speakers of national importance commenced in March 1848 with a course of six by Professor Airy, the Astronomer Royal. The Library of the Ipswich Philosophical Society, and the contents of the Museums of the Mechanics' and the Literary Institutes, were soon incorporated with the new collections. The patrons were the Marquess of Bristol and the Earl of Stradbroke, and the sixteen founding Vice-Presidents included Marquess Conyngham, Sir W.F.F. Middleton, Lord Rendlesham and Sir J.P. Boileau. The officers and committee embodied the Nonconformist group, including W.H. Alexander (Treasurer), George Ransome (Hon. Secretary), George Alexander, Peter Bruff, Garrett Garrett, Edwin Giles, W.P. Hunt, William Dillwyn Sims, W.H.B. Webster and William Stevenson Fitch (Committee). Fitch was very active on the Committee, and made a significant antiquarian contribution to the early collections by the loan of a large series of bronze and stone prehistoric celts, and by acting to obtain impressions of seals and examples of Suffolk tokens. The first Curator was Dr William Barnard Clarke jnr, M.D. (son of a senior Portman of Ipswich), Fellow and for some years President of the (national) *Architectural Society* (resigned 1838). His brother Dr Edward Clarke was a competent antiquarian illustrator, who furnished plates of carvings

from St Nicholas's church for the last number of the Suffolk Archaeological Association papers in 1848.

In Bury St Edmunds, meanwhile, a similar movement was developing.<sup>4</sup> Plans for a Museum were expressed from 1840 onwards through the *Bury Mechanics' Institute* (1824), but did not at once come to fruition, perhaps because from 1842–44 those interested in antiquarian matters in the town were involved in the restoration of St Mary's church, and from 1842–51, under the Secretaryship of Samuel Tymms, in the restoration of the Norman Tower. The proposal reappeared in 1845, when the offer of an important geological collection to the town prompted the Revd Henry Hasted and Sir Henry Bunbury to tender subscriptions. A public meeting chaired by the Mayor, John Deck, seeking approval for a Museum supported by a rate, was unsuccessful, but at the suggestion of Dr Donaldson, headmaster of the Grammar School, a committee of eleven local worthies was formed to establish and develop a collection in readiness for a suitable home. The proposal of J.H.P. Oakes, a local banker, that Moyses Hall would be well suited, was not then adopted. In April–May 1847 a grand exhibition of geological, archaeological, anthropological and natural history specimens, paintings, drawings and carvings was staged at the Town Hall, with loans obtained from local collectors and gentry, by a committee chaired by Samuel Tymms: Dr Donaldson was able to announce that the Bury and West Suffolk Museum was to be inaugurated and would continue after the closure of the exhibition, with Tymms as Secretary and the Marquess of Bristol as Patron. This was to be housed temporarily in the Guildhall Library. It was a natural progression from these endeavours, that on 16 March 1848, at a meeting in the Guildhall, Dr Donaldson and Thomas Cullum proposed, and carried, the formation of the Bury and West Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, with Samuel Tymms as Secretary. Over seventy people joined in the first week at an annual subscription of five shillings.

## II: THE BURY AND WEST SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, 1848–53

Suffolk is almost unique in that its county Society is called an Institute, a name presumably adopted in imitation of the national Archaeological Institute then newly formed. The specific compass for Bury and West Suffolk lasted until 1853, and that entire period is represented by Volume I of our *Proceedings*, the first three of its seven parts appearing in 1849, and the remainder annually thereafter. The contents and title page of the volume as issued in 1853 are deliberately modelled on the *Archaeological Journal*. The Honorary Members listed in 1852, namely the archaeologists J. Gough Nichols and Charles Roach Smith, and the antiquaries Albert Way and Jacksonian Professor R. Willis, ensured that both the Archaeological Institute and the British Archaeological Association were represented, and set a keynote for the Institute's work to embrace the study of the past through excavation, artefacts, standing monuments and documentary sources. Our founders, of whom it appears that Samuel Tymms was the prime mover, recognized the need to establish a wide membership promptly, to enlist an active group of officers and committee, and to advance the Institute's work through regular meetings and publications: their success may be judged by the *Proceedings*, by a membership of over 150 already recruited in 1849 with increased numbers and a low drop-out rate by 1852, and by the quality of those elected to office. In 1849, with the Marquess of Bristol as President and Tymms the Secretary and Treasurer, there were six Vice-Presidents, H.E. Bunbury M.P., the Revd Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, the Revd Professor Henslow, Lord Arthur Hervey and Henry Wilson (of Stowlangtoft Hall), and a Committee of twelve of whom the Revd Henry Hasted was one.

The Institute owes very much to the founding energies of Samuel Tymms (1808–71) who was born in Camberwell. He acquired the taste for antiquarian study, and a circle of eminent friends, through working in his youth on the staff of *Gentleman's Magazine*: after a spell in the

editorial chair of the *Hertford Reformer* he moved to the *Bury and Norwich Post*, where he remained for a quarter of a century before retiring to Yarmouth in 1857. He was Secretary of several societies, including the Horticultural Society, the Church Restoration Committee and the Church Schools Committee, and in later life a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the Genealogical and Historical Society. He was the author of many books and articles, including *A Handbook of Bury St Edmunds* (which ran to a ninth Edition in 1916, and has not been surpassed for accuracy and completeness), fourteen volumes of the *Family Topographer*, and the Camden Society's volume of *Bury Wills*: and he was also adept in numismatics, bibliology, conchology and the study of English etymology and dialect parlance. He was a family man of strong Christian principles, and his obituarist adds: 'As a gentleman he will long be remembered; for who can forget the kindly smile which lit up his patriarchal countenance when saluting an acquaintance? His simple habits, his unostentatious ways, ever devoid of that outward gloss which makes a man of the world, bore with it a charm which drew admiration and respect from all who came in contact with him.' As Secretary and Treasurer of the Institute, Tymms led the planning of the annual programme, solicited contributions, himself wrote and edited many papers to add value to the visits, and published the *Proceedings*. Effectively he saw that the organization, content and quality of the meetings and publications reached a standard of excellence which would ensure success.

The early meetings of the Institute were held in March, June, September and December of each year, the first (the Annual Meeting) and last being held always in Bury, and the two Summer Meetings elsewhere in West Suffolk. On these excursions the members gathered at an appointed place and were first conducted on a tour of inspection of interesting sites where lectures were given, and sometimes small excavations had been carried out in readiness for the visit. Then the party adjourned to a room arranged for the day, where a temporary Museum contributed by members and others would be laid out, containing objects, books and documents of local interest, brass rubbings, archaeological finds, coins and other antiquities. With a senior officer or local dignitary in the Chair, formal business began with prepared papers on the ancient buildings, institutions, families and history of the town (mostly published in the *Proceedings*), after which members drew attention to the more important items in the Museum and read short communications. A great many interesting things were seen in the exhibitions, of which a proportion were usually donated to the Institute, but many more were displayed on loan for the day: through the valuable reports of these meetings it is possible to trace the development of several private collections in the county, and to follow the early activities of members who did not contribute papers. The donations of books, illustrations and specimens resulted in the formation of the Institute's permanent Library and Museum.

The Romantic Movement in art and literature, and the Oxford Movement and Tractarianism in the Anglican Church, have been held responsible for the mid-19th-century clerical interest in ecclesiastical remains and the origins of the English county archaeological societies (Piggott 1976). Although many early Suffolk Institute members were clergymen, this model is quite imperfect for Suffolk. The work of the 18th-century Suffolk topographers – Martin, Kirby, Ives, etc. – was non-polemic and substantial, and invigorated our 19th-century antiquarianism: the ecclesiastical illustrations of John Sell Cotman and his engraver Henry Davy had exemplary antiquarian qualities beyond romantic moodiness. Our first illustrator, Walter Haggren, was the confederate of F.B. Russel in his historical oil tableaux, posed heartily in their studio in the former Blackfriars schoolroom.<sup>5</sup> Gage Rokewood's edition of Jocelyn gave Carlyle his *Past & Present* – hardly a Puseyist tract – and John Frere's discoveries at Hoxne in 1796 began an irreversible challenge to dogmatic theology. Our Suffolk clergyman naturalists, William Kirby and others, were deeply influenced by the belief (articulated by Tom Paine of Thetford as early as 1795)<sup>6</sup> that the Word of God and the revelation of His Purpose was to be found in the universal language of His Creation: Professor Henslow, a founding Vice-President, and an outstanding reformer in his parish of Hitcham, was also the godfather

of the Darwinian Evolution: a disapproving clergyman later remarked to his son, 'Hitcham never knew what Christianity was till your father died.' Even the Anglican clergy in East Anglia were influenced by the Nonconformist traits in our regional character.

The East Anglian clergy were predominantly Cambridge educated, a fact which perhaps cemented the Suffolk Institute as a social group. In the 1840s Cambridge was producing the robust Low Church Evangelism exemplified by the New Zealand mission of Bishop Selwyn, built on the Wilberforce tradition which in Ipswich and Norwich lived on in the person of Canon Garratt. The voice of Tractarianism seems remarkably absent from our early *Proceedings*. Lord Arthur Hervey (1808–1894), the most eminent founding member to become a leading churchman (later (1869) Bishop of Bath and Wells), derived most of the basic material and stimulus for his contributions from the fact of his noble family origins and their long residence in the county. The Revd Henry Creed (c.1799–1861), Rector of Mellis 1837–61, who had belonged to the Suffolk Archaeological Association, worked on historical accounts and registers, and was a collector of rings and curiosities. A most important clerical figure from the first days of the Institute was the Revd (later Canon) Charles Robertson Manning (c.1825–99), Rector of Diss from 1847, a thorough archaeologist and antiquary, and a founding member and early Secretary of the Norfolk society, whose interests ranged from post-mediaeval church plate, through monumental brasses, to prehistoric archaeology: as early as 1852 he conducted excavations at Grimes' Graves. Creed and Manning were graduates of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The meetings outside Bury helped to stimulate local research and attract new membership: the first, held at Clare in September 1848, prompted excavations by J.B. Armstead at Clare Castle both before and after the visit, and the town was well represented in the membership list of 1849. Through the Ixworth meeting in June 1849, the archaeologist Joseph Warren, postmaster and accomplished clockmaker, was recruited. Warren (1792–1876), a Norfolk-born man who 'in matters of dress was in no way disposed to defer to modern customs', was a great walker – he walked to London and back (from Attleborough) in 1816, and made an antiquarian ramble in Norfolk and Suffolk with his close friend Augustine Page in 1839. His large collections of Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds were often exhibited before the Institute, and also in London. In 1849 he discovered a Roman hypocaust near Ixworth, the existence of which he had predicted fourteen years previously, and his paper in the third part of the *Proceedings* was the first landmark in its publication of excavation archaeology. The growing interest in his finds led to a meeting at Mildenhall and Icklingham in June 1851, where Anglo-Saxon remains from West Stow were exhibited, and by July 1852 Samuel Tymms had prepared a serious paper on the site and the Institute launched an appeal for excavation funds. Meanwhile the Institute had also visited Thetford, Newmarket, Sudbury, Ely Cathedral and Hengrave, and received learned contributions for the *Proceedings* from Augustine Page, Henry Creed, H.E. Bunbury, Weston Styleman Walford, C.H. Hartshorne, and from Committee members A.G. Hollingsworth, J.W. Donaldson, Henry Hasted and James Porteus Oakes.

Professor Henslow, who as a Vice-President chaired the June 1850 meeting at Newmarket, had newly become President of the Ipswich Museum and was busily engaged in the creation there of a 'Typical Series', whereby visitors could refer to a focal group of specimens as a key to the understanding of the Natural History displays. Like his friend, the naturalist and antiquary Dr C.R. Bree of Stowmarket (also an original member of the Institute), Henslow was a polymath. As an archaeologist he was the veteran of important Roman excavations at Bartlow Hills (with Lord Maynard, Gage, Whewell and Sedgwick in the 1830s) – the finds, superb Roman bronzes figured by Gage in *Archaeologia*, were destroyed by fire in Lord Maynard's Museum. He made noted excavations at Rougham in 1843–44, and at Kingston near Derby in 1844, and in 1850 he described recent Roman discoveries at Felixstowe. In 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, Henslow, Sedgwick and Murchison engineered the visit to Ipswich of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, a magnificent event which

brought Brewster, Faraday, Lyell, Huxley and many other famous scientists to the town, increased the number of honorary members of the Museum to sixty illustrious names, and attracted the notorious royal visit of H.R.H. Prince Albert, who was gratuitously insulted by a member of the public and never permitted to return. Each winter the Museum had celebrated its anniversary with a lecture of national importance and a grand dinner, with Adam Sedgwick, Richard Owen, Edward Forbes and Sir Charles Lyell as guest speakers, and with others of the calibre of Drs Lankester and Carpenter, and Professor Ansted, during the year, and by the middle of 1852 its accounts were deeply in the red. At Christmas 1852 there was no Anniversary Lecture and Dinner, and there seemed every likelihood that the entire project would collapse.

A fortnight after this announcement, in January 1853, the Committee of the Institute held a special meeting at which it was decided to extend the Institute's work to the whole of Suffolk, to embrace every department of Natural History as well as Archaeology. In order to consolidate the various literary and scientific institutions of the town, Lord Arthur Hervey as President established the Bury Athenaeum in 1853 in premises in Guildhall Street, although the Mechanics' Institute rejected the merger. In the following year the Athenaeum moved to its premises in the Assembly Rooms (built 1804), which have been known as the Athenaeum ever since. It was further decided to place the Institute in union with the Athenaeum, where the contents of the Bury and West Suffolk Museum would come under the direction of the Institute, the Library and Museum would be extended to include matters pertaining to Natural History, and a Gallery of Art was to be formed to include portraits of Suffolk Worthies. Annual subscriptions were doubled to 10s. This decision, ratified at the General Meeting of April 1853, was surely prompted by the failure of Ipswich Museum, in the hope of winning over the membership of its East Suffolk subscribers and preserving some part of its energies, and was very likely concocted in discussion between Professor Henslow and Lord Arthur Hervey. In 1853, after a public referendum, the Ipswich Museum was saved through being adopted by the town's Corporation, but by that time the Institute had established its new identity as the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History. The Marquess of Bristol surrendered his Presidency of the old Institute to become Patron of the new, and his brother Lord Arthur Hervey thus became our second President.

