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Cambrian Archaeological Association.

THE EASTER MEETING:
A FIVE-YEAR EXPERIMENT, 1952-56
REPORT BY DONALD MOORE

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IN 1952 the Association offered its members an entirely new type of meeting, a four-day programme of lectures, demonstrations, and excursions on a set theme. The first of these meetings was held at Cardiff and was successful enough to warrant the continuance of the scheme. Now, after five such meetings, the opportunity is taken to record the programmes and to review achievements.

CARDIFF, 1952

The meeting was held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, by courtesy of the Director and the Museum Authorities, to whom and whose staff the cordial thanks of the Association are due, both for their hospitality and for their contributions to the meeting. The theme was 'The Archaeology of South-East Wales'; the lectures and excursions were designed to present a summary of knowledge of the prehistoric, Roman, and Early Christian antiquities of south-east Wales in their regional setting. Between thirty and forty members and visitors enrolled. The programme was as follows.

TUESDAY, 15TH APRIL.

Welcome to the National Museum of Wales by the Director, Dr. D. Dilwyn John, T.D.
'South-East Wales: The Physical Background.' Professor E. G. Bowen, M.A., F.S.A., Gregynog Professor of Geography and Anthropology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Sound Film: 'The Beginning of History' (Ministry of Education.)
'The Cromlech of Glamorgan and Gwent.' (Illustrated.) Dr. H. N. Savory, M.A., F.S.A., Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH APRIL.

'Bronze Age Burial Sites in South-East Wales.' (Illustrated.) Dr. H. N. Savory, M.A., F.S.A.
Demonstration of Bronze Age Pottery by Dr. Savory.
Excursion to chambered tombs at Tinkinswood and St. Lythans (Glam.), led by Dr. Savory.
'The Early Iron Age Hill Forts of South Wales.' (Illustrated.) Dr. H. N. Savory, M.A., F.S.A.

THURSDAY, 17TH APRIL.

'The Roman Occupation of South Wales.' (Illustrated.) Dr. V. E. Nash-Williams, M.A., F.S.A., Keeper of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales.
Demonstration of Roman Pottery by Dr. Nash-Williams.

Excursion to Caerleon to visit Lodge Wood hill-fort, the Roman legionary fortress, the Roman amphitheatre, and the Legionary Museum, led by Drs. Savory and Nash-Williams.

'South-East Wales in the Celtic Christian Period.' (Illustrated.) Professor E. G. Bowen, M.A., F.S.A.

FRIDAY, 18TH APRIL.

Tour of the Department of Archaeology.
'Llantwit Major: a Study of a Site from Prehistoric to Medieval Times.' (Illustrated.) Dr. H. N. Savory, M.A., F.S.A., and Dr. V. E. Nash-Williams, M.A., F.S.A.
'The Task of a Museum': general discussion, followed by an account of the Museum Schools Service by Miss Alice Williams, B.A., Schools Service Officer in Archaeology, with a display of portable archaeological exhibits.

BRITTANY, 1953

Fourteen members left Cardiff by air for Dinard on Easter Monday, 6th April. (The Association had previously visited Brittany in 1889 and 1924.) Quimper (Finistère) was the headquarters. A programme similar to that of the autumn meeting was arranged to include antiquities of all periods, as well as folk-life and present-day cultural activities in Lower Brittany (Finistère and Morbihan). The itineraries were as follows.

TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL.

Tour of Quimper (Breton: 'Kemper' meaning 'confluence') led by Monsieur P. A. J. Flatrès, a member of the Association. Route: Town Hall, Cathedral of St. Corentin, Bishop's Palace, Museum of Fine Arts, suburb of Locmaria (site of Roman settlement), modern potteries.
Evening entertainment by 'Cercle Celtique' of Quimper, including Breton airs on the *binou* and *bombarde* (bagpipe and pipe), and folk dances; the event kindly arranged by *Bodadeg Ar Sonerion* (the Breton Pipers' Guild).

WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL.

