

PROSPECTUS  
OF THE  
HISTORIC SOCIETY  
OF  
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE,

AGREED UPON AT THE MEETING FOR THE INSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY, HELD  
IN THE BOARD ROOM IN THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION, LIVERPOOL—  
THE MAYOR IN THE CHAIR—20TH JUNE, 1848.

---

THE success which has attended the establishment of societies for the preservation of historical and local collections, and the mass of interesting and important matter which has been by such means rescued from oblivion, are sufficient inducement and justification for the institution of a society for preserving, arranging, and publishing such historical documents, antiquities, objects of natural history, specimens of ancient and mediæval art, &c., &c., as are connected with the Counties Palatine of Lancaster and Chester.

The gradual changes which have transformed this district from lands of comparatively little value to its present state, are as interesting, locally, as it is nationally instructive to trace the rise of the great centres of manufactures and commerce comprised within the limits of these two counties. But while so much has been of comparatively recent growth, it must not be forgotten that there is much of historical and antiquarian interest. The city of Chester has, from the time of the Briton, the Dane, and the Roman, been interwoven with many of the most important events of history. That ancient city still ex-

hibits traces of its original state, which interest the traveller from every part of the kingdom. The half-timbered-mansions of Cheshire are pre-eminent among the specimens of our domestic architecture : they are inhabited, as are the mansions of Lancashire, by families of great antiquity and historical interest. The Ecclesiastical and Feudal remains, the ruins of Abbey and Castle, are numerous ; and though all these subjects have already attracted the attention of many writers, some of them of considerable eminence, their writings give but a faint insight into the stores which exist, and which it will be the business of this Society to collect, classify, and render accessible.

The field to be embraced by the Society is a wide and comprehensive one—it may be generally arranged under the following heads :—

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.  
 ANTIQUITIES.  
 GENEALOGY AND BIOGRAPHY.  
 ARCHITECTURE AND THE FINE ARTS.  
 NATURAL HISTORY.  
 COSTUMES, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS.  
 CHURCH REGISTERS.  
 TRADE, COMMERCE, AND INVENTIONS.  
 MILITARY ANTIQUITIES.  
 TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS.  
 PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Under the head of HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, the Society will collect and classify all Documents, of which the originals or transcripts may be entrusted to their care.

The second division—ANTIQUITIES—will include actual objects of antiquity, numismatic collections, &c., for which the Society will establish a museum, accessible to the members ; and drawings or descriptions of such as it may not be possible to procure for the museum. A full and accurate register of all objects of antiquity discovered in the district will also be made ; and thus, much information of great value to the local historian will be preserved, and ready for immediate reference.

The division of GENEALOGY and BIOGRAPHY will include such notices of county families, and of celebrated persons of all classes, as will in time form a connected Genealogical history of the families of the district.

Notices of BUILDINGS, civil, monastic, ecclesiastical, and domestic, will form the next section. Surveys, Notes, and Drawings will be classified, and will be an important and interesting feature of the operations of the Society.

NATURAL HISTORY, in its various branches, GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY, BOTANY, &c., will be attended to in so far as they serve to elucidate the particular locality.

COSTUMES, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, SUPERSTITIONS, DIALECTS, and BALLAD POETRY, the traces of which are becoming every day more obscure, will afford much scope for enquiry.

Notices of the period embraced by CHURCH REGISTERS, analyses of their contents, and lists of all Monumental Remains and Inscriptions, will be an important part of the plan of the Society. In this department, the co-operation of the clergy of the district, already in numerous instances promised, will be most valuable.

In a Society which at all aims at completeness, the information to be obtained on subjects of TRADE, COMMERCE, and INVENTIONS, must not be lost sight of; especially in this locality.

The ancient MILITARY REMAINS, Roads and Stations, will be surveyed.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DRAWINGS and DESCRIPTIONS, will preserve records of local alterations.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, throwing much light on the ancient and modern divisions of the counties, their roads, canals, railways, enclosures, bridges, &c., will be collected and arranged.

In fine, everything will be collected and arranged which can in any way aid in illustrating the past and present condition of the district embraced by the Society. The historian, the genealogist, the professor of the fine arts, the naturalist, the philologist, and the antiquary, will each contribute to, and receive information from the collections and labours of the Society.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY.

---

This Society shall be called

**"THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE."**

The objects of the Society will be the collection, preservation, and publication of all that relates to, or illustrates the history of the locality.

The Society shall consist of Life Members, paying Five Guineas in one sum; and Annual Members, subscribing Half a Guinea yearly.

The Society shall be governed by a President, eight Vice-Presidents, including the Mayors of Chester, Lancaster, Liverpool, and Manchester, *ex-officiis*—eighteen members of Council, a Treasurer, an Honorary Curator of the Museum, and two Secretaries.

The election of officers shall take place at the annual General Meeting, and one-third of the Council shall for one year be ineligible for re-election.

The Society will hold meetings during the Winter Session, when papers on the various subjects embraced by the Society will be read and discussed.

The Society will establish a Museum and Library, to which the members will have access, with liberty to introduce their friends.

The transactions of the Society, to a copy of which each member will be entitled, will be published annually, with illustrations when necessary.

---

Subscriptions for the Session 1848-9, now due, may be paid to the Treasurer, the Curator, or, Dr. HUME.

It is particularly requested that all objects intended (either as donations or loans) for the Museum, be forwarded to the Curator, 68, Lord Street, Liverpool.

It is intended to keep a minute account of all objects of Antiquity discovered within the district, to notice topographical alterations, and to register all facts useful to the local historian. All persons in possession of information of such a nature, will be adding to the interest and value of the Society by communicating with the Secretaries or Curator.

Donations of Books, directly or indirectly related to the locality, will be thankfully received. The Society will also be glad to receive loans of such books, to be returned on the demand of the respective lenders.