### III: THE BURY ATHENAEUM AND SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY, 1853-67

Until 1858 the Institute proceeded with normally only three meetings a year, the first usually being the general meeting at Bury. Over the same period, Professor Henslow, working with his new curator George Knights (but without the former galaxy of scientific stars), established at Ipswich a most comprehensive taxonomic display of modern and fossil specimens, typical series of minerals, etc., in the years leading up to the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Henslow, Lord Arthur Hervey, the Revd Edwin Sidney,<sup>7</sup> Dr Rigaud of Ipswich School,<sup>8</sup> F.K. Eagle, and others, developed a county-wide network of popular scientific and archaeological lectures through the Bury Athenaeum, the Ipswich Museum, and the Mechanics' Institutes which existed in many Suffolk towns, trading lectures each year for their respective establishments. The Institute's Museum, Library and Reading-Room at Bury Athenaeum became a source of satisfaction both to members and to the public, for whom special admission was arranged. In July 1854 a substantial sample of the Museum's contents was displayed at Cambridge in a temporary Museum for the Congress of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain, and for one day the Suffolk Institute played host to the visitors at Bury. An invitation in 1851 to hold the Congress at Bury had been unsuccessful, but Hervey now gave them a glowing welcome and a full programme, to which Lord Talbot responded feelingly, claiming

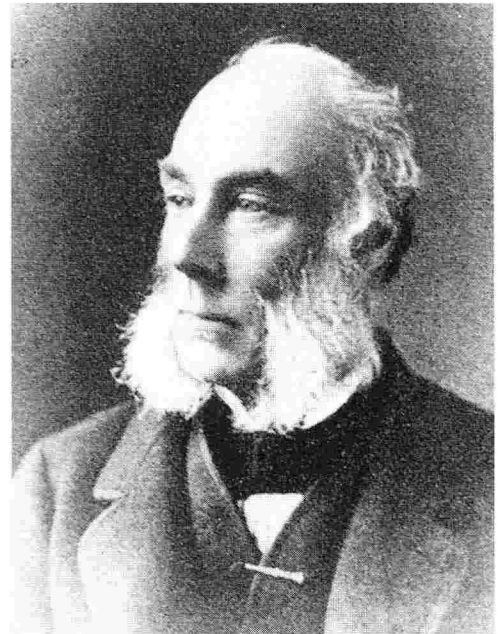
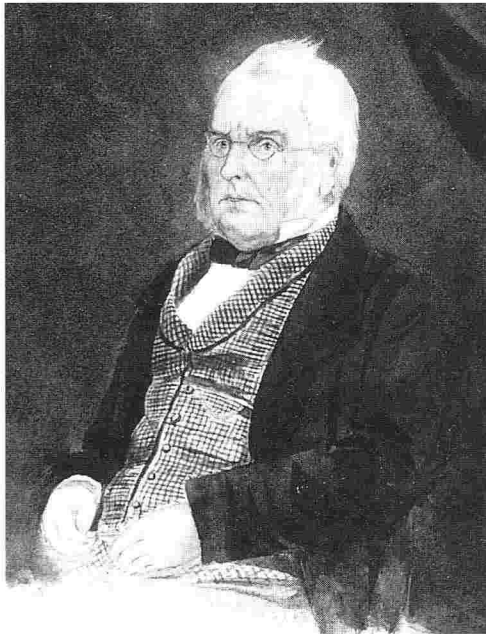
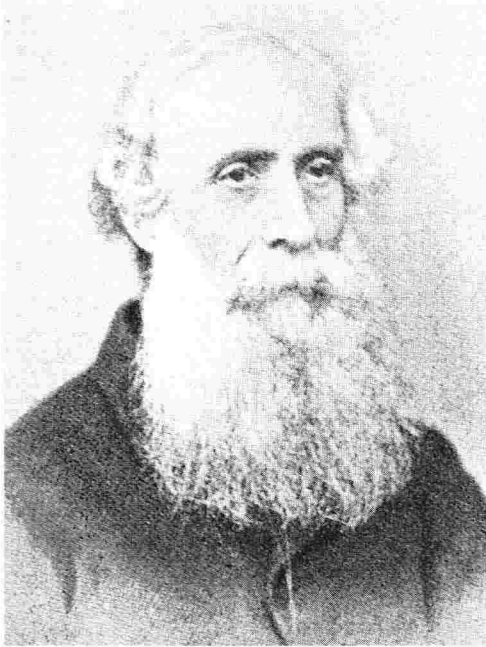


FIG. 44 – *Above left:* Samuel Tymms (1808–71), Secretary of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1848–67 (*from Dow 1948*). *Above right:* Henry Prigg (1838–92), archaeologist; last Curator of the Institute’s Museum, *c.* 1866–91 (*from frontispiece to Redstone 1901*). *Below left:* William Whincopp (1796–1874), prehistorian of Woodbridge, an early contributor at meetings (*sketch by Thomas Churchyard, courtesy of Ipswich Borough Museums*). *Below right:* Edward May Dewing (*c.* 1823–*c.* 1898), Secretary, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1867–78 and 1885–89 (*from Dow 1948*).



the Suffolk Institute members as colleagues. The April and September meetings of 1854 were held at Eye and Ipswich, and from that year an East Suffolk visit was always included in the programme. Henslow made headway for Ipswich by obtaining the large mosaic from Whitton for his Museum in 1855.

The Institute's Museum became an important focus, and special efforts were made to develop it. George Scott, formerly a dentist in Ipswich, who had opened his own practice in Bury in 1854, first appears as Honorary Curator in December 1855. Hopes were raised to obtain Kemble as an Honorary Member, when he requested a loan of East Anglian antiquities, but were dashed by his death shortly afterwards. In April 1856 a large collection of stuffed birds was loaned by James Dennis,<sup>9</sup> third master at Bury Grammar School; but an attempt to obtain the very substantial collection of fossils formed by Thomas Image (rector of Wepstead 1796–1856), for which subscriptions were raised, was thwarted when Adam Sedgwick boldly gazumped the Institute on behalf of the Woodwardian Museum at Cambridge. During the following summer Dennis, Scott and Tymms rearranged the Museum, and the result of their efforts gave great satisfaction and cause for pride. Meanwhile the collections of the impoverished William Stevenson Fitch began to be sold and dispersed. Fitch had dropped out of the Ipswich Museum Committee at the end of 1852, but remained with the Institute as a Local Secretary: whatever the morality of his collecting methods, his wide circle of archaeological friendships was a great asset to us. He seems to have made a good impression on Charles Roach Smith. In 1856 the Institute acquired his thirty-one volumes of Suffolk Drawings and Prints, together with Agassiz's work on Fossil Fishes, for £220, of which £180 came from private subscription, and the remainder was looked for from the members. After Fitch's death in 1859, most of the thirty-volume collection of Suffolk historical materials was rescued from the hands of booksellers for the Ipswich Museum with the help of John Glyde and Samuel Tymms, the latter's bid on behalf of the Institute having failed at the Ipswich sale. The price of 50 guineas was raised entirely by subscription of the Museum's officers, patrons and vice-presidents. Tymms published the *Plates of Suffolk Tokens* by Fitch posthumously.

In 1857, having completed the production of Volume Two of the *Proceedings* (a handsome collection including Hervey's 138-page *Ickworth and the Family of Hervey*), and soon after the Hadleigh visit in October when Hugh Pigot delivered himself at length on the history of that town, Samuel Tymms left Bury St Edmunds for Lowestoft on the grounds of health. The occasion was marked by the gift of an elegant silver bread-basket supplied by John Vale of Bury, of an oval form and antique design, beautifully and appropriately ornamented with wheat ears, bearing the inscription: *Presented to Samuel Tymms, Esq., F.S.A., by the Honorary Officers and Members of the Bury St Edmund's Athenaeum and Suffolk Institute of Archaeology. 1857.* This was accompanied by a letter thanking him 'for the many years of assiduous labour which have largely contributed to the permanent establishment of our Archaeological Society, our Museum, Library, and Reading Rooms', and signed by the President and officers. Fortunately for the Institute, Tymms decided to continue as its General Secretary and Treasurer for several more years, and in 1858 he began the production of sheets of Notes and Queries, of which nine were issued by 1861. (In 1864 he commenced the publication of the *East Anglian Notes & Queries* on his own account, which ran to four volumes by 1869.) From 1858 to 1862 only two meetings are recorded in each year (three in 1859): but the fact that these could include Harleston (Norfolk), Framlingham, Woodbridge, Bungay and Beccles as starting-points for local tours reveals a new mobility made possible by the railways, and a determined effort to embrace East Suffolk. In 1860 the members received the 290 pages of Pigot's 'History of Hadleigh' in a single part of the *Proceedings*.

The year 1860 was a critical one for Prehistory. Ipswich Museum had for ten years displayed fossil mammalian bones from Kent's Cavern, Torquay, from Buckland and McEnery's investigations, where the evidence for fossil humans had been suspected and suppressed. With Darwin's *Origin of Species* newly published, and Lyell's *Antiquity of Man* in preparation, Dr

Falconer, John Evans, Joseph Prestwich and others had visited Boucher de Perthes's palaeolithic sites and collections in the Somme Valley (where implements were found deep in gravels with the remains of prehistoric mammals), were convinced, and remembered Frere's Hoxne discovery of 1796. At that moment Henry Prigg, jnr (1838–92), a young bank employee at Bury, was discovering implements and prehistoric mammal remains in gravels near the town, and in 1860 Evans and Prestwich visited Prigg to inspect his materials and found their decisive evidence for the English Palaeolithic. In the same year Professor Henslow chaired the British Association meeting at Oxford at which Huxley famously confronted Bishop Wilberforce and dealt a fatal blow to anti-Evolutionist dogmatic theology. Henry Prigg was to become one of the leading lights of the Suffolk Institute, more truly an archaeologist in the modern sense than others of his generation. For many years he kept detailed archaeological journals, frequently recording discoveries, observations and his own excavations, especially in the Icklingham and Mildenhall area, with a thoroughness that renders them still extremely useful today.

At the Institute's Woodbridge meeting in October 1860, this momentous revolution was acknowledged when the geologists and prehistorians William Colchester, William Whincopp,<sup>10</sup> F. Spalding and James Baker foregathered and displayed specimens and engravings of English and Abbevillean flint celts: sadly Colchester's paper on 'Celts of the Post-Pliocene Period' was not printed in the *Proceedings*. Their specimens were amusingly contrasted with a roll of 1460, tracing the descent of Edward Duke of York from Noah, through Aeneas, Brutus and Hengist. On the same occasion the Institute inspected the important private collection of Roman and Saxon specimens belonging to Edward Acton, surgeon, of Grundisburgh. His death in the previous August precipitated a crisis, as it was feared the collection would be auctioned, and the Institute decided to purchase them from the family. While this was being considered, James Dennis died in January 1861, and so the plan was enlarged to include the purchase of his bird collection, which had previously been held in the Museum on loan. As at the foundation of the Museum, an exhibition was staged by application for loans from collectors and organizations across the county. All the county's incorporated boroughs loaned their regalia. The exhibition was held in the Athenaeum, opened on 20 August 1861 by the Marquess of Bristol, and lasted for two weeks: in that time 3,100 tickets were sold, and by the end of that year the entire Dennis collection and most of Acton's was acquired. Another part of Acton's collection went to Colchester Museum.<sup>11</sup>

Two others of the Institute's valued members, Henry Creed and Professor Henslow, died in 1861. Joseph Warren, whose exhibits and contributions enriched so many meetings, retired aged seventy, and became less active. Among Henslow's last projects had been the preparation of the *Flora of Suffolk* (a Catalogue), with Edmund Skepper, chemist, of Bury, and on Scott's retirement as dentist and curator in 1864<sup>12</sup> Skepper became curator at Bury until his death in 1867. Since 1860 Skepper had been in charge of an observatory at Bury, which was built in the wake of successful lectures by Airy in the town in 1858. Life without Henslow became lethargic at Ipswich Museum, and the Congress of the British Archaeological Association at Ipswich in August 1864 provided a much-needed stimulus for all. There was no shortage of work to be reported: a hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins had been newly found in Tavern Street, Sterling Westhorp gave his account of the Town Library, G.A. Carthew<sup>13</sup> led the visitors around his excavations at Helmingham, and G.V. Irving prompted new thoughts on the Roman forts and itineraries. There were several excursions. The Congress was hosted (George Tomline presiding) by the Ipswich Corporation: meetings and the reading of papers took place in the Great Council Chamber of the old Town Hall. Although Samuel Tymms was on the Local Committee it was not an Institute event: a number of Ipswich people were recruited for the Association. Lord Arthur Hervey participated, and one day was spent at Bury in pouring rain, where he as President of the Institute invited all the members to meet the Association and to render every assistance, for which he received a toast of thanks and 'Success to the Bury and

Suffolk Institute' at Colchester the following day. Highlights of the temporary Museum at Ipswich were antiquities shown by Joseph Warren and William Whincopp (including Somme Valley flints), and books and documents shown by George A. Carthew and William Powell Hunt. Warren's precious journal and antiquities were sold to John Evans in 1866, and found their way to the Ashmolean: his coins were dispersed at Sotheby's in 1869.

Prehistory was again to the fore at a joint meeting at Thetford with the Norfolk society in September 1866. A large Museum was assembled mainly from Warren and Prigg, and specimens sent by John Evans: Prigg described his discoveries in the Ouse Valley since 1862, and C.R. Manning gave his account of excavations at Grimes' Graves, after which the party visited the site and took refreshments in a tent. Again in May 1868 a large Institute party visited the barrow excavations in progress at Ampton, and were regaled by a long discourse from Canon Greenwell, who also explored tumuli at Barton Hill and Risby over the following months. At Risby, there was 'a good staff of active labourers and a small intermittent attendance of Suffolk Archaeologists, of whom the younger and more active heated themselves with work, whilst the elder lit fires of gorse, and endeavoured to catch a few of the seeds of warmth that the wind scattered from them with intolerable smoke . . .'. That year the British Association for the Advancement of Science met in Norwich, and the opportunity was taken to hold there the third International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology, a very major affair which Prigg attended. Their excursions were led by members of the Norfolk Geological Society (founded in 1864 by John Gunn and John E. Taylor). In September Harry Jones excavated in Barton Mere, near Bury, and found what were thought to be the remains of a Bronze Age pile dwelling, attracting visits by Sir Charles Lyell and William Boyd Dawkins.

Accounts of all these Suffolk excavations appeared as special communications in our short-lived *Quarterly Journal*, which had but two issues, both in 1869. Volume III of the *Proceedings* (completed 1863), in only three parts, kept abreast of papers read at meetings, and the first two parts of Volume IV (issued 1864 and 1865) contained useful papers on South Elmham, Bungay and Beccles from the meetings of 1861-62, including the first contribution from J.J. Raven (schoolmaster at Bungay 1859-66). Then for three years there was nothing published, and the fact that stagnation had set in is shown by the decision in 1867 to secede from the Bury Athenaeum. Expressing the hope that this would 'give new life and impetus to the society, and widely extend its influence, . . . conciliating the confidence of persons interested in Archaeological researches', Lord Arthur Hervey effectively re-founded the Institute, with fifteen Vice-presidents and a Council of thirteen. The *Journal* reflected the intention to reinstate regular quarterly meetings. Edward May Dewing (c.1823-c.1898) of Bury became General Secretary and Treasurer, with five Honorary Secretaries with special responsibilities (Disney Professor Churchill Babington (Classical Antiquities), Richard Almack (Genealogy and Heraldry), Beckford Bevan (Mediaeval and Classical), Albert H. Wratishaw (Natural History) and Samuel Blois Turner (East Suffolk)). Henry Prigg is shown as Hon. Curator in 1868, and there were four Local Secretaries for outlying places, Yaxley, Mildenhall, Newmarket, and Lowestoft - the latter represented by Samuel Tymms.