Welcome on behalf of the University of Rennes and various local societies by Dr. P. R. Giot, Director of Prehistoric Antiquities for Brittany. Tour of Carnac megalithic monuments and other antiquities. Itinerary: stone alignments of Kerlescan, Kermario, and Menec, chambered tombs of Dol-ar-Marc'hadourien and Mané-Lud ('The Merchants' Table' and 'The Mound of Cinders'); Carnac, Church of St. Cornély, Miln-le Rouzic Museum.
Evening lecture at Quimper: 'The Prehistoric Antiquities of Brittany' by Dr. P. R. Giot.

THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL.

Tour of South-West Finistère led by Dr. Giot. Itinerary: Penmarc'h village, church of St. Nonna, chapel of Notre Dame de la Joie, rocks of St. Guénolé, National Prehistoric Museum of Penmarc'h (now under the control of the University of Rennes), Tronoën Calvary.
Evening address at Quimper: 'Brittany and Wales,' by Monsieur Pierre Mocaër, Chairman of *Kendalc'h* (Federation of Breton Cultural Societies).

FRIDAY, 10TH APRIL.

Excursion across Montagnes Noires and Monts d'Arée led by Monsieur F. Gourvil: Pleyben Calvary, Lannédern Church, and Chapel of St. Herbot.
 Official welcome at Morlaix Town Hall by the Maire-Adjoint, followed by luncheon at the Hotel d'Europe, by kind invitation of the Municipality. (In 1889 the Association held its Annual General Meeting at Morlaix.)
 Afternoon reception by Monsieur Gourvil at his house, and tour of town. Halts on return at Calvaries of St. Thégonnec and Guimiliau, Ossuary Chapel at Guimiliau, and 'Chaos of Rocks' in Argent valley.

SATURDAY, 11TH APRIL.

Excursion to region of Pointe du Raz, led by Dr. Giot: Comfort Church and Calvary, Church of Notre Dame de Roscudon at Pont Croix, the fishing port of Audierne, and Douarnenez, an important site in Roman times, and traditionally connected with the story of the sunken land of Ys.
 Tea by kind invitation of the Rev. W. Rees Williams, Welsh Pastor of Protestant congregations at Douarnenez, Pont l'Abbé, and Quimper. On return journey, Locronan Church.
 Evening reception at Quimper Town Hall by the Député-Maire, Monsieur Halléguen.
 Cordial thanks were expressed to Dr. Giot and Messieurs Flatrès, Gourvil, Mocaër, and Monjarret, all of whom were presented with a copy of the Association's Centenary Volume as a token of appreciation; also to the Assistant General Secretary for his work as organiser and interpreter. It was regretted that Monsieur Waquet of the Société Archéologique du Finistère was ill and unable to attend any of the proceedings. The party returned to Cardiff by air on Sunday, 12th April.

OXFORD, 1954

A Conference, 'From Antiquarianism to Archaeology,' was held from 20th to 23rd April at Jesus College, Oxford, by courtesy of the College Authorities, to whom, and to the speakers and organisers, the Association's cordial thanks are due. The aim was to trace the history of antiquarian thought from medieval times onwards and its development in modern times into a scientific study of the past. The contributors were invited to consider certain early antiquarians and recent archaeologists connected with Wales, and to evaluate their contribution to the growth of modern archaeology and kindred branches of study. Some seventy-five members and friends attended, sixty of these being accommodated at Jesus College (Bursar: Mr. J. N. C. Baker, M.A.). The programme was as follows.

TUESDAY, 20TH APRIL.

Opening of Conference by Dr. T. Alwyn Lloyd, J.P., LL.D., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., Chairman of the General Committee of the Association.
 'The Background to Antiquarianism and Archaeology in Britain.' Dr. Glyn E. Daniel, M.A., F.S.A., Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL.

'Humphrey Llwyd—Mapmaker.' (Illustrated.) Dr. F. J. North, O.B.E., F.S.A., F.G.S., Keeper of Geology, National Museum of Wales.
 'Edward Lhuyd—Celtic Scholar and Antiquary.' Professor E. G. Bowen, M.A., F.S.A., Gregynog Professor of Geography and Anthropology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
 Visit to the Ashmolean Museum, and welcome by Dr. D. B. Harden, M.A., F.S.A., Keeper of the Department of Antiquities.
 Tea by kind invitation of Miss V. I. Ruffer, B.A., F.S.A.
 'Henry Rowlands of Anglesey—the Welsh Stukeley.' Gareth Thomas, M.A., Lecturer in Geography, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

THURSDAY, 22ND APRIL.

