

Annual Report, 1951

The Annual Meeting was held in the Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, on the 13th March, 1951.

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 Mr. A. L. Meston retired from the office of Vice-President, and Mr. J. W. C. Wyett was appointed in his place (retiring 1953).

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 Mr. J. W. C. Wyett and Mr. D. Martin retired as members of the Council and Mr. A. L. Meston and Mr. L. W. Miller were elected in their place for a period of three years.

The names of the full Council for 1951 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.

Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens

In the report for 1950 it was announced that the Board of Trustees which administered the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens jointly had been replaced by two new Boards, one to administer the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the other to administer the affairs of the Botanical Gardens. Actually the change over did not take place until 1st March, 1951. This change is a matter of supreme interest to the Society since both the Tasmanian Museum and the Botanical Gardens were administered by the Society up to the year 1885, and since that date the Society has been represented on the Board of Trustees which administered the two Institutions. It is satisfactory to note that this connexion will be maintained and the two new Acts which are now in force make provision for the appointment of representatives of the Society to serve on the two Boards; that is to say, two representatives on the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and one representative on the Board of Trustees of the Botanical Gardens. It is particularly important that this vital link should be maintained in the case of the Tasmanian Museum since the Royal Society is entitled to the use of a room in the Museum for its Library and for its meetings. It is important, too, to emphasize the value of the Society's Library to the scientific workers in the Museum. In fact, it would be almost impossible to do any valuable scientific work in the Museum without the help of the Society's Library. The Society's representatives for 1951 were as follows:—Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum: Mr. W. H. Hudspeth and Professor T. Hytten. Board of Trustees of the Botanical Gardens: Mr. S. Angel.

Meetings

Nine ordinary and two special meetings were held during the year.

In connexion with the celebration of the Jubilee of Federation of the Commonwealth of Australia the Society arranged a special evening on 1st May, at which Mr John Reynolds gave a paper on "The Building of the Australian Federation". On this occasion our President, Sir Hugh Binney and Lady Binney were present and members were given the opportunity of saying farewell when coffee was served in the Art Gallery after the lecture. Professor Carey, who presided at the meeting, spoke on behalf of the members and conveyed to them the best wishes of the Society for their retirement.

The Clive Lord Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor J. Burke, Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne, on 19th November. About 250 members and guests were present and the function was followed by a *conversazione* when coffee was served. Advantage was taken of this occasion to induct the new Governor, the Rt. Hon. Sir Ronald Cross, Bt., as President of the Society. Lady Cross was also present.

Library

This year the periodicals were revised. This involved an increase of 670 volumes in the Accession Book, together with a further 450 which were new accessions by the purchase of books or received by way of exchange from various institutions. The number of Institutions on the exchange list is now 296 and new exchanges have been arranged with the following institutions: National Gallery of Canada; Societatis Zoologicae Botanicae Vanamo, Helsinki; Services des Echanges de la Société Royale Zoologique de Belgique; Museum für Natur-Völker und Handelskunde Bremen; Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien; Museu Dr. Alvaro de Castro, Portugal; Service de la Pêche et de la Chasse en Indochine; Ministerio de Educacion de la Nacion, Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Argentine, South America; Department of Mines and Technical Surveys Geographical Branch, Canada; Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

The Library now consists of 25,515 volumes.

Changes in Staff

Owing to the fact that Miss B. Veale had been transferred from the staff of the Society's Library to the University Library, as stated in last year's report, her place as Assistant Librarian has been filled by Miss Jenny Robertson.

Membership

The Society consists of the following members:—

Honorary members	3
Corresponding members	2
Ordinary members:—	
Class A	239
Class B	145
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	393
Life members	28
Associate members	18
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	444

During the year 26 names were removed from the List of Members owing to deaths, resignations, &c., and 48 new Ordinary Members were elected. Two Associate Members became Ordinary Members.