#### IV: THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY: A NEW BEGINNING

The seal was set on these reforms by the annual Congress of the Royal Archaeological Institute being held at Bury in July 1869, at the encouragement of both the Borough and the Institute. The success of this event outstripped the Association's Ipswich Congress of 1864, and the Suffolk Institute was thoroughly involved. There were several day excursions at which a rich harvest of sites was interpreted by our leading members: Richard Almack described the Long Melford glass he had conserved; J.R. Green gave a historical memoir of the Town and Abbey

of Bury; Samuel Tymms spoke at Saxham, West Stow and Hengrave, and in Bury; J.J. Raven delivered his work on church bells and Charles Golding his on the Bury Mints; the entomologist A.H. Wratistaw (Dr Donaldson's successor as Head Master of the King Edward VI Grammar School) explained his rediscovery of the lost school statutes of 1550; at Ipswich, R.M. Phipson (Diocesan Surveyor) was the guide, and several contributed to the explanation of Gipping Chapel, Haughley, Hessett and Rougham. Lord Arthur Hervey made an appeal for a full History of Suffolk. The temporary Museum was the largest and most comprehensive assembled at any such meeting in Suffolk, and was the last occasion on which Warren's coins were shown.

A highlight of the Congress was the informal visit to Hardwicke House, at the invitation of Lady Cullum, on 23 July 1869:

The late Sir Thomas Cullum had been long a resident in Rome, and had there formed an extensive and valuable collection of Etruscan antiquities and classic objects. The place and its treasures must be seen. So, without the bustle or form of an 'excursion', quite at their leisure, some in carriages and others on foot, the company wended their way to Hardwicke as they listed; and the walk through the fine park, with its magnificent trees, the pleasant jingle of sheep bells and the rich odour of lime blossoms gratifying the senses, seemed preferable to the dusty road. Passing through the hall and rooms and passages crowded with rare statuary, paintings, vases, &c., the visitors found themselves on a smooth lawn pleasantly shaded by grand old cedars and copper beeches. Here, under the finest cedar tree, were some tables covered with select examples of ancient pottery, carved stone, bronzes, &c., and grouped around, with the most picturesque irregularity, was the audience, prepared to welcome Professor Babington's lecture. The Professor discoursed, with his accustomed skill, upon the illustrations of Etruscan art displayed before him, and discussed, with force and eloquence, the effects produced by the Etrurians upon the world's civilization. The lecture was heartily received and warmly acknowledged. After partaking of a light and pleasant refection, and rambling through the beautiful rosery and flower gardens, the company returned to Bury.

Alas, the collections are dispersed, and the house is gone.

The Royal Institute was left in no doubt as to the excellence of our County society and the wealth of our antiquities. Soon afterwards, Hervey resigned the Presidency to his nephew, Lord John, as he left the county to become Bishop of Bath and Wells, confident in the knowledge that the Institute was set on a positive course. Although 1871 saw the death of Samuel Tymms, there was a new vigour abroad. In Ipswich this was felt in another way, as in 1869 a group of young gentlemen of the town decided to revive the defunct Philosophical Society around the ageing figure of Dr Drummond, calling themselves the *Ipswich Science-Gossip Club* (later *Ipswich Scientific Society*), which in later years made important sallies into archaeology. In 1872, at the instigation of Edward Packard and Edward Grimwade, the geologist and journalist John E. Taylor (1837–95) (co-founder of the Norfolk Geological Society, and editor of the *Norwich People's Weekly Journal*) was obtained as Curator of the Ipswich Museum in a move which revolutionised that institution, confirmed its strong bias towards Natural History, and reinvigorated the popular lecture movement in East Suffolk. Taylor became the central figure of the Ipswich Science-Gossip Club – he had founded the sister society in Norwich in 1870 – and editor of the (national) *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip Magazine*. The Scientific Society included members of very varied interests, and played a part in the development of our Institute.

The condition of the Institute's Museum in this period was rather unhappy. Edmund

Skepper had been rearranging it at the time of his death, and the work was left unfinished. Visitors complained that it was difficult to gain access. The Rougham tumulus finds had been presented by the Bennet family in 1869, and parts of Tymms's collection were purchased in 1871. Prigg, who had accepted the Curatorship at the earnest entreaty of the members, had made important additions from his own excavated finds. However, it was thought necessary to form a committee for the renovation of the Museum, and Babington, Wratislaw and Henry K. Creed (son of the original member) looked into the matter. Prigg now assisted with the re-display, but in 1873 complaints continued: access was difficult, there was no catalogue, and the Museum appeared neglected. The fourth to seventh parts of our *Proceedings* Volume IV (1870–74), and most of Volume V (1876–84), reflect the influence of a small but dedicated group of officers, and of Dewing as General Secretary. Serious contributions in Natural History were made by Wratislaw (entomology) in 1870 and Babington (ornithology) in 1883–84 (Wratislaw resigned his headmastership in 1874 and removed to Pembrokeshire, but his son lodged with Babington at Cockfield until 1877). Excavation archaeology was represented: Babington preserved Henslow's accounts of the 1843–44 Rougham excavations and described Roman discoveries, and Henry Prigg published finds made at Icklingham and mound-diggings at Mildenhall. The Revd W.H. Sewell (local secretary, Yaxley) produced useful studies of the Needham Market chapel, Stoke Ash, and the memorials of Sir James Tyrrell, Babington collected historical materials for Cockfield, and Johnson Gedge (an original member, and editor of the *Bury Post*, who had earlier described Greenwell's tumulus excavations) produced a study of the manor-house of Wamil at Mildenhall. The outstanding historical contribution of the 1870s however was the two-part 'Materials for a History of Hesselst' by Canon William Cooke (1873 and 1876). C.R. Manning and Dr J.J. Raven complete the list of principal authors in these volumes.

Accounts of excursions in the same period present a fuller picture of the involvement of members and other contributors. Little is noted of the contribution of the Revd Samuel Blois Turner, F.S.A. (1805–82), Rector of South Elmham All Saints, a friend of Suckling's and possessor of a superb collection of casts of seals and ancient fictile ivories, and of Roman antiquities from the Wenhaston area, who from 1870 to 1882 was Honorary Secretary alongside Dewing. He appears for one electrifying moment at Halesworth Church in August 1870, when, as the members were shown the newly-discovered matrix of a lost brass, he instantly recognised it as that of a brass in his collection which had been dredged from the Waveney in 1825. Turner had been a patron of Hamlet Watling (1818–1908), the schoolmaster of Earl Stonham, and was perhaps responsible for his involvement in the Stonham excursion of 1871. Watling had been illustrating church antiquities since the early 1840s and, after being approached for commissions by the British Archaeological Association in 1865, worked with Richard Almack on the Melford glass. Between 1865 and 1871 he had made several important Roman excavations at Stonham, Stoke Ash, Mickfield and Baylham, at first with William Whincopp and later with the Revd C.E. Searle of Little Stonham,<sup>14</sup> and he corresponded with the Association. His deductions as to the route of the Ninth Antonine Iter were laid before our Institute in 1871, when he led the excursion at Earl Stonham and assembled the day's Museum. His work as antiquarian correspondent to the *Suffolk Chronicle* began at that time, for which he sometimes drew upon our *Proceedings*, on one occasion earning a public accusation of plagiarism from W.H. Sewell (whose allegiances lay with the Royal Archaeological Institute). Although never a member of our Institute, Watling's illustrations were made use of: the first is of Blythburgh glass in Dr Raven's paper of 1872.

Although during the 1870s often only one annual excursion is described, these were substantial events, at which Lord John Hervey was usually present, and set a standard by his handsome contributions. The Orford excursion of July 1872 extended over two days, as Hervey, Babington, Almack, Dewing and others from West Suffolk spent the day preceding in Woodbridge and were treated to dinner at the Bull and a conversazione at Richard Day's



FIG. 45 – Above left: Lord John Hervey (1841–1902), President, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1869–86 (photograph by Cade of Ipswich, courtesy of Ipswich Borough Museums). Above right: Revd Dr John James Raven (1833–1906), historian, antiquary and campanologist; Vicar of Fressingfield and Hon. Canon of Norwich (photographed at South Elmham, Suffolk Institute Albums, S.R.O.I.). Below: Members of the Ipswich Scientific Society at Horning, 1889 – left to right (back): Frank Woolnough, Henry Miller, Phil. Cornell, Freddy Wilson; (front): John S. Corder, James Napier, Dr John E. Taylor, William Vick (author's collection).

house, where they met Spalding and Whincopp with their flints, and were treated to a sight of the antique gem collection of the Revd Samuel Savage Lewis (1836–91), the antiquary of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (cf. Spier and Vassilika 1995). Phipson was with them at Sudbourne the following day. In 1873 at Dedham the Institute held a joint meeting with the Essex Society, and sat down to lunch at the Grammar School; the 1874 outing to Westhorpe and Mendlesham was another very full programme. These occasions owed part of their success to the renewal of old friendships, and, to judge from Babington's tribute to Richard Almack, his death in January 1875 removed one of the central figures of that fraternity. Various people could remember Almack producing rare documents in unexpected places, as when he turned up with the original of William Penn's Charter of Liberties to show to R.C. Winthrop in London, or fished out a receipt signed by the last Abbot of Bury, for Babington and friends to admire in a railway carriage. Babington's own efforts were always generous, and in 1877 the Institute inspected his Cypriot and Attic vases, his library of incunabula and his vast coin collection at Cockfield Rectory. Parts of these collections are now in the British Museum.

Matters were worse than before at the Institute's Museum in 1876, with dust and damp, leaking roof, and general untidiness. In 1877, when membership dropped to 126, the Museum's future was discussed, and although Prigg argued for its retention and improvement, it was decided to offer it to Bury, or (failing that) to Ipswich Council. Bury accepted, and the collection remained at the Athenaeum as the Bury Town Council's property with Prigg as Curator. Dewing stood down as Secretary in 1878, and until Turner's death in 1882 the *Proceedings* drifted somewhat: meetings and excursions were held but not written up, and delays in the production of Babington's long work on the *Birds of Suffolk* meant that the final part of Volume V (for 1884) did not reach members until 1886, by which time no historical paper had been published since 1880. However, *Birds of Suffolk* was well worth the wait, and was reprinted at once by Van Voorst as a formal volume: every page is littered with references to the Natural History records observed or shot, many of them by our members; a dimension of their lives which is not otherwise on record in our *Proceedings*. Frederick Machell Smith, a wine merchant of Bury, as Secretary in 1882–85, recorded papers read at excursions, and organised a very successful outing to the Hadleigh district in August 1883, but did not get them into print. The custom of holding temporary Museums at meetings disappeared. In the same period, great things were happening at Ipswich. In 1877, visiting members of the Geologists' Association of London praised Dr Taylor's work, and in 1881, as the new Museum in High Street was opened, he received a very large public testimonial: and it was to Ipswich, not to Bury, that Turner bequeathed his antiquarian collections. Although it did not publish, the Ipswich Scientific Society increasingly became the forum for Natural History studies under Taylor's leadership.

Once again the Institute needed a new start, and this came with the Secretaryship of the Revd Charles Harold Evelyn White, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S. (c.1851–1938), Curate of St Margaret's, Ipswich, in 1884, joined in the following year by E.M. Dewing. At the same time two important members, Pigot and Phipson, were lost by death. Two excursions were managed in 1884, and at the second, a very full programme at Ipswich, Evelyn White took the lion's share, and Dr Taylor gave a very important, if brief, account of excavations and interpretations of the Anglo-Saxon topography of the town. From that moment, down to the present time, Ipswich began to play a more equal and prominent part in the life and membership of the Institute. Evelyn White as editor relaunched the *East Anglian Notes and Queries*. With Volume VI, the *Proceedings* settled down to the regular format of three parts per volume. The Secretaries provided the bulk of the papers for parts 1 and 2 (1885 and 1886) (including the account of Dowsing's Journal, which usefully provided the text in print, and Evelyn White's disappointing work on the *Old Inns and Taverns of Ipswich*), and there were archaeological contributions from Henry Prigg, and some account of the meetings from 1875 to 1884. The influence of the Institute is

shown by the fact that it was in union with sixteen other societies (including two in America), that Canon Greenwell and John Yonge Akerman were among the Honorary Members, and that Augustus Franks deigned to contribute a paper.

In 1886 Lord John Hervey resigned the Presidency over a disagreement with the Committee (though he remained active in the Institute), and was replaced by Lord Henniker of Thornham Hall (1842–1902). This prompted a revision of the rules. In 1887 Evelyn White also resigned (on leaving the county) and his place was taken by the Revd Francis Haslewood, F.S.A. (1840–1900), Rector of St Matthew's, Ipswich, who became sole Secretary in 1889. Haslewood, a King's College London graduate of 'persuasive eloquence', had been very active with the Kent Archaeological Society, to which he contributed parish histories, and came to Ipswich in 1875. A keen genealogist, he produced four works on his own Haslewood and Dering forbears. He was prolific, and with the *Proceedings* up to date he was able to develop a policy of publishing extensively on the sites visited. In the final part of Volume VI (issued 1888), Dr Raven's study of Burgh Castle (another collaboration with Watling) and Dr Jessop's work on the Archdeaconries in 1603 left room for a Haslewood debut: following the Denston meeting of 1887, he assembled papers on the collegiate church, monumental inscriptions, parish records, and full transcripts from D.E. Davy's collections<sup>15</sup> for Denston. He repeated this pattern for other parishes on many subsequent excursions, at which he was often accompanied by his brother, F.G. Haslewood.

The character of the excursions from 1889 through the 1890s is illustrated in a fine series of photographs taken by William Vick, the Ipswich photographer, who offered groups and views of each occasion for sale to members. Vick was a founder-member (1869) of the Ipswich Scientific Society, and closely involved in Dr Taylor's work, and he recorded that Society's excursions from 1884 onwards. A group of close friends formed an inner, social set, for whom the outings became convivial occasions, and one of these, John Shewell Corder (architect in Ipswich), joined the Institute in 1887. Others, including Taylor, Freddie Wilson (founding editor of the *E.A.D.T.*), Vick, George Abbott, Harry Miller, E.P. Ridley and E.T. Lingwood, became regular attenders at Institute excursions soon afterwards. Corder and Taylor are conspicuous in the large group received by Henry Prigg at Babwell Priory in 1891 after the visit to Henslow's tumulus at Rougham: Prigg, having changed his name to Trigg, died the following year. A notable feature of the Scientific Society's calendar was its *Conversazione*, and from 1890 the Institute held similar events at Bury and Ipswich. At Ipswich Town Hall, in October 1891, Hamlet Watling's antiquarian illustrations formed a major part of the display: he had retired to the town two years previously, and addressed the Institute at Dunwich in 1890 and at Blythburgh in 1894, where he reflected on his first visits back in the 'thirties. W.R. Gowers and W. St J. Hope (both later knighted) were also speakers at those meetings – Hope was Assistant Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1885–1910. Dr Taylor, in failing health, spoke briefly at Melford Hall in 1895, two months before his death.