'Thomas Pennant, Topographer.' Dr. Cecil Price, M.A., Lecturer in English, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
 'The Beginning of Scientific Archaeology.' W. F. Grimes, M.A., V.-P.S.A.
 'Oxford University and Celtic Studies.' Professor Idris Foster, M.A., Professor of Celtic, University of Oxford.
 'The Founders of the Cambrian Archaeological Association.' Donald Moore, B.A., Schools Service Officer in Archaeology, National Museum of Wales.
 On the Friday morning conducted visits to various Oxford colleges and other places of interest were arranged.

A recording unit of the British Broadcasting Corporation was present throughout the meeting. The Association had accorded facilities to the Welsh Programmes Executive to make a feature programme based on the Conference, and entitled 'The Cambrians at Oxford.' It included recorded extracts from the papers given and was produced by Elwyn Evans. It was broadcast on Sunday, 25th April, 1954, from 10.20 to 10.52 p.m. The meeting was also made the occasion for another broadcast—a discussion between four of the speakers (Dr. Glyn Daniel, Professor Idris Foster, Professor E. G. Bowen, and Mr. W. F. Grimes) on 'Who are the Welsh?' This was first broadcast on Wednesday, 28th April, 1954, from 7.0 to 7.30 p.m. A report of the Conference with short summaries of the papers was published in *The Archaeological News Letter*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (June, 1954), and a report of the opening address in Vol. 5, No. 1 (May, 1954).

SWANSEA, 1955

The success of the Oxford Conference encouraged the General Committee to make preparations for a similar treatment of another theme the following year, and a special sub-committee was set up to deal with both this and other additional meetings. The theme chosen was 'The Dwelling House in Wales.' Arrangements were made to hold it at Beck Hall Residential Hostel, Swansea (Warden: Miss E. Griffiths, M.A.), by kind permission of the Council of the University College of Swansea, to whom, and to the speakers, the Association's cordial thanks are due. The aim was to discuss some of the principal phases in the development of domestic architecture in Wales from the earliest times to the present day. Some contributions were intended to embody new researches, others to summarize existing knowledge. The programme was as follows.

TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL.

Opening of Conference by J. D. K. Lloyd, M.A., F.S.A., President of the Association.
 'The House: Shelter or Temple?' The Right Hon. the Lord Raglan, F.S.A.
 Sound Film: 'Houses in History.' (Ministry of Education.)

WEDNESDAY, 13TH APRIL.

'Houses in Wales before the Normans.' (Illustrated.) A. H. A. Hogg, M.A., F.S.A.
 'The Halls of Medieval Welsh Legend.' Miss Enid Pierce Roberts, M.A.
 'The Medieval Castle as a Residence.' (Illustrated.) Arthur J. Richard, M.A.
 'A Welsh Country House through Six Centuries.' (Illustrated.) D. B. Hague, A.R.I.B.A.

THURSDAY, 14TH APRIL.

'The Georgian Period in Welsh Building.' (Illustrated.) Dr. T. Alwyn Lloyd, J.P., LL.D., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.
 'The Welsh Farmhouse and Cottage.' (Illustrated.) Dr. Iorwerth C. Peate, M.A., F.S.A.
 Excursion by motor coach under the guidance of the Gower Society to visit sites of architectural and scenic interest in the Gower peninsula. Tea at the Gower Inn, Parkmill, by kind invitation of the Gower Society.
 'The Dwelling House in Wales.' General discussion led by Donald Moore, B.A.
 Programme of coloured slides of Gower presented by Dr. Gwent Jones.

FRIDAY, 15TH APRIL.