Honorary Member

At the meeting on 27th August, Mr. W. E. Masters was elected an Honorary Member of the Society under Rule 45. Mr. Masters has made notable contributions to the early history of Tasmania, particularly regarding the waterfront of Hobart and the Semaphore Telegraphic System of early Tasmania. His work has always been distinguished for accuracy and thoroughness and has contributed largely to the diffusion of knowledge and interest in Tasmanian history, especially in regard to the history and development of the Hobart waterfront on which he is an acknowledged authority.

Deaths

The year 1951 was marked by the deaths of some very distinguished members of the Society amongst whom may be counted Mr. A. L. Meston, Professor L. F. Giblin, Miss A. L. Wayne, Dr. W. W. Giblin, as well as Mr. D. V. Allen, Mr. S. V. Sydes and Miss J. Robinson.

Death of Sir Ernest Clark, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.B.E.

We regret to have to record the death of Sir Ernest Clark, who was Governor of Tasmania from August, 1933, to August, 1945. Apart from his official duties as Governor, Sir Ernest Clark was outstanding in his duties as President of our Society. Out of approximately 108 meetings which were held during his term of office he actually presided at 70. Although without scientific training he was a keen student of public affairs and generally contributed something important to the Society's discussions.

Finance:

During the year the Council was greatly concerned about the financial position of the Society. This had been brought about by the rapid rise in the cost of living. A time had been reached when it might be said that the Society was living beyond its income and the Council, after having considered the matter very carefully, were forced to the conclusion that the only remedy was to increase the subscriptions for membership. At a special meeting of the Society which was called for 20th December, 1951, it was decided to increase the subscriptions from 1st January, 1952, as follows:—

- Life Membership, increased from £20 to £25.
- Ordinary Membership (for those who receive the Papers and Procds.), increased from £1 10s. to £2.
- Ordinary Membership (for those who do not receive the Papers and Procds.), increased from £1 1s. to £1 10s.
- Associate Membership, increased from 10s. to 15s.

Consolidation of Rules

Since the last revision of the Rules of the Society many further revisions had been made and a stage had been reached when the Council considered that the Rules should be revised and consolidated. A Sub-Com-

mittee was appointed to examine this question and to report to the Council and, finally, at a Special Meeting of the Society held on 22nd August, 1951, the Council submitted the consolidated Rules for the approval of Members. This was approved.

Printing of Papers and Proceedings

The Printing Vote was increased from £400 to £600 to meet the higher cost of production. The Council wishes to express their gratitude to the Government for this generous action.

The Council also wishes to thank the University Authorities for having made a contribution, through Professor Hickman, of £70 towards the cost of printing certain papers from the Department of Zoology.

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:—

- Warrant signed by Queen Victoria and addressed to Sir Henry Edward Fox Young, authorizing him to issue to Francis Smith Letters Patent as Attorney-General of Tasmania: Miss J. Hudspeth through Mr. W. H. Hudspeth.
- Letters written by Louisa Ann Twamley, who married Mr. Charles Meredith, and photograph of Louisa Ann Twamley: Mrs. W. O. G. Johnson, Queensland.
- Typescript of Thesis on Mrs. Charles Meredith: Miss J. Buchanan.
- Photostat copies of documents and photographs of the Irish Exiles of 1848: Presented by the Ambassador of Ireland through Mr. J. E. Heritage.
- Old account books of the Derwent Bank: Mr. L. Nettlefold.
- Notes on excavation of aboriginal rock carvings at Mt. Cameron West; by L. E. Luckman. (An abstract of this account, including a selection of photographs taken by Mr. and Mrs. Luckman, was published in the Papers and Proceedings for 1950).
- “Entally”, by K. R. von Stieglitz: Scenery Preservation Board.
- “Peaks and High Places”, by I. R. Boss-Walker: Scenery Preservation Board.
- “The Settlers in V.D.L.”, by W. Gellie: Presented by the Author.
- “Historical Brevities of Tasmania”, by J. Moore-Robinson. Presented by Mr. E. R. Pretyman.
- “A Short History of Sheffield, &c.”, by K. R. von Stieglitz: Presented by the Author.

