

CONGRESS  
OF  
**Archæological Societies,**  
JULY 8TH, 1903.

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The Fourteenth Congress of Archæological Societies in Union with the Society of Antiquaries, was held on Wednesday, July 8th, at Burlington House; Viscount Dillon being prevented from attending the Chair was taken by Sir John Evans, K.C.B., V.P.S.A.

The Congress was attended by Delegates from the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Archæological Institute (3), the British Archæological Association (3), the Huguenot Society, and the Societies for Berks, Bristol and Gloucestershire, Bucks, Cambs and Hunts (2), Cumberland and Westmoreland, Essex, Hants, East Herts, Lancashire and Cheshire (2), Leicestershire, Suffolk, Surrey (2), Sussex (2), Wilts, Woolhope Club, Worcestershire, The Folklore Society, and Members of the Committee.

The Minutes of the last Congress, held on July 10th, 1901, were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary explained that no Congress had been held in 1902 owing to the preoccupations of the Coronation.

The Report of the Standing Committee was read and approved, and the Statement of Accounts, audited by Mr. W. Minet, F.S.A., was read and adopted. The thanks of the Meeting were given to Mr. Minet for his services, and he was appointed Auditor for the ensuing year.

The following were elected as the Standing Committee :—

The Officers of the Society of Antiquaries.	I. Chalkley Gould.
J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A.	Emanuel Green, F.S.A.
E. W. Brabrook, C.B., F.S.A.	W. H. St. John Hope, M.A.
Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., F.S.A.	Wm. Minet, F.S.A.
Sir John Evans, K.C.B., F.S.A.	Canon Rupert Morris, D.D., F.S.A.
G. E. Fox, M.A., F.S.A.	George Payne, F.S.A.
G. L. Gomme, F.S.A.	J. Horace Round, M.A.
	J. B. Willis-Bund, M.A., F.S.A.

Mr. Ralph Nevill, F.S.A., was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and the thanks of the Meeting expressed to him for his services in the past two years.

### EARTHWORKS COMMITTEE.

Mr. I. Chalkley Gould presented the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a Scheme for Recording Earthworks.

Prof. Windle, F.R.S., F.S.A., in further explaining the Report, suggested that the Committee might well be strengthened and especially by the addition of military members. He deprecated any attempt to attribute age independently of excavation, and drew attention to the number of moated enclosures in Warwickshire obviously of mediæval date, especially in the Forest of Arden ; these, he thought, it would be well to include.

Mr. R. Garraway Rice, F.S.A., suggested that Lt.-Col. Attree, R.E., F.S.A., would be a useful Member of the Committee, as he had promised assistance in scheduling the camps of Sussex. He pointed out the dangers that sometimes arose to the walls of camps from the action of rabbits, and approved the inclusion of moated sites in the Schedules.

The Rev. E. H. Goddard pointed out that camps in Wilts had been greatly damaged to provide exercise grounds for racehorses ; Mr. A. R. Goddard instanced Ravensbury Castle, in Bedfordshire, as having been much injured by the plantation of young larches ; Mr. C. J. Williams thought that the planting of trees sometimes tended to preserve the camps, and other members thought it doubtful if advantage or disadvantage predominated.

Mr. Gould suggested that Lt.-Col. Ruck, R.E., who had been working on the Wall of Antoninus, should be invited to join the Committee.

Sir John Evans alluded to the great loss Archæology had sustained by the loss of General Pitt-Rivers, and the fact that no other Inspector of Ancient Monuments had been appointed ; he stated that moated enclosures should certainly be recorded, as they were often of far earlier date than the houses that were found in them. He also suggested that the County Societies should be invited to send copies to the central Committee of any Schedules they may form, and this was agreed to.

The Hon. Secretary recommended that copies of the Scheme should be supplied to Societies for issue to all their members, and on the motion of Mr. Willis-Bund, seconded by Mr. T. Blashill, and supported by Mr. Freer, this was agreed to.