At Ipswich, 1895 was the year of a British Association (Advancement of Science) Congress; also that in which Christchurch Mansion was given to the town, and Frank Woolnough – Taylor's friend and successor (Curator 1893–1920) – obtained J.S. Corder as architect-designate for the restoration: archaeological displays commenced there soon afterwards. C.R. Manning and J.J. Raven continued very active with the Institute at this time. Manning worked with Haslewood, E.C. Hopper and others on the major project of describing the Suffolk Church Plate, which occupied much of the *Proceedings* from 1893 to 1897.<sup>16</sup> The Halesworth excursion of 1896, at which Canon Raven described the Old Minster ruins at South Elmham, excited particular interest, and resulted in excavations in October 1897 by Raven and J.T. Micklethwaite, architect for Westminster Abbey, in an unsuccessful search for foundations of a triple chancel-arch, which they hoped would demonstrate an Anglo-Saxon date for the ruins. Raven wrote Canon Manning's obituary in 1899 with a sense that probably the strongest link with the beginning of the Suffolk Institute had passed away; and the energetic Haslewood,



having given up the Secretaryship in 1898, died in 1900. There were also new beginnings: Moyses Hall was opened for the purposes of a Museum in May 1899 (Lord John Hervey presiding), with the Suffolk Institute collections, the J.C. Ford collection newly acquired by Bury Corporation, and part of the Prigg collection as the gift of his daughters.

#### V: THE NEW CENTURY

Vincent Burrough ('Billy'<sup>17</sup>) Redstone, F.S.A. (1853–1941), history master at Woodbridge School, having led the excursion to Woodbridge in 1896, became Secretary in Haslewood's place. Of Hampshire origin, Redstone's influence as a Suffolk historian and archivist extended over forty years through his teaching and his indefatigable work upon Suffolk records, in which he was assisted largely by his accomplished and wonderfully energetic daughter, Miss Lilian Redstone, M.B.E. (1885–1955). To them, and most especially to Lilian, is owed the systematic organization and collection of the core materials of our modern Record Offices, a fact acknowledged warmly in the inaugural volume of the Suffolk Records Society in 1958. 'Acrimony and touchiness, those besetting sins of antiquarians, were unknown to V.B.R.', wrote his obituarist in 1941. Numerous discoveries in the Ipswich area in the later 1890s caused Frank Woolnough (1845–1930) and Miss Nina F. Layard (1853–1935) to commence systematic recording of archaeological finds in the town. Miss Layard's first archaeological work was made on the Blackfriars and Whitefriars sites in 1898–99, and Redstone wisely recruited her for the Institute, whom she addressed on the subject of the Carmelites in April 1899. Redstone's remarks on that occasion gave offence to a Carmelite of London, Benedict Zimmerman, who was invited to set the record straight: the result was their tripartite article which set a modern standard in combining archaeological and historical evidence on a single topic.

In late July 1899 the Royal Archaeological Institute held its Annual Congress in Ipswich, under the presidency of Sir Henry Howorth, in which our Institute played a full part. J.S. Corder was especially active as a guide, and Miss Layard, who delivered two addresses (probably the first by a woman to the R.A.I.), had a decided success and was encouraged to develop archaeology in the town. (She had the advantage of an established reputation in scientific circles, having addressed the British Association yearly from 1890 to 1895.) J.T. Micklethwaite gave an opinion of the Blackfriars wall, George E. Fox (excavator of Silchester) presented the first systematic account of Roman Suffolk since Irving's study of 1864, and he and William St J. Hope (who met his future wife on this occasion) advised Redstone on the forthcoming excavation of the enclosure at Burgh-by-Woodbridge. The Suffolk Institute and Ipswich Scientific Society gave a *Conversazione* jointly at the High Street Art Gallery, at which Hamlet Watling received unmitigated praise from Sir Henry Howorth. Once again, the Congress of a national Society gave a stimulus to our Institute, which breathed new life into its work for several years to come. Antiquarian interests beyond the Institute were maintained in the popular press, as in Hamlet Watling's time: from 1901 a new forum existed for shorter notices in the *East Anglian Miscellany*, short numbered contributions on varied topics which appeared first in the *E.A.D.T.*, and which from 1907 were reissued in quarterly parts over several decades.

At Lord Henniker's death in 1902, Sir William Brampton Gurdon was elected President. Miss Layard had literary connections with both, for she had contributed to Camilla Gurdon's folk-lore studies, and to Mary Henniker's *Eastern Counties Magazine*, and had been kindly received by both ladies before their untimely deaths. The Institute subscribed to Sydenham Hervey's excavations, and several members (Layard, Redstone, and others) were present with M.R. James at Bury for the discovery and reinterment of the Abbots' graves, located by James's manuscript find at Douay. Howorth returned to Ipswich in May 1902 to announce Miss

Layard's palaeolithic discovery at Foxhall Road, before an Institute meeting not recorded in the *Proceedings*. Ipswich Museum, the Ipswich Scientific Society, and Sir John Evans, formed a Committee to assist Miss Layard's work. The Scientific Society had its own excavations at Seven Hills, Nacton, in 1902 (Corder, among the visitors, stamped through the woods calling out 'Where are these body-snatchers?'). Two veteran F.S.A.s, the Revd Francis Eld (transcriber of the Polstead registers) and Canon F.E. Warren (who succeeded Redstone as Secretary in 1904), used their old friendships to develop and sustain the connection with elder prehistorians, particularly Howorth, Boyd Dawkins, and Evans, as Miss Layard's work progressed, and although the Foxhall Road work never reached these *Proceedings*, this network proved useful in her remarkable excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Hadleigh Road in 1906–07. Evans supported her in person at the 1906 Ipswich meeting, and her article of 1907 was the first thorough excavation report published by the Institute, another version appearing in *Archaeologia*.

The antiquarian vacancy left by Manning's death was happily filled by the Revd Edmund Farrer, F.S.A. (1847–1935), a graduate of Gonville and Caius (Cambridge), successively curate of Kelvedon (1878–81), of Bressingham (1881–85), and Rector of Hinderclay 1896–1915. He was a product of that true antiquarian school, the *Cambridge University Association of Brass Collectors* (later *The Monumental Brass Society*), and was a great ecclesiological excursionist. He produced the monumental *Church Heraldry of Norfolk* in 1885–93, and in 1890 and 1903 published lists of brasses for Norfolk and Suffolk respectively, the latter the result of many excursions with his friend Joseph Sim Earle. His *Church Heraldry of Suffolk* remained in manuscript, as did his *East Suffolk Portraits*, the complementary volume to his *Portraits in Suffolk Houses (West)* (1908), for which he and Prince Frederick Duleep Singh worked closely together. For many years (until 1935) Farrer was editor of the *East Anglian Miscellany*. Redstone, meanwhile, filled our pages with valuable calendars and transcriptions of records, and obtained studies of plate and ceramics from H.C. Casley, an Ipswich collector, Councillor and Museum Committee member. (Corder, after a brief stay on the Museum's committee, resigned remarking that it was uncongenial.) Through this period an important link with the Ipswich Museum was in the membership of (Sir) Edward Packard, jnr, of Bramford (1843–1932), Chairman of the Museum's committee 1894–1926, and originator, co-founder and Life Treasurer of the *Ipswich Art Club* (founded 1873–76). A school of Suffolk artists had grown up in the same period through the Art School latterly administered by Ipswich Museum committee, under the directorship of William Thompson Griffiths, its Head Master from 1859 until 1906,<sup>18</sup> and had produced such noted artists as F.G. Cotman and Walter Batley.

Suffolk's literary associations were celebrated during this decade particularly, and Redstone, Woolnough, Corder, Arthur Winn and Charles Ganz (the Aldeburgh journalist) carried the Institute's involvement into the Dickens, Crabbe and Fitzgerald Centenary events. Frank Woolnough was particularly active in a number of Ipswich-based musical and literary clubs which flourished at this time. A new Society, the *Ipswich and District Teachers' Field Club* (1903), reflected the desire for frequent excursions and record-keeping at an informed amateur level for work in natural history and other branches of popular science, including geology: the club was compartmentalised by discipline, had *Transactions*, was affiliated to the British Association, and began to supply the want of natural history coverage by the Institute. Woolnough, Corder and Harry Miller espoused it; Arthur Mayfield and Stephen Batchelder were among the naturalists; the eminent geologist P.G.H. Boswell rose through this organization, W.C. Underwood (Ben Harrison's friend) regaled it with lectures on Eugenics; and other prehistorians who had published tentatively with the Institute (such as E.T. Lingwood and E.R.H. Hancox (E.G. Pretyman's Secretary)), were attracted to it. Much of its work was centred at Ipswich Museum, and when, in 1908, the *Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* was created by Dr Allen Sturge, W.G. Clarke, W.A. Dutt, W.C. Underwood, and others, the Suffolk membership was especially drawn from that group, Miss Layard being the principal P.S.E.A. original

member whose work was more closely connected with the Institute. In this she was able to maintain some independence from the influence of Mr Woolnough, whom she disliked. The Prehistorians also won the active membership of eminent folk who were never involved with the Institute, such as Edward Clodd of Aldeburgh,<sup>19</sup> and Sir Ray Lankester (President of Ipswich Museum 1901–29).

Sir Brampton Gurdon having died in 1908, Gery Milner-Gibson-Cullum, F.S.A., of Hardwicke House became President. Since much of his time was spent in Italy, he attended only sporadically, but that he could enter into the spirit of things is shown by his personal appearance as Cardinal Beaufort in the Hengrave Pageant of 1907. Despite Miss Layard's work in 1910 with the Prehistoric Society's Committee to deliberate on the fractures of James Reid Moir's flints supposedly fabricated by humans living in the Pliocene period, she remained loyal to our *Proceedings*, in that year becoming the first woman to be a Vice-President of the Institute. Her first study of the important Pleistocene Stoke Hill bone-bed appeared in the richly-archaeological 1910 Part, which also carried Moir's statement to the Institute about Pre-Palaeolithic Man. Moir (1879–1944), the son of an Ipswich linen-draper, propelled himself to fame in 1909 through these early theories, now largely discredited, and came to dominate the activities of the Field Club, the Scientific Society, and the Prehistoric Society; but (fortunately) the Institute's independence was preserved, probably through the agency of Corder, whose friend Woolnough found Moir (newly co-opted on to the Ipswich Museum Committee) intolerable. The Secretaryship passed to the Revd A.W. Darwin (Rector of Stonham Aspal) in 1913. In the years just preceding the Great War, Miss Layard, Corder, Redstone, Warren and Edmund Farrer represented the core of contributors to the *Proceedings*: but others of their circle, whose work would be influential after the war, were already in place as officers of the Institute, notably Prince F. Duleep Singh, Francis Seymour Stevenson (of Playford), the Revd Harold Augustus Harris (Rector of Thorndon), and Charles Partridge F.S.A. (then completing fourteen and a half years' service as a local governor in North Africa). Farrer, Singh and Partridge, in particular, were men who shared common interests. Darwin introduced many new members – there were 238 in 1914 – and those attending the two-day annual excursions of 1913 and 1914 were new faces, mostly unknown in the 1890s.

As a corresponding member, Miss Layard in 1913 commenced useful short notes to the *Proceedings on Discoveries in Ipswich and the neighbourhood*, which she continued during the War. Charles Ganz (d. 1949), a Liberal, and naturalised Briton of German origin, who had organized the failed strike at Garrett's in Leiston in 1912, was relocated as a security threat, and spent his later years at Bexhill. Moir, who did not fight, got on to the Institute's Council, and corresponded busily with Ray Lankester, although his researches were slowed because his excavator, Baxter, went to war. Partridge spent his War in Salonika and Italy. Edmund Farrer, who had given descriptions and indexes of the newly-acquired Blois MSS<sup>20</sup> in the 1911 issue, strengthened the wartime *Proceedings* with his studies of Yaxley Hall and its portraits, which together with Redstone's paper on Wulcy and a considered study from Moir were the highlights of that period: anthropomorphic coffins in the Barnardiston vault at Kedington, and an account of Anglo-Saxon urns from Lackford, added archaeological interest. Woolnough, who had managed to get a Museums Association Congress to Ipswich in 1908, repeated the success in 1916. Miss Layard moved to Rise Hall during the War, and became our Hon. General Secretary and Editor in 1917: representing the Institute at Burlington House at the Congress of Archaeological Societies that year, she inadvertently left her entire case-full of 'hand-grip' flints in a London teashop during a zeppelin raid blackout, and recovered them by the merest chance. Although excursions were deferred, summer lectures proved successful and were well attended. When the 1918 *Proceedings* were prepared, the end was in sight, and the general relief was expressed in the production of a splendid volume, richly illustrated, with the Chevallier papers from Aspal Hall, Corder on Bury corner-posts, Cullum on the artist Mary Beale, Warren on St Fursey's visions, and the completion of

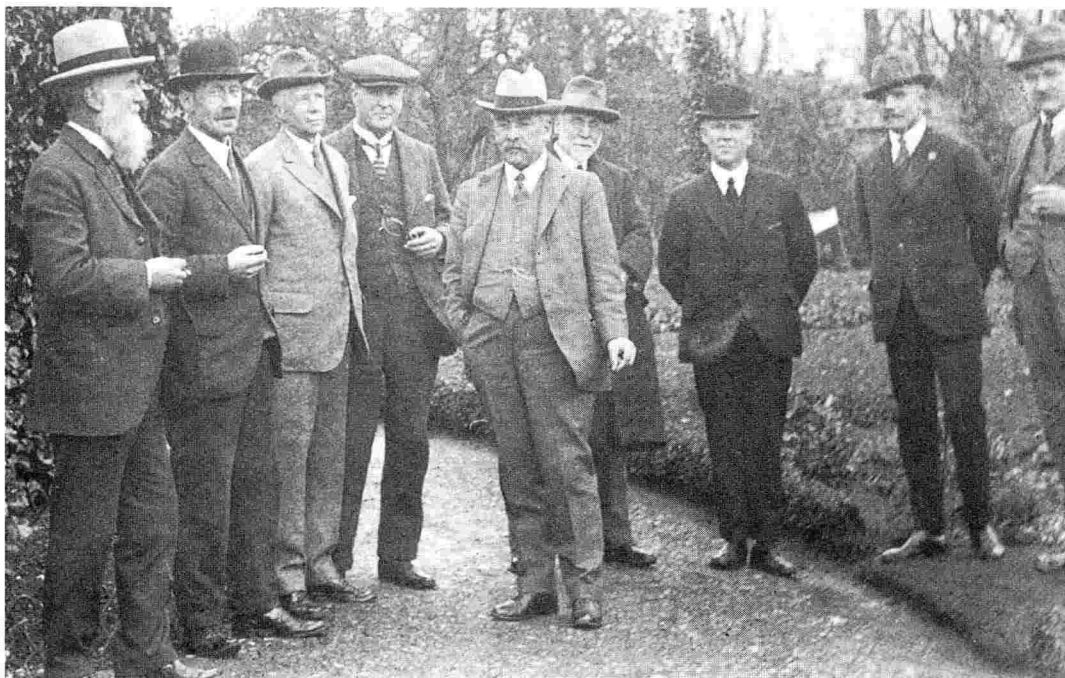


FIG. 46 – *Above*: Suffolk Institute excursion, Hadleigh Deanery, 1902 (*author's collection*). *Below*: Group probably at Hintlesham, ? c. 1913 – left to right: – Grimwade, Guy Maynard, George Hewetson, Rowley Elliston, Sir Gerald Ryan, George Rushton, ? W.C. Underwood, Charles Partridge, unknown (*author's collection*).