The President then presented the Clive Lord Memorial Medal to Professor J. Burke, Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne, and asked him to deliver the Clive Lord Memorial Lecture entitled "The English Background of Colonial Architecture in Australia". This lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mrs. F. Pryde, Miss L. I. King, Miss N. C. King, Dr. F. Ahamd, Mr. L. R. Butler, Mr. F. H. Long, Dr. K. Rodger.

The meeting then adjourned to the Zoological Room in the Museum where coffee was served.

Northern Branch

Annual Report

The Annual Meeting was held on the 30th March, 1951, Mr. J. E. Heritage presided, and the following office-bearers were elected:—

Chairman: Dr. C. Craig.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. E. Heritage.

Council: Messrs. G. C. McKinlay, W. Baulch, G. Crawford, W.

Gellie, Rev. J. C. Jones.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Miss I. Thomson.

In November, the Rev. J. C. Jones resigned and Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz was elected to the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Meetings

During the year eight Council meetings and seven General meetings have been held. Historical Expeditions have been held to George Town and Clarendon.

Historical notes on these districts have been issued to members.

General Meetings were as follows:—

March 30th, 1951	Prof. S. W. Carey: "Industrial Power from Volcanoes".
May 5th, 1951	Mr. M. R. Banks: "Geology in the Community".
June 15th, 1951	Mr. J. B. Boniwell: "An Introduction to Geophysics".
July 13th, 1951	Messrs. J. E. Heritage, J. Curtis, W. F. Ellis, Dr. C. Craig: "The Tasmanian Aborigines".
August 31st, 1951	Mr. J. B. Thwaites: "Scenery Preservation in Tasmania".
October 16th, 1951	Prof. H. N. Barber: "The Experimental Control of Flowering".
November 30th, 1951	Dr. C. Craig: "The early History of Northern Van Diemen's Land with special reference to York Town, Launceston and George Town".

Membership

Membership of the Branch now stands at 132, showing an increase of 27 during the past year.

Donations

The Branch is indebted to many members who have helped throughout the year. Mr. K. R. Von Stieglitz has generously donated notice cards to the Society, Dr. C. Craig has presented the material he collected for his lecture "On the early settlements in the North of the Island" and Mrs. H. Stewart has given the manuscript material of the work of her late husband. Thanks are due to these and to all other donors.

The Branch offers its congratulations to Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz on being given an O.B.E., for his valuable work in the historical field.

To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Members of the Council and to the Press are thanks due for their continual help and co-operation in the work of the Society.

Meetings, 1951

30th March, 1951

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania, Northern Branch, was held at the Museum, on Friday, the 30th March, at 8 p.m.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted.

Mr. J. E. Heritage presided.

Under the rules the following Office-bearers were elected:—

Chairman: Dr. C. Craig.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. E. Heritage.

Council: Rev. J. C. Jones, Messrs. W. Baulch, G. C. McKinlay, G. H. Crawford, W. Gellie.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Miss I. Thomson.

An illustrated lecture was given by Professor S. Warren Carey, Senior Vice-President of the Royal Society, on "Industrial Power from Volcanoes".

He said that there was a moral responsibility on civilisation to harness never-ending sources of power, such as hydro, solar, wind and volcanoes, before using coal and petroleum reserves, which once used, could never be replaced.

Professor Carey stressed that at the present rate of use there was only coal supply for 1000 years and reserve for 10 years, Volcanic power could be harnessed and the world had such a colossal reserve that there was no chance of exhaustion.

The Speaker discussed developments of this power in Italy, New Zealand and Japan, and explained the methods used.

5th May, 1951

A meeting was held at the Museum, Dr. C. Craig presiding.

Mr. M. R. Banks, lecturer in Geology at the University of Tasmania, spoke on "Geology in the Community".

Mr. Banks said that Man, through industry, is dependent on rocks and the minerals they contain to maintain his standard of civilisation. Geologists here are already, owing to the threat of reduced exports from America,

