

The Royal Society of Tasmania

1950

Patron:

His Majesty the King.

President:

His Excellency Admiral Sir Hugh Binney, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Vice-Presidents:

A. L. Meston, M.A., 1950.

S. W. Carey, D.Sc., 1950, 1951.

Council:

W. L. Crowther, D.S.O., M.B., F.R.A.C.P., 1950, 1951, 1952.

M. S. R. Sharland, 1950, 1951, 1952.

W. H. Hudspeth, B.A., 1950, 1951.

F. C. Wolfhagen, LL.B., 1950, 1951.

J. W. C. Wyatt, B.Sc., A.A.C.I., 1950.

D. Martin, M.Sc., 1950.

Hon. Secretary and Librarian:

Joseph Pearson, D.Sc. (Manchester), D.Sc. (Liverpool), F.R.S.E., F.L.S.

Assistant Hon. Secretary:

D. Martin, M.Sc.

Hon. Treasurer:

S. Angel.

Hon. Auditor:

A. M. Hewer.

Hon. Editors of the Papers and Proceedings:

Joseph Pearson and D. Martin.

Standing Committee:

W. L. Crowther, S. W. Carey, W. H. Hudspeth, J. Pearson, D. Martin.

Annual Report, 1950

The Annual Meeting was held in the Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, on the 7th March, 1950.

In the absence of His Excellency the Governor, President of the Society, Mr. A. L. Meston (Vice-President) presided.

The following Office-Bearers were elected:—

Vice-President: Under the Society's Rules Dr. W. L. Crowther retired from the office of Vice-President, and Professor S. W. Carey was appointed in his place (retiring 1952).

Hon. Secretary and Librarian: Dr. Joseph Pearson.

Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mr. D. Martin.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Angel.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. A. M. Hewer.

Council: Under Rule 21 Professor S. W. Carey and Mr. L. W. Miller retired as members of the Council and Dr. W. L. Crowther and Mr. M. S. Sharland were elected in their place for a period of three years.

The names of the full Council for 1950 are given on the previous page.

The Council made the following appointments at its first meeting:—

Assistant Librarian: Miss B. Veale.

Standing Committee: Dr. W. L. Crowther, Professor S. W. Carey, Mr. W. H. Hudspeth and the Hon. Secretary.

The Council elected the following two members of the Society to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens: Mr. W. H. Hudspeth and Mr. F. H. Foster.

Meetings

Nine ordinary meetings were held during the year. At the conclusion of the September meeting a *Conversazione* was held in the Museum where coffee was served to approximately 250 guests. At this meeting the R. M. Johnston Memorial Medal was presented to Professor J. T. Wilson, Professor of Geophysics in the University of Toronto, who delivered the R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture entitled 'The Development of Continents and Oceans'. In addition to the lectures given at the ordinary meetings scientific papers were submitted for publication and have been printed in the present volume.

Library

During the year 265 volumes were added to the Library in addition to a number of reports and pamphlets from British and Foreign Institutions and learned Societies. The number of Institutions on the Exchange List for the year was 260 and new exchanges were arranged with the following Institutions: Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science; Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, South Africa; Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand; Société des Sciences Naturelles du Maroc. Rabat; Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Nanaimo, B.C.

The Library now consists of 24,393 volumes.

Insurance of Society Library

In 1935 the books in the Society's Library were insured for £5,000 against fire. During the year the Council decided to increase this insurance to £7,500 and to take out an additional insurance for £2,000 against malicious damage, burglary, house breaking and larceny.

Changes of staff, &c.

1. Miss Megan Griffiths, B.A., who had been seconded to the Society's Library by the authorities of the University of Tasmania, was appointed to the State Agricultural Department as Editor of the Department's publications and Librarian of the Departmental Library. The Council desires to record appreciation of Miss Griffiths' help and advice in the important work of cataloguing the Society's Library, and its thanks to the University for having placed her services at the Council's disposal. Miss Griffiths took up her new duties in December 1950 and her place has been taken by Miss Barabra Veale, Assistant Librarian to the Society. Miss Veale has been transferred to the Staff of the University Library and she will continue the work of cataloguing the Society's Library. Her place as Assistant Librarian will be filled early in 1951.

2. During the year Mr. H. Exley resigned his Office of Honorary Auditor to the Society which he has held since 1944. The Council desire to record their appreciation of his valuable services. His place has been filled by Mr. A. M. Hewer.

Membership

The Society consists of the following members:—

Honorary members	2
Corresponding members	2
Ordinary members—	
Class A	235
Class B	145
	380
Life members	27
Associate members	11
	422

During the year 41 names were removed from the list of Members owing to deaths, resignations, &c., and 51 new Ordinary Members were elected. (Also one Ordinary Member became a Life Member and 8 Associate Members became Ordinary Members).