Nichols's *Birds of the Stour Estuary*. The Institute had to lament the loss of Fergus Menteith Ogilvie (1861–1918), an outstanding ornithologist, but the county had the benefit of his collection of stuffed British birds (the work of Thomas Gunn of Norwich), given to Ipswich Museum, now certainly the finest such series remaining anywhere.

## VI: BETWEEN TWO WARS

The War had stultified research, and new opportunities to excavate were seized upon. Miss Layard began work on a flint industry pre-dating Grimes' Graves at Mundford in 1918, and obtained the Roman Crowns from Cavenham, which she studied with Reginald Smith until 1924; she also re-opened the Stoke Tunnel investigations, and assisted Reid Moir in opening Anglo-Saxon barrows at Brightwell. These findings, however, were published elsewhere. To our 1919 *Proceedings* she entrusted a paper on flints showing apparent hand-grips, a product of war-time study, and a lengthy Inventory of Stoke-by-Clare College as a tribute to its transcriber, Sir William Hope, who died in that year. She also introduced Claude Morley (1874–1951) as a contributor: Morley was an extraordinarily productive naturalist – primarily entomologist – of national standing who worked for some years at the British Museum, and was author of an important contribution to the *V.C.H.* He had begun study with Dr Taylor at Ipswich Museum in the early 1890s, but was to make several valuable contributions to the Institute of an archaeological-topographical character. The Prehistoric Society of East Anglia had survived the War very successfully (with the help of Reginald Smith), and was beginning to acquire a national membership, as the leading institution dedicated to that study in Britain. In 1918–20 Miss Layard served on its committee, progressing to Vice-President in 1920 and President in 1921: in the latter year she also received the honour of Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries, *honoris causa*, in their first token admission of women Fellows. She resigned as Secretary of our Institute in 1920, and handed over her Museum at Christchurch Mansion to Ipswich Museum, when she and her co-worker Miss Outram moved to Kelvedon: but she remained active in research until after 1930, and was a Vice-President until her death in 1935.

At Ipswich Museum, Frank Woolnough retired as Curator in 1920, where he had also been Ipswich Local Secretary for the P.S.E.A.: Reid Moir, anxious to maintain and develop the role of Ipswich, engineered the appointment of Guy Maynard (1877–1966), from Saffron Walden Museum, as his successor (much to Woolnough's disgust). Dr Sturge had died in 1919; Maynard, after a brief flirtation with the Institute, opted for the Secretaryship of the P.S.E.A., following W.G. Clarke, and so continued until Charles Phillips acquired the editorship of the new *Prehistoric Society* in 1935. H.A. Harris was Guy Maynard's successor for the Institute, and with Cullum's death in the same year, Sir John Wood (of Hengrave Hall) became our President. Shortly afterwards, John Corder resigned – and died in 1922 – and Claude Morley stepped in as Excursions Secretary. A polymath, Morley's papers were always provocative, combining antiquarianism with a naturalist's appreciation of the landscape and its history, a slightly informal style, and a tendency to overleap the stricter boundaries of scholarship in the enthusiasm of his originality, although his references to historical sources were usually thorough. As an archaeologist he was an amateur with many good ideas and local insights, and in Harris he found for a time an appreciative colleague and publisher. From 1920 his papers on Dane Stones, Freckenham earthworks, Saxon architecture, Clovesho, Circular towers, Frostenden port, etc., made good reading in successive issues of the *Proceedings*, opening interpretative questions of Suffolk's Anglo-Saxon past as only Hamlet Watling and Nina Layard had attempted before him; while under his guidance the excursions multiplied and became lighter, pleasanter and richer events. It was said of his wife Rose Anne, that 'her wit was the life and soul of the Suffolk Archaeological gatherings' in the middle 1920s.<sup>21</sup>

In some ways these developments were typical of their age: new personal mobility through motor transport made landscape studies attractive, while the chattier note of the *Proceedings*, and the occasional inclusion of poems, mirrored similar developments in the press, and a sense of liberation from pre-War stuffiness and preoccupations, and from the sustained awfulness of the War itself. Charles Partridge, who had published his first volume of transcriptions from J.W. Darby's manuscript of churchyard inscriptions back in 1913, pressed on and completed two more in 1920 and 1923, and with H.W.B. Wayman set about a more comprehensive record; the fourth part never appeared, for he fell out with Harris, and severed his membership of the Institute. As 'Silly Suffolk', in 1921 he mocked at the antiquaries who 'spend laborious hours . . . scraping gravestones in churchyards, . . . and end by becoming Vice-Presidents of the Archaeological Society of the county' (*E.A.D.T.*, 15 Oct. 1921). With the death of Freddie Wilson of the *East Anglian* in 1924, only Woolnough and Harry Miller, getting rather old, remembered the camaraderie and Gilbertian humour of the Ipswich Scientific Society excursions of the 1880s. Reid Moir suffocated both the Scientific Society and the Ipswich Field Club by his monopoly, and amalgamated them in 1923 into the *Ipswich and District Natural History Society*, which is still in existence, but of more localised interests than either of its predecessors. The young blood of the Field Club had broadened its horizons: Slater and Boswell, as geologists, Cecil Lay the architect-artist and poet of Aldringham, and others, made their own ways. The Prehistorians, too, were gathering the weight of a national membership.

Excursions were the life-blood of the Institute as it moved through the 1920s, and Redstone still made frequent appearances. By 1926 there were two Excursion Secretaries, and as in the early days, these events provided the materials or contexts for the papers in the *Proceedings*. A visit to Duleep Singh's collections in August 1924 attracted a huge attendance, and they did nearly as well at Leiston, Yoxford and Westhall in July 1926. Two months later, at Erwarton, Harkstead and Tattingstone, no fewer than 157 made up the party, 'which, as Lord Ullswater, seconded by the Bishop of Suffolk [*sc. St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*], remarked at East Bergholt, was far in excess of anything previously known since 1849'. Excavations were being made: at Great Bricett F.H. Fairweather and H.A. Harris explored the foundations of an apsidal chapel, and at Hitcham the Revd Henry Copinger-Hill of Buxhall unearthed foundations in a vain search for Combretovium, following up his paper on the *Peddar Way*. The Anglo-Saxon theme was taken up by Stevenson, on St Botolph and on the Elmham controversy, and Harris, on Thorndon, while J.A. Steers developed the topographical note in studies of the Suffolk coastline. Morley gave way to Copinger-Hill as Excursion Secretary, and more conventional antiquarianism followed, with the Revd H.L. Denny on his family pedigrees, and good work from Farrer, Vincent and Lilian Redstone, and others. The publication of transcriptions from historical records remained an annual feature: one of very lasting interest, Miss Dale's translation of the *Household Book of Dame Alice de Bryene*, made its first appearance in Redstone's edition as a special publication of the Institute in 1931.

Morley was frustrated by Harris's failure to further the Institute's Natural History department, and unwillingness to publish his records, and had attempted to form a new Society in 1924, but did not receive much support. This criticism had been rumbling on since before the turn of the century, for there existed no county-wide forum for the publication of geological, botanical, zoological or entomological material, in all of which materials Suffolk has exceptionally rich resources. The P.S.E.A. could accommodate Pleistocene studies, but amazingly the Institute's *Proceedings* had never carried anything on the uniquely important Pliocene fauna of the Red and Coralline Crag, the phosphatic bone-beds and the box-stones, beyond a few notes on Moir's impossible Crag implements. Through the close association of Charlesworth, the S.V. Woods, Henslow, Lyell, Darwin, Prestwich, Lankester, Harmer and Bell with these studies, and with the superlative collections representing them at Ipswich Museum, there are studies littered through national journals and monographs. Morley was perhaps

more concerned with records of living or very recently dead fauna and flora, and in 1929 at Framlingham, with Dr Vinter, the Revd Julian Tuck, Chester Doughty, Arthur Mayfield, Edward Platten, Harry Andrews (Curator, Moyses Hall: a grandson of Henry Prigg's), Guy Maynard and others, he founded the *Suffolk Naturalists' Society*; Sir John Wood, satisfied that the Naturalists would not pursue archaeology, accepted the Presidency. This flourished greatly under Morley's guidance until his death in 1951, and invigorated Ipswich Museum's Natural History department through the involvement of the Museum's botanist Francis Simpson (b.1912), who was first introduced to its meetings in 1931, and that of the Museum's geologist, Harold E.P. Spencer, both newly employed at Ipswich during the late 1920s. Under the patronage of the Earls of Cranbrook, the same Society is today a driving force in the county, and from it has sprung the *Suffolk Biological Records Centre* at Ipswich Museum. However, the Institute did not drop the 'Natural History' tag until 1954.

Archaeology at Ipswich certainly received a boost in 1928 from the Congress there of the British Archaeological Association – the first since 1864 – which may have strengthened Harris's resolve to keep the *Proceedings* mainly for archaeology. In December 1929 was founded the *Suffolk Preservation Society*, by Mrs Elmer Schofield, with Lord Ullswater (of Ashe High House) as its President (1929–40) and Rowley Elliston (Chairman of the Ipswich Museum Committee) as its Chairman, an office he occupied until his death in 1953. Redstone, Edmund Farrer (who in that year had produced Duleep Singh's *Portraits in Norfolk Houses* posthumously) and Dr Rendall were among the Vice-Presidents, and Harris, Copinger-Hill, Harold R. Lingwood ('Rambler'), Major Ernest Cooper, Guy Maynard and Charles Partridge often worked together on its early committees. Major E.R. Cooper (founder of Dunwich Museum) and Dr Montague Rendall, retired Headmaster of Winchester (who encouraged J.N.L. Myres's excavations at his home at Butley Priory) were both also attached to the committee of the Institute. The true Victorians were disappearing: Harry Miller, who had been in at the founding of the Science-Gossip Club back in 1869, died in 1929; and old Frank Woolnough, at eighty-five pickled with whisky and cigarettes, and still tapping out articles for the *East Anglian* until a week before his death, peered bemused through his window in Tuddenham Road as *two* Cardinal Wolseys and *two* Anne Boleyns went in and out of the Woolpack Inn. He died late in 1930, not long after the Wolsey Pageant.

Despite a poor text, Harris had set a new tone with his paper (1927) on the lost Earl Stonham murals, richly illustrated with photographs of Watling's paintings from Miss Layard's collection. A quite lavish use of photographs gave quality to a paper on windmills, and to several on church antiquities including those of the Revd W. Lillie on screens, and on the Thornham Parva retable (1929–34), Christopher Woodforde on glass at Long Melford, Yaxley and Blythburgh (for which he also drew upon the Layard-Watling material), and Harris on Yaxley and Thorndon churches before restoration. Of these, only Lillie's were entirely new photography: the interest of the others lay partly in their resurrection of lost or inaccessible subjects. Antiquarianism was alive and well, and from 1931 to 1934 we have valuable contributions from Farrer (heraldry of the Redgrave Hall charters), the shorter piece on swanmarks by the naturalist N.F. Ticehurst, historical notes on the Bury Revolt, the Catalogue of Beneficed Clergy from the inveterate compiler Morley, our Librarian E.R. Burdon's list of the Institute's books, and Dr M.R. James's description of the Ipswich Library MSS. The distinguished antiquary of Livermere (of an Aldeburgh family), successively Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and of Eton College, whose many works on East Anglian subjects included the still underrated *Suffolk and Norfolk* and the *Two Lives of St Ethelbert* (not to mention *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*), had been a Vice-President of the Institute since 1925.

In 1932 the committee of the East Anglian Prehistorians was in civil war. Many members wanted the Society to become national, but opinions differed as to who should control it. Moir, who had succeeded Sir Ray Lankester as Ipswich Museum's (Honorary) President in 1929, managed (with the help of his friends J.E. Sainty and J.P.T. Burchell) to foil a Prehistoric coup

in 1932, when Professor A.S. Barnes almost succeeded in forcing through an absurdly cumbersome reconstruction of the Society, one objective of which was to oust Maynard from the Secretaryship. In their first contested Presidency (1933), Barnes's progress was blocked, and he was displaced by Cyril Fox. Amid their controversies, the Prehistorians were snubbed (by non-invitation) by the *First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences*, though Mortimer Wheeler arranged for a delegation of eminent international prehistorians to visit Moir at Ipswich. Grahame Clark, with Miles Burkitt and Charles Phillips at his shoulders, bided his time: new opportunities arose when Moir assisted Clark in the foundation of the Cambridge-based *Fenland Research Committee*, but also became almost bankrupt, Burkitt and Reginald Smith campaigning to get him a small stipend from the Museum, and later a Civil List pension. Around Miss Layard's core collections, Moir had developed a resource of prehistoric specimens and a network of academic contacts, both of truly international character, and despite the eccentricity of some of his views he was held in sufficient respect that when Gordon Childe canvassed the nomination of Breuil for the 1934–35 Presidency, the Abbé agreed on condition that his friends Moir and Maynard were in favour. Perhaps this was a ploy to reassure Moir that the pre-historians were not to be swamped by proto-historians, while Phillips took on the editorship of its *Proceedings*: within the year the *Prehistoric Society* slipped from its East Anglian moorings, and the Cambridge group took the helm.

The article by Moir and Maynard for the Institute in 1933, reporting their excavations at Castle Hill Roman villa, Whitton, was a landmark, for it introduced a long period in which our *Proceedings* became the primary county vehicle for excavation reports, many in connection with Ipswich Museum. Hugh Braun's major works at Bungay Castle were reported from 1934–36. From 1935 Maynard began to employ Basil J.W. Brown of Rickingham as a peripatetic archaeological investigator on the Museum's behalf, and this generated many new discoveries. Brown (1888–1977) was a Suffolk countryman with a broad accent, keenly astute and the possessor of a considerable understanding of Suffolk soils. The son of a tenant farmer, his own smallholding had failed, and he turned his attention to his two lifelong interests, astronomy and archaeology. In 1932, encouraged by the good reception of his astronomical articles, he published a book of *Astronomical Atlases, Maps and Charts* with H.E. Waddilove. His first major project for the Museum was the Roman kiln-site at Foxledge Common, Wattisfield, which he published with Maynard, Spencer, the Revd Ivan Moore and W.F. Grimes in our *Proceedings* for 1935. At the same time Reid Moir was raising and spending money at a considerable rate trying to reach the bottom of three ancient artificial shafts not far from Castle Hill, one at least 77ft deep, but was defeated by water inundations at a rate of 15,000 gallons per hour: his concise article for the Institute contrasted with premature headlines in the press announcing the discovery of a vast Roman treasure on the site! Over the next two years the team was busy at Temple Hill, Dunwich, and at Scole (with C.H. Gale), while Norman Norris was at work for four seasons at Dunwich Greyfriars: all their reports came to the Institute. The more substantial villa excavation at Stanton Chair, by Maynard, Moore and Brown, was briefly noticed but still awaits full publication.