Mr. Gould, as representing the Earthworks Committee, was authorised to invite Lt.-Cols. Attree and Ruck and such other Members as the Sub-Committee should think fit, to join it and form a Standing Committee to take charge of the subject.

## LOCAL RECORDS.

Great satisfaction was expressed at the terms of the Treasury Report on the Custody of Local Records, copies of which had been sent to the Secretaries of Societies. The Hon. Secretary was directed to obtain and send copies of the Appendix to the Societies

Mr. Willis-Bund, F.S.A., Chairman of the Worcestershire County Council, drew attention to the fact that, under the present system, Parish Records were in greater danger than they had ever been, and pointed out that County Councils had legal power, under an Act of last year, to collect statistics of local charitable endowments, and to take charge of their documents. He suggested that they should be asked, at the same time, to endeavour to obtain custody of the great mass of ancient Parish Records that were at present a burden to their custodians, and exposed to loss and injury; he was of opinion that Parish Councils would very gladly deposit their ancient deeds in County Council strong rooms. Proposals had to his knowledge been made to burn ancient rate books, and the separation of the tithe award and the tithe map frequently occurred.

Mr. Freer, F.S.A., Clerk of the Peace for Leicestershire, pointed out that not only was there a danger of wanton destruction but also of accident by fire, and strongly advocated the necessity of moving the County Councils to action.

Mr. A. R. Goddard pointed out that the tithe maps must be kept in the Parish unless copies were made and the originals sent to the Record Offices, as was desirable. Mr. Rice mentioned the many valuable documents that were often found in Parish Chests, and instanced the complete bills for the repair of a Church that he had once found.

The Rev. C. Evelyn White, F.S.A., called attention to the serious conflicts that often took place between the Clergy and the Parish Council and the need of removing documents from the centre of strife.

Mr. Willis-Bund suggested that the County Councils Association should be asked to enquire what County Councils had up to the present provided strong rooms.

Messrs. Willis-Bund, Freer, Round, Blashill, and the Hon. Secretary were appointed a Committee, with power to add to their number, to take steps to promote the formation of the Record Offices.

Mr. T. Blashill and Mr. J. Parker advocated the collection in the Record Offices of Court Rolls and private deeds, and Mr. St. Clair Baddeley spoke to the vicissitudes to which such deeds were exposed. It was agreed that it was most desirable that such deeds should be safely housed.

## THE ADOPTION OF ENGLISH SURNAMENES BY ALIENS.

The Hon. Secretary drew attention to the grave difficulties that were arising from the indiscriminate adoption of English surnames by undesirable aliens ; this inflicted a definite injury on those lawfully entitled to such names.

It was stated that there had never been any law to prevent the adoption of surnames, and that it seemed hopeless to expect that one should be framed. A delegate pointed out, however, that foreign countries had found it necessary to impose restrictions that were at present unknown to the common law of this country.

A strong feeling prevailed that it was most desirable that some regulation should be made, but in view of the forthcoming Report of the Commission on the subject, it was agreed, on the recommendation of Lord Balcarras, not to attempt any action.

## PIPE ROLL SOCIETY.

In the absence of Mr. J. H. Round through indisposition, Mr. Em. Green, F.S.A., drew attention to the revival of the Pipe Roll Society and the importance of its being supported by Archæologists. Mr. W. H. St. John Hope spoke to the same effect, and mentioned a suggestion that the matter should be divided into Counties so that each Society might support that in which it was directly interested. Members generally expressed their interest in the revival and their willingness to bring any practical scheme before their Societies.

## EFFIGIES AND PLACE NAMES.

Mr. St. John Hope reported that a catalogue was now being made of the drawings of effigies in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries, and that on its completion it was hoped that progress might be made with the Scheme for a general Catalogue of Effigies.

In the absence of Mr. Round nothing further was reported on the subject of Place Names.

Votes of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of their room, and to the Chairman, were carried by acclamation.

RALPH NEVILL, F.S.A.,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

CASTLE HILL,  
GUILDFORD.