Deaths

The Council regrets having to record the deaths of the following members during the year:—Corresponding Member, Sir W. Benham (1901); Ordinary Members: Dr. G. H. Hogg (1918), Mr. G. A. Jackson (1919), Hon. Tasman Shields (1921), Mr. N. P. Booth (1924), Mrs. C. H. Perkins (1939), Mr. L. Cerutti (1939).

Sir William Benham, D.Sc., F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Biology, University of Otago, New Zealand, was elected a corresponding Member in 1901 in recognition of his researches on Worms, in which group he was a world-wide authority. Sir William was also very much interested in problems of geographical distribution and wrote many papers dealing with the fauna of New Zealand.

Dr. G. H. Hogg, elected in 1918, contributed a valuable paper to the Society's Journal dealing with 'D'Entrecasteaux; An Account of His Life, His Expedition and His Officers'.

Mr. N. P. Booth was a member of the Council of the Royal Society and a Trustee of the Tasmanian Museum.

Mr. L. Cerutti was a member of the Royal Society Council and a Vice-President on one occasion. He was also interested in public affairs.

Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens

During the year it was decided by Parliament to set up two new Boards, one to administer the affairs of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the other to administer the affairs of the Botanical Gardens. These two new Boards will take the place of the old Board which has administered the affairs of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens jointly since 1885 when the Royal Society relinquished its control over the two Institutions.

The change was effected by three distinct acts, The Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens Act, No. 54 of 1950, The Tasmanian Museum Act, No. 55 of 1950, and the Botanical Gardens Act, No. 56, of 1950.

Members will be interested to know that the Society is to be represented on both of the new Boards. The composition of the two new Boards is as follows:—
Tasmanian Museum Board of Trustees: (a) Four persons to be appointed by the Governor to hold office during his pleasure; (b) One person appointed annually by the Council of the City of Hobart in such manner as that Council may determine; (c) Two persons elected annually by the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania as it may determine to hold office until his successor is elected.

Composition of the Botanical Gardens Board of Trustees: (a) Four persons to be appointed by the Governor to hold office during his pleasure; (b) a member of the Faculty of Science in the University of Tasmania, elected annually by the Council of the University to hold office until his successor is elected; (c) One person appointed annually by the Council of the City of Hobart in such manner as the Council may determine; (d) One person elected annually by the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania as it may determine to hold office until his successor is elected. The Society's representatives on the Tasmanian Museum Board of Trustees are Mr. W. H. Hudspeth and Mr. Francis H. Foster, and the Society's representatives on the Board of Trustees of the Botanical Gardens is Mr. S. Angel.

National Park and Florentine Valley Bill, 1949

As the Council of the Society was concerned regarding the proposal to alienate certain portions of the National Park for the purpose of providing a forest area for the Australian Newsprint Mills Pty. Ltd., Mr. J. W. C. Wyett and Mr. E. Little were appointed to voice the Society's views before a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, which had been set up in connexion with the Bill. These two gentlemen reported that they attended meetings of the Joint Committee and submitted the views of the Council. However, in spite of the efforts of the Society and of other bodies the Bill has now become law.

Papers and Proceedings

The 1949 volume of the Papers and Proceedings was published during the year. This was an unusually large volume of 286 pages and contained 8 plates and 282 text figures. The total cost of printing and making blocks was £558, or £158 in excess of the Government Grant. This deficit was reduced to £108 by a gift of £50 by the Zoology Department of the University to cover part cost of printing three large papers written by members of that Department. The Government has generously agreed to make a Supplementary Grant of £108 to cover the deficit. The Council wishes to record its appreciation of this generous action.

Gifts to the Society

The following is a list of gifts to the Society during the year, in addition to the numerous exchanges received from British and Foreign Institutions.

Photostate copy of old map of Hobart, c. 1859: Mr. E. R. Pretymann.

Newspaper cuttings and historical papers belonging to the late Mr. Nevin Hurst: Miss E. Hurst.

Letter from George Meredith, 2nd April, 1821: Mrs. Archer Taylor.

Documents *re* conveyance of Betsy Island: Mr. F. C. Wolfhagen.

Letters patent *re* Bishopric of Calcutta: Mr. F. Cumberae-Stewart.

Photographs and manuscript of Aboriginal Rock Carvings, Mt. Cameron West: Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Luckman.

Letters patent *re* appointment of Sir Francis Smith as Chief Justice, V.D.L.: Mrs. H. Jeffcott, England.

Photographic negative of print of a portrait of David Gibson: Mr. K. von Stieglitz.

Purchases by Trustees of Tasmanian Museum

The following purchases, which may be of special interest to members of the Society, were made by the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum:

A collection of stone implements, from Mrs. H. Falkinder.

Photographs of drawings of Adventure Bay, by Tobin.

The following gifts were made to the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum during the year:

4 pictures by Hugh Ramsay: by Lady Ramsay.

3 pictures from the Allport Bequest.

Silver spade presented to Lady Hamilton on the occasion of the turning of the first sod of the Bellerive-Sorell Railway, 22nd April, 1890: by Mr. F. G. Hamilton, England.