Edmund Farrer, who worked tirelessly to the end, was made an honorary member of the *Monumental Brass Society* when it was resuscitated in 1934, and died in April 1935. His obituarist remarked:

Suffolk archaeologists, as also members of the Stour Valley Antiquarian Society, will long recall the squat figure seated on a camp-stool outside . . . old structures, and leaning on his stick, his face lit with a smile as he drew attention in the tones of an enthusiast to the comeliness of a Henry VIII chimney-stack, or insisted that his listeners should inspect for themselves a king-post . . . . On such occasions Farrer held as it were a little court, answering questions, indulging in reminiscences, and making history live again as he drew from his stores of knowledge, while his devoted wife hovered near to



give the helping hand that age increasingly demanded of her. Conversing with him it was difficult to realise that here was one who could remember being taken as a small child to the Great Exhibition of 1851 (*E.A.D.T.*, 10 Apr. 1935).

Miss Layard, having made a last appearance before the Institute at Christchurch Mansion late in 1934, to describe her first meeting with Hamlet Watling (whose illustrations were at last acquired for Ipswich Museum), died also in 1935, in August. Francis Engleheart, who had met her at Miss Outram's funeral three months earlier, described her as shattered by her companion's death.<sup>22</sup>

Claude Messent's study of rural architecture prompted a series of papers on scratch dials, weather-vanes and pargetting: a fine case-study was the restoration of a farmhouse in 1939-40 (described by Arthur Welford in 1946). Reid Moir, less interested in vernacular architecture (except from a domiciliary point of view), considered that T.R. Parkington would prove a more dynamic helmsman than Rowley Elliston as Chair of the Museum Committee, and engineered the substitution. Then, on the brink of war, Basil Brown made the greatest British archaeological discovery of the century: through 1938 he was released by Maynard into Mrs Pretty's employ at Sutton Hoo, to investigate the mounds, and in that year made startling discoveries of high-status Anglo-Saxon burials, including one with a boat. The events of 1939 are famous: as Brown (under Maynard's watchful eye) revealed the outline of a 90ft ship in the great mound, expectations rose, and reached a zenith when it was realised the burial was intact. Maynard called in Charles Phillips to investigate the grave chamber, and in the twinkling of an eye Grahame Clark, the Piggotts, Thomas Kendrick and friends were in charge, and Maynard and Moir were carefully distanced. Moir, whose annoyance at Clark's manipulation of the Prehistoric Society had been palliated somewhat by receiving Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1937, was disgusted at this second calculated insult, and gave the well-kept secret to the press while the Crown Jewels of seventh-century East Anglia were still being unearthed. Through the arguments which followed, Brown steadily followed Mrs Pretty's instructions and revealed the ship's ghostly impression. The excavation was completed hurriedly as the storm gathered in Europe: an inquest was held at Sutton, the finds went off to London and were put into store in the Underground, and within a few months military training vehicles were being driven over the ship. Since the Institute suspended its activities throughout the War, in Suffolk only a makeshift display at Ipswich Museum recorded the fact of its discovery.

## VII: RECONSTRUCTION AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS, 1945-75

H.A. Harris noted in 1947 that 'in 1939-45 . . . we closed down and ceased all our activities, including the publication of our *Proceedings*.' The 1939 Part was the third and concluding section of Volume 23, and that for 1946 the first of Volume 24. In the interim, two very active Vice-Presidents had died, namely Vincent Redstone in 1941, and Reid Moir in 1944 (at Flatford Mill, to which he had moved at Parkington's invitation to avoid bombs in Ipswich). Guy Maynard had been kept busy at Ipswich Museum arranging the removal of important collections (including Watling's drawings) to Wales for safety, but in early summer 1942 he and Harold Spencer excavated a tumulus on Martlesham Heath which had to be removed for military purposes: the report appeared in 1946. Sir Charles Sherrington, Moir's successor as President of the Museum, had little to do with the Institute. Sir John Wood stepped down as our President and was replaced by Sir John Tilley, who had been President of the Suffolk Preservation Society since 1940: however, he died in 1951, and Alderman Mrs J. Greene of Bury became the first woman to hold that office. Harris, while remaining Editor, brought in two sub-Editors - W.W. Lillie and Arthur Welford - and made way for R.F. Collins (1946) and

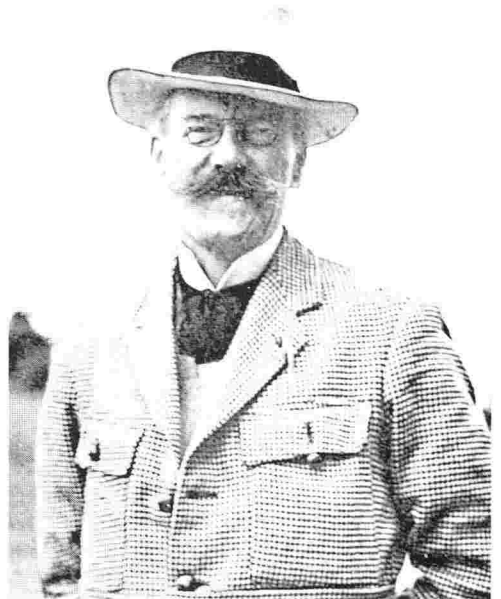
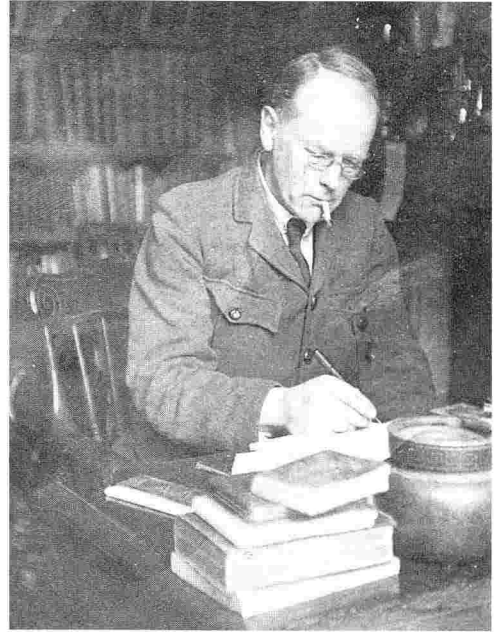


FIG. 47 – *Above left*: Revd Edmund Farrer (1847–1935), Rector of Hinderclay; antiquary (*photograph with Bruin, c. 1906, Journals of Edmund Farrer, S.R.O.B.*). *Above right*: Revd Harold Augustus Harris (c. 1867–1957), Rector of Thorndon; Secretary, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1920–46 (*Farrer-Harris papers, S.R.O.L.*). *Below left*: Charles Partridge (c. 1872–1955), compiler of the *Suffolk Churchyard Inscriptions* (*photograph, 1906, courtesy of Trustees of the British Museum*). *Below right*: Claude Morley (1874–1951), founder, Suffolk Naturalists' Society (1929) (*courtesy of Suffolk Naturalists' Society*).

subsequently Thomas Panther of Monks' Eleigh, as Secretary. Leslie Dow became Editor in 1948. In the Council, pre-War stalwarts such as Maynard, Munro Cautley and Tyrell Green sat alongside George Arnott (then preparing his studies of the Suffolk estuaries), and (reinforcing links with the Suffolk Naturalists) the ornithologist-photographer George Bird, and Francis Engleheart, amongst others. Engleheart (1896–1963), of the Priory, Stoke-by-Nayland, was active in many causes, re-invigorating the Suffolk Preservation Society, running the Flatford Mill Centre, serving as Chairman of the *Suffolk Poetry Society* from its 1952 foundation, and busy in the Ipswich and District Natural History Society and *Stour Valley Antiquarian Society*, which last provided a regional alternative for some who found our proceedings too dry. Despite the stringencies of petrol rationing, two or three excursions were managed each year in the late 'forties; there were successful series of lectures; and, at the end of 1949, seventy-three new names were added to a membership list already very healthy.

Records had in a strange way benefited from the war, perhaps through the necessity of giving someone the responsibility for their curation at a time of vulnerability. Lilian Redstone had advised at Bury in 1935 on the organization, in the Borough Offices muniment room, of the West Suffolk records, and in 1940 she was appointed honorary part-time archivist to the Borough. Meanwhile in Ipswich, where the Library (under Henry Ogle) had collected records since 1926, and others, like the Fitch and Woolnough collections, had migrated from the Museum, she received the appointment of part-time archivist in 1943, and in 1945 held a similar post with the East Suffolk County Council. In 1950 the Bury records came under the administration of a joint committee of the Borough and West Suffolk County Councils, and there she was given the joint office of full-time archivist, while Derek Charman took over a similar role in relation to the new Ipswich and East Suffolk Record Office.

Leslie Dow (1899–1979), a retired tea-planter with monocle and bow-tie, who had since worked with Refugee organizations, remained Editor until 1968, and was simultaneously President from 1957 to 1965: he was an ever-present figure in the post-war renewal of the Institute, with a particular interest in historical genealogy and heraldic antiquities. Bruce-Mitford called him 'imposing, handsome, strongly built, with . . . a strong sense of humour,' and remarked that he 'accepted uncritically the weaknesses of his fellow-humans' – however, some found him a difficult colleague. It is objected that, although this was a period in which there were many successful excursions arranged by the Revd W.M. Lummis (also Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Suffolk Preservation Society before 1947) and in the later 1950s by H.M. Armstrong, (which Dow 'frequently embellished' with quotations from our past *Proceedings*), only the bare fact of their dates and destinations was recorded in the *Proceedings*. The Centenary issue of 1948 was strong: Dow's outline of the Institute's origin signalled the moment for a reconsideration of its role. Ivan Moore's study of *Roman Suffolk*, Watson's on *Ipswich Printers and Publishers*, and Rupert Bruce-Mitford's preliminary considerations of *Saxon Rendlesham*, were all landmarks in their way. Bruce-Mitford, at the British Museum, was handed the task of publishing and interpreting the Sutton Hoo finds, which became a major part of his life's work: this paper, another on Sutton Hoo itself in 1949 (with a grant from the C.B.A.), and that on the Snape boat-grave (1952) set standards for the way in which Suffolk's nationally-important archaeological resources can be presented usefully and provocatively within our regional *Proceedings*. Henry Cowell's 1949 study of *John Winthrop* of Groton revived an Institute preoccupation of the 1850s, while the same issue introduced Norman Scarfe, in the characteristic vein which has lent both scholarly and literary quality to our publications for half a century. In that year he took up a lectureship at Leicester University, in which he remained until 1963.

An important event of Sir John Tilley's Presidency was the Summer 1951 Meeting at Ipswich of the Royal Archaeological Institute (President: Sir Mortimer Wheeler), 16–20 July, for which our Institute was associated with the *Ipswich Historical Society* and the Ipswich and District Natural History Society as hosts. Leslie Dow was Hon. Secretary of the Meeting: Mrs Muriel

Clegg chaired the local committee, which included Maynard, Miss Redstone, Arthur Welford, and others, and Cautley, Elliston, Tyrrell Green and Charles Partridge were among the Patrons. The programme of excursions and visits was a feast: one could hear Maynard at Christchurch, Cautley at St Nicholas's and St Margaret's, Baillie Reynolds at Orford and Framlingham, Charles Phillips at Sutton Hoo, Dr Margaret Wood at Moyses Hall and Little Wenham, A.B. Whittingham at Bury Abbey, and Joan Evans at Lavenham and Long Melford, and take tea with the Institutes at the Athenaeum with H.J.M. Maltby, Curator of Moyses' Hall, as host. It is interesting to reflect that Dr Evans's father, Sir John, had been studying Prigg's Bury flints and Warren's Ixworth antiquities no fewer than ninety years previously. Dow's introduction to the Meeting expressed a hope for our rejuvenation through this stimulus, as had arisen from the Bury 1869 and Ipswich 1899 Congresses.

There were numerous new contributors during the early 1950s, as characteristic figures of the old guard disappeared: Claude Morley died in 1951, and Miss Redstone in 1953, the year in which Guy Maynard retired from the Council and from the Ipswich Museum. Martin Statham (County Archivist of West Suffolk) in this year became joint Secretary of the Institute, and in that capacity (later alone) continued to shape its fortunes until his untimely illness and death in 1969. The work of field archaeologists in various parts of the county was reported to the Institute, with Group-Captain Knocker's 1948 excavation of a Saxon kiln at Thetford (for the Ministry of Works), a note on tablet-weaving from Grace Crowfoot, and papers from Lady Briscoe who, being associated with the Cambridge archaeologists, oftener announced her researches to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. In around 1948, Stanley West first worked at Ipswich Museum, often assisting Basil Brown, and, returning there in 1951–56 after R.A.F. service, gave us his important study of kilns at West Stow. In 1950 Maynard commenced that regular feature of the *Proceedings*, *Recent Archaeological Fieldwork in Suffolk*, which from 1954 has continued to the present and is a point in which Suffolk is in advance of many other counties.

Maynard's successor as Curator, Norman Smedley (1900–80), was a biologist by training, whose career had led him from the Raffles Museum in Singapore in the 1920s to Doncaster Museum in the following decade, where his archaeological interest was awakened. At Ipswich (1953–65) he was willing to assist excavation archaeology: a landmark was Brown's work at Grimstone End (Pakenham) of 1953–54, a site with barrows and Roman kilns, in which Stanley West collaborated, recovering important early Saxon materials including the collapsed weights from the largest warp-weighted loom then known from north-western Europe. Brown continued to excavate at the site throughout the 1950s. Through the 1950s, the principal excavation reports published by the Institute were of Knocker's M.o.W. excavations at Framlingham Castle, notices of Roman discoveries by Lady Briscoe, J.S. Wachter's work on the clay pits at Calke Wood, Wattisfield (where Smedley had assisted at an experimental kiln firing in 1954), and Rowley Edwardson's barrow investigations at Risby and Barnham (with Calvin Wells). (To Edwardson, as Curator of Moyses Hall Museum, is attributed the disposal of many of the non-local collections inherited from the early Museum of the Suffolk Institute, but if this is true, the dispersal cannot be traced through existing records.) Smedley undertook the continuation of *Archaeology in Suffolk*, and his listings reveal an immense amount going on in the inspection of trenches and occasional discoveries, as well as major works reported elsewhere, such as R.G. West's and Charles MacBurney's reinvestigation of Hoxne, and Vera Evison's exploration of the West Stow village (undertaken at S.E. West's suggestion). Many of Brown's excavations and notes from the 1950s remain in manuscript form in his notebooks: Harold Spencer's work of the same period went to the Suffolk Naturalists' Society.

