

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
EAST LOTHIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND FIELD
NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

VOLUME I.
Part I. — 1924-25.

Printed for the Society. 1925.

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OFFICE-BEARERS—1924-25.

Hon. President:

The Right Honourable The EARL OF BALFOUR.

President:

Major W. A. BAIRD.

Vice-President:

Miss BALFOUR.

Hon. Secretaries and Treasurers:

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12 Sciennes Gardens, Edinburgh.

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Louis A. Barbé.

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Mrs Baird.

H. Mortimer Batten.

Lieut.-Col. J. P. N. H. Grant.

Dr D. R. Macdonald.

A. C. Ramsay.

D. B. Swan.

CONSTITUTION.

- 1.—The Name of the Society shall be THE EAST LoTHIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.
- 2.—The objects of the Society shall be the study of the Archæology and History of East Lothian and the collection of documentary evidence relating thereto; the study of the Natural History of the County and the collection of information relating thereto; the printing from time to time of a selection of communications and documentary evidence when it is considered the Society is in a position to do so; the promotion of excursions to various parts of the County in furtherance of the objects of the Society; the arrangement of lectures at various centres, and, generally, the stimulation of interest in the Antiquities and Natural History of the County.
- 3.—The Annual Subscription shall be Five Shillings, payable in advance on 1st May. Any Member whose subscription is not paid within four months from that date may be struck off the roll by the Council.
- 4.—The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council, consisting of the President, the Secretary and Treasurer, and twelve members. The Office-bearers shall be elected annually. Four of the members of Council shall retire every year in rotation, but shall be eligible for re-election. The Council shall have power to fill up any vacancy in their number arising during the year, to make Bye-Laws, and to appoint sub-committees for special purposes. At meetings of the Council five shall be a quorum.
- 5.—The Secretary and Treasurer shall keep proper Minutes of the business and transactions, conduct official correspondence, have custody of and be responsible for all books, manuscripts, and other

property placed in his charge, and shall submit an Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Society; shall receive all monies, collect subscriptions, pay accounts, and shall present annually a duly audited statement.

- 6.—The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in East Lothian in May, at which the Reports by the Secretary and Treasurer shall be read and considered, the Council and the Auditor for the ensuing year elected, and any other competent business transacted.
- 7.—Intimation of the place and date of the Annual Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each Member of the Society at least ten days before the meeting, and an advertisement shall also appear in the local newspaper or newspapers. Reasonable intimation of other meetings, lectures, and excursions shall be given in such way as is found to suit the circumstances. The Council shall have power to call a General Meeting of the Society at any time if they think it necessary to do so.
- 8.—The Council shall regulate all matters relative to the transactions and publications of the Society. Papers accepted by the Society for custody and, if advisable, publication shall become the property of the Society.
- 9.—Members shall receive one copy of the publications of the Society, but these shall not be supplied to any Member whose subscription is in arrear. Contributors shall receive twenty copies of their communications, if and when printed. The Council shall have discretionary powers to provide additional copies for review, presentation, and supply to approved public bodies and societies.
- 10.—In the event of it being determined at any Annual General Meeting to wind up the Society, the Council shall discharge debts due by the Society and shall then deposit in trust with The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments and the Historical Department,

H.M. Record Office, all papers and objects of Antiquarian Interest which they may possess.

- 11.—These Rules may be amended or extended at any General Meeting, if previous notice of not less than a fortnight has been given to the Secretary.

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists'
Society.

*Presented at the Annual Meeting held at Haddington, on Saturday, 9th May
1925.*

The Council beg to submit to the Society the first Annual Report.

The inaugural meeting was held in the County Buildings, Haddington, on Saturday, 10th May 1924, when there was a large attendance, and the chair was occupied by Major W. A. Baird of Lennoxlove. After the Chairman had explained the objects and aims of the proposed Society, the motion that it be duly formed was proposed by Col. J. P. N. Hamilton Grant, D.S.O., of Biel, seconded by Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, Bart., of Smeaton-Hepburn, and unanimously adopted. The suggested constitution was then read and approved of, after which it was agreed to ask the Earl of Balfour to be Honorary President. Office-bearers and a council were also duly appointed.

The number who came forward to join the Society was very gratifying, and the membership at the date of this report stands at 146. It is hoped that during the coming summer there will be a considerable increase.

One of the first duties of the Council was to arrange excursions for the summer, and it was felt to be fitting that a beginning should be made with the County Town. Accordingly, on Saturday, 14th June, a visit, under the leadership of Mr J. S. Richardson, F.S.A.Scot., H.M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments, was made to St Mary's, and also to the ruin of St Martin's in the Nungate. The party, which was a large one, assembled in the interior of the Parish Church, when Mr Richardson, after telling a little of its history, drew attention to a number of interesting points inside the building. The company then followed him into the ruins of the choir and transepts and round the exterior of the church, when he de-

scribed a great variety of architectural features. The members were afterwards taken across to St Martin's, when this ancient fabric was thoroughly described by Mr Richardson.

The second excursion took place on Saturday, 19th July, by the kind invitation of Sir Hew Dalrymple, to Tantallon Castle and the Bass Rock, the members having the option of visiting either the former under the leadership of Mr J. S. Richardson, or the latter under the leadership of Mr Seton Gordon, F.Z.S. As it was a beautiful afternoon well suited for sailing, by far the greater number elected to go to the Bass, where a delightful time was spent. Although the company which went to Tantallon was small, the afternoon spent among the ruins of the Castle was very enjoyable, and great interest was evinced on the recent excavations being pointed out.

On Saturday, 27th September, the members were conducted over the field of the Battle of Prestonpans by Mr W. B. Blaikie, LL.D., of Edinburgh, who is an acknowledged authority on the Prince Charles Edward period. Dr Blaikie exhibited a number of old prints and maps showing the disposition of the troops on both sides, and then, proceeding by Birsley Brae, pointed out on the walk the different landmarks associated with the battle. On the return journey to the railway station a view was obtained of all that is left of the famous Thorn Tree, where tradition tells Colonel Gardiner fell wounded.

An interesting and instructive meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 6th December, at the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, when Mr J. Graham Callander, F.S.A.Scot., Director of the Museum, acting as leader, conducted the members round the pre-historic department and gave a most illuminating description of many of the exhibits, including a considerable number from East Lothian.

The Council wish to record here their thanks to Mr Seton Gordon, Dr W. B. Blaikie, and Mr Graham Callander, who so freely gave their services to the Society, and also to one of their own number, Mr J. S. Richardson, who kindly acted as leader on two occasions.