Excursion by public transport and on foot to illustrate the theme 'Swansea Townscape, Past and Present,' led by Bernard Morris. Reception by His Worship the Mayor of Swansea at the Guildhall.
 Visit to the Royal Institution of South Wales, and welcome by the President, Secretary, and officers of the Institution. Tea by kind invitation of the Council.
 The excursion into Gower was planned to give a rapid general impression of the area and its buildings, whilst the tour of Swansea provided opportunity for a more detailed inspection of architecture, and terminated at the new Guildhall, where a reception was given by His Worship the Mayor.
 During the Conference there was on view at Beck Hall a small exhibition of models and photographs showing dwellings of various periods in Wales. The exhibits were from the loan collection of the Museum Schools Service of the National Museum of Wales.
 The Association was glad to have the support of its oldest corporate member, the Royal Institution of South Wales, and also of the Gower Society.

ABERYSTWYTH, 1956

A Conference on the theme 'Celtic Tradition and Archaeology' was held at Aberystwyth to examine some of the legends and traditions belonging to Wales and other Celtic lands in the light of recent advances in archaeology and kindred studies. The Conference centre was at Pantycelyn Students' Hostel (Warden: Dr. J. N. Ball, M.A.), made available by courtesy of the Authorities of the University College of Wales, to whom, and to the speakers, the Association's cordial thanks are due. About ninety members attended, some seventy of whom stayed at Pantycelyn.

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL.

Opening of Conference by Sir Frederick Rees, M.A., M.COMM., LL.D., President-Elect of the Association.
 'Welsh Tradition and Archaeology.' C. A. Raleigh Radford, M.A., F.S.A.
 'An Anthology of Celtic Traditions.' A programme comprising translated passages from original sources and also extracts from Welsh texts selected to illustrate the topics under consideration. Presented by Donald Moore, B.A.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH APRIL.

'A Tale from the *Mabinogi*: Branwen the Daughter of Llŷr.' Dr. T. J. Morgan, M.A.
 Discussion of the tale of Branwen. Opened by Dr. F. J. North, O.B.E., F.S.A., F.G.S. Visit to the headquarters of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales and Monmouthshire at 17 Queens Road, Aberystwyth.
 Tea by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. A. Hogg.
 'Irish Traditions bearing on the Tale of Branwen.' Dr. P. McCann, M.A.
 'How Legends Grow: Sunken Lands of the West.' Dr. F. J. North, O.B.E., F.S.A., F.G.S.

THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL.

'Excavation and the Legend: Dinas Emrys and Vortigern.' (Illustrated.) Dr. H. N. Savory, M.A., F.S.A.
 'Early Stages in the Growth of the Arthurian Legend.' Professor Thomas Jones, M.A.
 'Excavation and the Legend: Castle Dore and Tristram.' (Illustrated.) C. A. Raleigh Radford, M.A., F.S.A.
 Members' information meeting, including short accounts of the work of the following:
 'The Council for British Archaeology.' Miss B. de Cardi, F.S.A.
 'The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales and Monmouthshire.' W. E. Griffiths, M.A., F.S.A.
 'Reports from the Local Secretaries for Radnorshire.' W. H. Howse, F.S.A., and F. Noble, B.A.

FRIDAY, 6TH APRIL.

Visit to the National Library of Wales; welcome by the Librarian, Dr. Thomas Parry, M.A.
 The Association was happy to meet in the territory of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society, and to welcome its members to the meeting.

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In reviewing the development of the Easter meeting over the five-year period, it could be said that the first one was an informative course of lectures, the second (in Brittany) was a series of archaeological tours; the remaining three followed a similar pattern, that of a Conference aiming at producing for the most part new material or original syntheses. It was sought to initiate formal discussion after each paper, and although this was slow to develop, a new tradition has clearly begun to grow. The special purpose of this type of meeting is to enable the specialist in

one field to make his findings intelligible both to workers in other fields and to members with more general interests. A noteworthy feature has been the large number of younger members present ; this augurs well for the future of the Association. The approach and content of the programmes has owed much to modern techniques of adult education. The meetings have been financially self-supporting, and a small reserve fund has now been built up.

The Association has incidentally received considerable publicity in the press of Wales, in broadcast talks, and in news bulletins on the Welsh Home Service. The Aberystwyth meeting was also the subject of a talk on the BBC Overseas Service.

No Easter meeting will be held in 1957, since the General Committee has felt this to be a fitting moment to pause and consider future developments. Plans are going ahead for a meeting at Bangor in 1958, from 8th to 11th April, on the topic 'Gwynedd—its Land and People.'