If dilettante antiquarianism had seemed as dry as dust to Charles Partridge in 1921, by the 1950s it was even more unfashionable: the experience of war and its attendant destructions called forth a desire for the co-ordination and preservation of historical materials, and for less complacent, more socially and politically diverse interpretations of the evidences of the past. Ipswich and East Suffolk Councils pooled their resources with the Royal Institution of

Chartered Surveyors for the exhibition *Seven Centuries of Surveying in Suffolk* at Christchurch in 1954. Several Institute papers of the 1950s turned upon Suffolk's social history interpreted through the lives of individuals, from Gladys Scott Thompson's study of Wolsey, Gardiner and Bacon, and A.L. Morton's of *Laurence Clarkson and John Lanseter*, to Denney's *W.S. Fitch and Henry Davy*, or McGrath and Rowe on the *Recusancy of Sir Thomas Cornwallis* (1960). As in excavation archaeology the examples of Childe, Wheeler, Clark and Daniel had been influential, so these new historical approaches had their roots in the academic discourses of the inter-war years, and now bore fruit in a fresh generation. The encouragement of K.B. McFarlane at Oxford, and of W.G. Hoskins and Jack Simmons at Leicester, was inspirational for Norman Scarfe: he and his Leicester colleague Geoffrey Martin (then working on Ipswich history) considered the possibility of rejuvenating the *Victoria County History of Suffolk*, but in the absence of adequate funding resolved instead to found the *Suffolk Records Society*. Leslie Dow, who approved a grant from the Institute, accepted the Chairmanship, enabling Scarfe and Martin to act as General Editors, while R. Geoffrey Smith offered financial support in very moderate printing rates from Cowells, then in its heyday. The first volume, *Suffolk Farming in the 19th Century*, which appeared in 1958 as a Redstone Memorial, came from the pen of Joan Thirsk, another Leicester colleague, assisted by Jean Imray of the Ipswich Record Office. Another, the study of *Suffolk and the Great Rebellion* (by Alan Everett, also of the Leicester Department), formed the model for similar studies in other counties. The publication of the *Correspondence of John Constable* (at first opposed by Dow), which ran to seven volumes, produced the financial stability which assured the future of this still flourishing Society.

Stanley West, who had prepared the Grimstone End publication, studied in Cambridge with Glyn Daniel in 1956–59. Shortly before leaving Ipswich Museum, he had come to realise the immense significance of the pottery and kiln products from Carr Street obtained in the 1920s and 1930s, and with J.G. Hurst in 1957 published the seminal description of the Ipswich Ware industry for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. In 1958 and 1959 he excavated at Cox Lane and Shire Hall Yard, bringing the richness of the Middle Saxon urban archaeology of the town sharply into view. The report, with expert contributions on imported pottery, coins, and documentary evidence, is perhaps the single most complete and influential archaeological statement of any in our *Proceedings*. It was written in Dar-es-Salaam during the author's term as Director of the National Museum of Tanzania (1960–65), and appeared in the Part for 1963 (published 1964). At Ipswich Museum, meanwhile, Miss Elizabeth Owles took over as archaeological assistant from Alan Aberg *c.*1959, and so began a celebrated archaeological collaboration with Norman Smedley which lasted well over a decade, and generated at least two contributions to most issues of our *Proceedings*. These included a series of studies of kilns excavated at Homersfield, Grimstone End, Ipswich (Saxon kilns near Cox Lane – with J.G. Hurst), a survey of Roman discoveries at Long Melford, studies of Bronze Age pottery in Suffolk, and the 1963 excavations at South Elmham Minster (published 1970) which produced evidence of Late Saxon material built into the fabric. The Museum's excavations in 1962–65 of the Romano-British Bath-House at Stonham Aspal were published in 1966, and in that year Norman Smedley became President of the Institute. Many of these excavations had the benefit of a caravan bought by the Institute as a travelling site hut, through the agency of the Financial Secretary, Eddie Minifie (a relative of George Arnott's): this was last used at Burrow Hill, Butley, during the early 1980s.

Excursions at this time, still very sparsely recorded in *Proceedings*, were lively and successful under the direction of Norman Scarfe, who took on this responsibility in 1962. Having retired from Leicester in the summer of 1963, he took part in the South Elmham excavations in July, and in October read his paper on 'North and South Elmham' to the Society of Antiquaries, who elected him a Fellow in the following year. The thesis he presented, that the late 7th-century bishopric of Elmham was established at South Elmham and moved later to North Elmham, he summarized in his book *The Suffolk Landscape*. The 1986 Field Survey neatly resolved his thesis

by showing that the 7th-century site was to be found not near the inscrutable minster but in the area of South Elmham Hall. A problem that had exercised our members' minds since it was set out in 1863 had after 123 years been brought by our members to a conclusion acceptable to our members.

Norman Smedley retired as Curator at Ipswich in 1965 and was replaced by Miss Patricia Butler, who came at once on to the Institute's Council, but was not a contributor. (Among her first actions was the termination of certain agreements which had been negotiated by her predecessor involving the sale and transfer of objects to a Museum in Texas, through Colonel Tom Kelly of the U.S. Air Force. Kelly had excavated several prehistoric sites in Mildenhall.) Since 1955, the *Suffolk Local History Council*, inspired by the Rural Life Museum at Reading, had been considering the formation of an *East Anglian Museum of Rural Life*, and had found temporary premises at Beccles: the plan was progressed substantially by the gift of land with a medieval barn at Abbot's Hall, Stowmarket, by the Misses Longe in 1963, to which the County and District Councils of East and West Suffolk added grants. The Museum opened in 1967 under the management of a sub-Committee of the Local History Council, containing a strong overlap with the committees of the Institute and the Suffolk Preservation Society, including Norman Scarfe, Major Steuart-Gratton, David Dymond, Martin Statham and J.O. Milner, with Smedley as Director. The core collection of Suffolk agricultural implements was transferred from Ipswich Museum. Domestic and vernacular architecture found renewed favour in the *Proceedings* at this time, as in Sylvia Colman's studies at Ixworth and Stansfield, and other papers, and was an interest through which David Penrose, an Ipswich School master, carved out a niche for himself which led to his becoming Secretary of the Institute in 1970. Elizabeth Owles described a moated farmstead at Debenham revealed by rescue excavation in 1967-68, making a case-study of the site: a standing building of higher status, the Bury Guildhall, was admirably treated by Margaret Statham in the same year.

Work in artefactual studies also developed during the 1960s: Audrey Ozanne's description of the Ipswich hanging-bowl (1962), Smedley and Owles on East Anglian animal-brooches and on witch-bottles, the notice of the Belstead torques, and the papers by Miss Galbraith and Elizabeth Okasha on the St Nicholas carvings are examples. Such approaches expanded under the new and able Editorship of David Sherlock (of the Ancient Buildings Inspectorate: a relation of the Copinger-Hill family), which commenced in 1969 with the themed *Saint Edmund Commemorative Issue* of the *Proceedings*. This was an impressive work, the contributors headed by Dorothy Whitelock on the St Edmund legend, with C.E. Blunt (the Memorial Coinage), R. Gilyard-Beer (the Bury Abbey Church excavations of 1957-64), Elizabeth Parker (the Bury cycle of illustrations in Pembroke College MS 120) and Norman Scarfe's *necrobiology* of St Edmund's corpse. The Institute was sharing in a general expansion of archaeological and historical interest, with academic or official linkage, which built up during the later 1960s. Stanley West had commenced work at West Stow in 1965, immediately after returning from Africa, and was negotiating several new developments: an archaeological post (taken by Paul Ashbee) was created at the Centre of East Anglian Studies in Norwich, and, at first in West Suffolk, and then jointly across the county, West recommended the creation of, and was appointed to, an Archaeological Consultancy to provide an emergency response service for new discoveries. In 1968 he acted as Secretary for the Institute's *Suffolk Archaeological Research Committee* (convened to deal with archaeology revealed through development in Ipswich), and instated a series of *Conversaciones* (on the Victorian model), beginning at Stowmarket, at which archaeologists displayed and discussed their recent findings: this was the predecessor of the present *Suffolk Archaeological Field Group*.

West's further excavations between 1969 and 1974 – on the Dunwich and Bury town defences, on the Saxon cemetery at Snape (with Miss Owles), and at Walton Priory – and those of David Dymond (Eriswell), Fred Petersen (Gazeley), Michael Corbishley (Hadleigh) and Rosemary Gilmour (Brantham) on important prehistoric sites, appeared in a series of valuable

articles. These, while enriching the *Proceedings*, filled them also with the necessary diagrams of pots, etc., a worthy but perhaps indigestible diet for readers of more general interests, which highlighted the growing need for a publication in larger format dedicated entirely to excavation researches. David Sherlock maintained a balance of historical and art-historical papers (such as Norman Scarfe's piece on the 'Bury' Cross) steadfastly in the face of this swell of new material: his plan to produce themed volumes each year was not encouraged, however. A regional forum to give a wider coherence to the planning and development of archaeological services was convened, as the *Scole Archaeological Committee for East Anglia*, representing Suffolk and Norfolk, and Stanley West produced two influential reports surveying the existing knowledge and development potential for archaeology in Suffolk generally and in Ipswich in particular. At this time Keith Wade and Robert Carr were attempting to co-ordinate archaeological work in Norfolk, and in 1973 the *Norfolk Archaeological Unit* was created under the directorship of Peter Wade-Martins. In 1974 Local Government Reorganization provided the opportunity not only for the unification of the County Records Service, but also for the formation of the *Suffolk Archaeological Unit* with Stanley West as its director: Keith Wade came on to the staff to take charge of the Ipswich Project, and Robert Carr to a post at Bury. Edward Martin was also an original member. Beginning in 1975, the monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology*, produced under the direction of the Scole Committee, became the primary vehicle for professional archaeological reports for excavations in East Anglia. The series, now approaching its 100th volume and embracing also the county of Essex, is considered the outstanding regional publication of its kind in Britain.

Norman Smedley had retired from the Institute's Presidency in 1971, to be succeeded by the Revd J.S. Boys Smith, retired Master of St John's, Cambridge: this election, however, was short-lived. Having joined the Institute only in 1973 (soon after his arrival in Ipswich), and made a debut as contributor in 1974 on the subject of the Bovile and Wingfield memorials at Letheringham, Dr John Blatchly, Headmaster of Ipswich School, took the Presidential seat in 1975. An organic chemist by training and an antiquary by inclination, Dr Blatchly had lately obliged all researchers in the county's records by his *Topographers of Suffolk*, an introduction to the biographical materials, sources and specimen hands of forty-nine leading Suffolk antiquaries of the past. This invaluable research tool has passed through five editions and reprints to the present. That was only the beginning of his distinguished contribution to the life of our Institute.

#### VIII: THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY, 1976-98

The year 1975 saw the publication by the British Museum of the first volume of the Sutton Hoo *magnum opus* of our distinguished member, Rupert Bruce-Mitford. In that year we were in the strong position of having 456 personal and 82 institutional members, although the age of many might have led one to fear a swift decline. It was important for the future that young and vigorous archaeologists should not be deterred from involvement by any perceived stuffiness. In this enterprise we had a number of strong assets, not least in the continuing interest and quality of the excursions under Norman Scarfe's direction, in the lectures arranged by the Institute each year, in the work of the Field Group and other activities in which the members were variously involved (such as the *Deben Place-Name Survey*), and in the annual body of publications which they produced under other auspices. The interest of these affairs extended to all our members, but was still barely represented within the *Proceedings*, and in consequence the Institute began a *Newsletter* in autumn 1975, to contain information about recent and forthcoming events, reviews, antiquarian notes, and so forth. The Suffolk Archaeological Research Committee had been dissolved in 1973 with the formation of the Scole Committee,



FIG. 48 – *Above left*: Gery Milner-Gibson-Cullum (1857–1920), President, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1908–20, as Cardinal Beaufort, Hengrave Pageant (photograph, 1907, *Journals of Edmund Farrer, S.R.O.B.*). *Above right*: James Reid Moir (1879–1944), Vice-President; also President, Ipswich Museum, 1929–44 (courtesy of Ipswich Borough Museums). *Below left*: Leslie Dow (1899–1979), President, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1957–65 (courtesy of Dr J.M. Blatchly). *Below right*: Norman Smedley (1900–80), President, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, 1966–71; Curator of Ipswich Museum, 1953–64 (photographed at Stonham Aspall, courtesy of Ipswich Borough Museums).



but the Field Group's activities were revived with great success in 1974 under the direction of John Wymer, who brought to it his enthusiasm for the diffusion of interest and awareness of archaeological matters to as wide a group as possible. The lecture series was also in his capable hands, and had at its disposal the network of lecturers developed in Suffolk by David Dymond, the county's tutor for the Cambridge Extra-Mural board. Edward Martin, the Prehistorian of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, emerged at once as the Editor of the *Newsletter*. As for the *Proceedings*, Vic Gray (Senior Assistant Archivist at Ipswich) replaced David Sherlock as Editor in 1976. The final Part of Volume 33, issued in that year (for 1975) was a worthy production, with six longer papers including three biographical items, Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Radulph Agas*, Vivian Salmon's *Cave Beck*, and Norman Scarfe's *John Ives*.

Volume 34, in a new, larger format, commenced in 1977 with the first of four Parts (against the former three) of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, a change in title which was opposed by Leslie Dow, but by which the sphere of our work was more correctly described. Although it included materials for 1976 (including the last *Archaeology in Suffolk* compiled by Miss Owles), the year 1976 was effectively written-off in numeration, so that the annual delay in publication which had existed since the 1950s disappeared with it. Reports of the excursions, and notes arising from them, were at last readmitted to its pages: in these, Edward Martin aimed to provide reports as useful as those given in the *Archaeological Journal* for the summer meetings of the Royal Archaeological Institute. David Penrose's tenure closed with the election of John Wymer as Secretary, and the new office as his assistant was given to Peter Northeast. Frank Cheney took charge of financial affairs. Elizabeth Owles and her canine companion Doublet left Ipswich, relinquishing her legendary office full of miscellaneous papers, to become Curator at Moyses Hall. Her former post was taken by Chris Balkwill, who also replaced Miss Butler on the Institute's Council and took on the archaeological supplement with Edward Martin. During his brief stay at Ipswich, Balkwill made a valiant effort at improving storage conditions, and prepared reports on Iron Age pottery and the Stanton Chair excavation in manuscript. After he parted company with Ipswich Museum in 1981 his mantle fell upon Hilary Ross (afterwards Mrs Feldman), who with the added energies of Judith Plouviez, the County Unit's Roman specialist, further continued and improved the supplement. In 1979 Vic Gray became County Archivist of Essex, and Dr David Allen (Archivist in the Ipswich Record Office) became Editor. Meanwhile respects were paid to four very notable figures from the Institute's past, namely Basil Brown, the Earl of Cranbrook, Leslie Dow and Norman Smedley, who were lost by death in the years 1977-80 successively.

In Dr Allen's hands the new *Proceedings* maintained an excellence of content to complement the new format. Although interim reports were not encouraged, papers describing the results of excavation archaeology were still solicited, but proved harder to obtain than historical materials. Nonetheless most Parts were headed by an archaeological paper or artefact study, usually from authors of national importance or great academic promise. These reflect the efforts of David Sherlock, Vic Gray and John Wymer to explore their professional contacts on behalf of the Institute, so that in succession there were papers by Vera Evison (Anglo-Saxon enamels), Stuart Rigold (Boy Bishop tokens), Teresa Briscoe (Lakenheath pottery stamps), Richard Avent (Long Melford excavations) and Richard Gem and Laurence Keen (St Edmund's Abbey Anglo-Saxon finds). In the early 1980s we had also John Wymer's valuable report of work at the Hoxne Lower Palaeolithic site – a welcome re-introduction of that field of study into our pages – and (posthumously) Gilyard-Beer's account of the Devil's Ring barrows excavated in 1953. Norman Scarfe pondered over the Sutton Hoo coins, and Stanley West, having discovered the remarkable stone cross at Iken and investigated the site, teamed up with him and with Professor Cramp to describe its meaning and context. With such papers there was no danger of the *Proceedings* losing their value to archaeologists. The continuing work of Sylvia Colman and Muriel Clegg, and contributions from Marilyn Clements, Nancy

Briggs and Nesta Evans gave us the advantage of women as authors in historical and architectural, as well as archaeological matters. In the busy progress of his career, Dr MacCulloch did not forget his native Suffolk, but gave us transcripts of the important Henry Chitting collections. By allowing on average four longer papers to each part of the *Proceedings*, room was given for shorter contributions, frequently of a significant or provocative character. For instance, Dr West's new identification for the site of King Edmund's martyrdom appeared in this form in 1983.

A good deal of regret was felt by members in 1983 when Norman Scarfe retired as Excursions Secretary after having performed this function for no less than twenty-one years with an efficiency, courtesy and success which were widely admired: the occasion was marked by a presentation and a Vice-Presidency. We could hardly have been more fortunate in having had so vigorous and erudite a spirit to lead this aspect of our work through those years of change, just as John Wymer's endeavours had laid new foundations for the future of lectures and other meetings. In this long period the Institute's membership had increased and flourished, somewhat against the national trend, and had made a transition from a worthy and characteristic post-war constituency of elderly clerical and retired military or colonial types, to that of a younger, less provincial body with developing involvement in professional organizations in the county and beyond, and in both the old and the new Universities. For example, 1983 saw the appearance on our Council of Amanda Arrowsmith (County Archivist) and Robert Shorland-Ball (then Curator at Stowmarket), while experience of an elder kind had come in two years previously with Dr Ormonde Pickard (Curator at Dunwich). Yet these appointments did not always result in active involvement, and the changing role of the Institute at this time was shaped as much by continuing and growing support in the rank and file, cultivated through lectures, Field Group meetings, the *Newsletter*, and – perhaps most important of all – through excursions. Clive Paine, educational officer for the Suffolk Record Office, has since sustained the excursions programme with marked success. John Wymer left the Secretaryship in 1984 on his appointment to the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, but as a Vice-President has maintained loyal attendance and support: Edward Martin was his natural successor. Brian Seward co-edited the *Newsletter* from 1985 to 1993: Rosalind Thomas was its Editor from 1993 to 1995, and the work is currently undertaken by Judith Middleton-Stewart.

The extension of the Institute's work on behalf of a wide membership reflected its need to discover a purpose for itself that would be complementary to the many new organizations which had emerged during the prosperous growth period of the 1970s. Many of the towns and regions of Suffolk had built up their own local history groups, and their most active members found a wider support forum in the Institute, and were encouraged to participate in the Field Group: Brian Charge, its Secretary during the mid-1980s, helped to develop the *Haverhill and District Archaeological Group*, for instance. The decline in active membership of the Church of England resulted in many churches becoming only rarely, and some never, used, with a resultant threat to the fabrics and their contained antiquities: their special needs were regarded by the *Suffolk Historic Churches Trust*, and several of our officers served as Trustees. In Ipswich, where six of the twelve medieval churches are now redundant, the *Ipswich Historic Churches Trust* was formed to take responsibility for the fabrics of those made redundant and for finding new uses for them: Dr Blatchly is at present the energetic Chairman. Meanwhile the large increase in building activity in central Ipswich created new opportunities for the Archaeological Unit busy with the Ipswich Project, and to service its need for publicity, fundraising, the diffusion of information, and the co-ordination of local support and lobby-groups, the *Ipswich Archaeological Trust* was created in 1982 (Dr Blatchly its President). The aims of these groups are shared by the *Ipswich Society*, and their membership overlaps strongly with the Institute both in the current professional core and in an active group of Ipswich elders, who also assist the work of the Ipswich Museum on the Committee of its *Friends*, and have shared or led in the efforts to create a *Centre for the English Story* (informed by the unique Anglo-



FIG. 49 - *Above*: Suffolk Institute excursion, Bungay Castle, 1933 (*Farrer-Harris Collection, S.R.O.I.*). *Below*: Presentation to George Arnott on his election as an Honorary Member of the Institute in the seventieth year of his membership, Stoke-by-Nayland Church, 15 April 1989 - left to right: Dr J.M. Blatchly, George Arnott, Norman Scarfe (*courtesy of Dr Blatchly*).

Saxon urban archaeology of Ipswich) since the late 1980s. Similar considerations apply to the membership of support and development committees for museums and other projects in various parts of Suffolk, and for all these groups the Institute serves as an independent forum, and as an authority which lends weight and validity to the opinions of its members.

During the mid-1980s a rapid re-listing of Listed Buildings in Suffolk was undertaken for English Heritage, in which Sylvia Colman (then Historic Buildings Adviser for Suffolk County Council), Philip Aitkens and Mark Barnard were closely involved. Vernacular architecture was a growing part of the Institute's interest by which the active participation of members not of the professional archaeological sphere was enlisted: the engagement of a wide section of members in our practical work is an end always desired, but sometimes difficult to achieve. Through this new emphasis on historic buildings, for instance, the artist and sculptor Timothy Easton became involved as an active and regular contributor to the Institute. Perhaps also the name of the *Institute* – which properly describes the breadth of interest and study of our Society, and to which we are rightly attached for reasons of history and sentiment – has deterred some by its academic resonance. Twenty years, the maintenance of exciting excursions, a revolving scheme for Council membership (introduced in 1989), and the simplification of normal membership procedure (no nomination now required) have done much to encourage a younger membership. There is as yet only a moderate overlap with the metal-detecting fraternity, although the meetings of the *Ipswich and District Detector Club*, with their temporary exhibitions of recent discoveries, exchanges of news, refreshments, and lectures of high quality relating to artefact studies and groups, contain many of the ingredients which made our early meetings of the 1840s and 1850s so interesting and successful. Our respected *Archaeology in Suffolk* section in the *Proceedings* draws very much upon their work, and on their continuing and valued co-operation with the Museums and the County Archaeological Service.

Many of the best publications on our county subjects of recent years, although not produced by the Institute, are the work of people who have long maintained active and distinguished involvement in its life, and have thereby lent great credit to it. *A History of Suffolk* (1985) by David Dymond and Peter Northeast is such a work, while Norman Scarfe's *Suffolk in the Middle Ages* (1986) incorporates some material which first appeared in the *Proceedings*. Similarly Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Suffolk and the Tudors*, and John Wymer's *The Palaeolithic Sites of East Anglia*, achieved immediate scholarly acclaim, and many others could be mentioned. Dr Blatchly's *The Town Library of Ipswich* (1989) is an example of the excellent series of productions of the Boydell Press centred at Alderton, near Woodbridge, which through Richard Barber has fostered a unique and highly-valued link with various departments of Cambridge University, notably the *Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic*, and the *History of Art* Departments, and has helped to bring to the region younger authors and lecturers such as Christopher Norton, Paul Binski, David Park and Phillip Lindley – all of whom, with the present author, were habitués of the Mediaeval seminars conducted by George Henderson in the years around 1980. Under its own auspices, the Institute re-published the *Household Book of Dame Alyce de Bryene* in 1984, and this was followed by the *Historical Atlas of Suffolk* (edited by David Dymond and Edward Martin), which went through two editions in 1988 and 1989. The comment was received from Oxbow books (Oxford) that its format (in which an enormous amount of information was usefully synthesized) 'should be a model for all the counties of Britain': it has since been imitated by Norfolk and Lincolnshire (1993) and East Yorkshire (1996), and others are in preparation for Essex and Cambridgeshire. Another outstanding publication has been the *Suffolk Medieval Church Arcades* by the retired architect Birkin Haward, a marvel of careful examination, erudition, and accurate and beautiful illustration. Such monographs are the life-blood of antiquarian work, for they are accomplished and made luminous by the loving dedication of thousands of hours of laborious study, a fact which can scarcely be realised by the reader who receives complete the light of that sympathetic understanding. These are publications of which any County Society would be deservedly proud.

In the past decade death has taken from us some of the last links with the Institute's pre-War days, such as Canon W. Lummis<sup>33</sup> and George Arnott (both members for over fifty years), and many others who have been our fellow-workers in more recent times. With them the memory of that journey passes ever and anon into the latest chapters of the history of which they were the advocates and interpreters, and in whose footsteps we are privileged to tread. Ours is an intensely human story, in which the search for an intimacy with the past has coloured the activities, friendships, and intellectual inheritance of several generations, and has been a field for lifelong endeavour. It is not merely the accumulation of knowledge, facts, sites and objects which has been important, but also how, by reawakening us to the reality of the past in the Suffolk we know, they have enriched our individual and collective experience of the present. There is much to discover and to celebrate in Suffolk, and the Institute has been, and will continue to be, a focus for a strong and characteristic dimension of our regional life. There can be no doubt that in its works, in continuing publications of excellence by our members and by our own *Proceedings*, in the diffusion of awareness and interest in our county's antiquities through lectures and excursions, and by the involvement of our members in every branch of museums, records, buildings, and corporate developments, the Institute has amply fulfilled and indeed greatly surpassed the expectations of its founders.

To future ages may thy dulness last,  
As thou preserv'st the dulness of the past! (Pope)

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#### NOTES

- 1 Augustine Page (c.1814–83), Master of the Boys' Hospital School, Ampton (Blatchly 1977, 41).
- 2 Dr Henry Pilkington Drummond, of 30 Silent Street, Ipswich, was a physician and was married to the sister of Dr William Barnard Clarke, the first Curator of Ipswich Museum (1846–50). His name is mentioned frequently in Henslow's letters to the third Curator, George Knights (fl. 1853–72) (Ipswich Museum), showing his involvement in the work of the *Diffusers*. Drummond wrote the important paper on the St Nicholas Church carvings for the last number of the Association papers.
- 3 For portrait see Plunkett (1997).
- 4 A fuller account of the origins of the Bury Museum is given in a careful and thorough study by Robert Halliday (1994), where sources in the press are listed substantially. The author acknowledges gratefully the value of this article in setting forth many facts and details relating to Bury which had previously been obscure.

- 5 Russel and Hagreen were active in the Ipswich circle of artists who included Edward and Thomas Smythe, Robert Burrows, Samuel Read and others. In the *Ipswich Society of Professional and Amateur Artists* (1832–37) Burrows and Read had been associated with Jabez Hare jnr, and Edward Fitzgerald, and had corresponded with Charles Keene and Perry Nursey. Henry Davy, together with Thomas Churchyard of Woodbridge and Henry Bright of Saxmundham, was among the exhibitors in 1850 for the *Suffolk Fine Arts Association*, conceived by Thomas Baldock Ross (Mayor of Ipswich 1849): Ross is among the founding S.A.A. members. These connections are summarized more fully by Chloe Bennett (1991).
- 6 Paine, T., 1795 (Part 2), 180: 'The Bible of the Creation is inexhaustible in texts. Every part of science, whether connected with the geometry of the universe, with the systems of animal and vegetable life, or with the properties of inanimate matter, is a text as well for devotion as for philosophy; for gratitude, as for human improvement. It will, perhaps, be said, that if such a revolution in the system of religion take place, every preacher ought to be a philosopher. *Most certainly*, and every house of devotion a school of science.' It is doubtful if the 19th-century clergy would have cared to acknowledge Paine's influence.
- 7 The Revd Edwin Sidney was nephew of the famous preacher Rowland Hill, and a very active *Diffuser* on a variety of subjects. He was specially associated with the Sudbury Mechanics' Institute, which had a Natural History Museum, and was the author of a *History of Methodism*.
- 8 The Revd Stephen Jordan Rigaud, M.A., D.D., came to Ipswich in 1851 from Westminster School, where he had been Senior Assistant Master since 1846. He masterminded the move of Ipswich School to Henley Road in 1852, and its renaming as Queen Elizabeth's School. He was cleared of the charge (brought in a prosecution) of having flogged a boy excessively for throwing stones at a noticeboard, but with a damaged reputation he decided to leave Ipswich. He was consecrated Bishop of Antigua in 1858 and died there of Yellow Fever in 1859.
- 9 James Blatch Piggott Dennis (1816–61), ornithologist, geologist and palaeontologist, who did his own taxidermy. He was considered an expert in his field, and became Fellow of the Geological Society in 1856 (Halliday 1994).
- 10 William Whincopp, wine-merchant in Woodbridge, was an active early student of the Crag fossils and of the Drift and its contained implements, adhering to the view of their *lesser* antiquity. His portrait was sketched in colours by Thomas Churchyard and is in Christchurch Mansion.
- 11 The sources for the disposal of the Acton collection are quoted by Halliday (1994).
- 12 After leaving Bury, George Scott went on to become the first Curator of Brighton Museum.
- 13 The Revd George Alfred Carthew, F.S.A., of Harleston, Framlingham and Dereham (1807–82) (Blatchly 1977,11).
- 14 For portrait see Plunkett (1997).
- 15 David Elisha Davy of Yoxford and Ufford (1769–1851) (Blatchly 1977, 17).
- 16 Manning's correspondence relating to the Church Plate studies is held at Ipswich Museum.
- 17 Pers. comm. Dr Daly Briscoe.
- 18 The foundation of this School in 1859 followed closely on the death of John Smart, jnr (1858), who had provided drawing classes at the Ipswich Institute: Ross's Suffolk Fine Arts Association of 1850 had not won the continued support of Churchyard and the Norwich Artists, and ceased to function in 1854 (Bennett 1991).
- 19 Mrs Edward Clodd, however, was a life member of the Institute from the late 1920s until after World War II.
- 20 William Blois of Grundisburgh (1600–73) (Blatchly 1977,7).
- 21 Remark by the Misses Boulter of Rattlesden in letter to C.M. at her death in 1947 (Morley 1947, LXV).
- 22 MS note comm. Henry Engleheart. Francis Engleheart wrote of Miss Layard:  
     'The stars you wrought as sparks of your white burning –  
     These will not go.'
- 23 A photograph of Canon Lummis is given by Jennings (1980).

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(N.B. Individual articles in the *Suffolk Institute Proceedings* are not cited in this Bibliography, except those which provide biographical information concerning subjects mentioned in the text (e.g. obituaries, etc.). For extended listings of the Suffolk works by authors, the reader is referred to *The Suffolk Bibliography*).

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*Abbreviations*

<i>E.A.D.T.</i>	<i>East Anglian Daily Times.</i>
<i>I.J.</i>	<i>Ipswich Journal.</i>
<i>I.M.</i>	Ipswich Museum
<i>S.R.O.I.</i>	Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch.