



## Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the Council.

R. R. Marett

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## THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE events of the past year have adversely affected the Society, as was inevitable. The influx of new members has been checked, and some of those who have been members for a considerable number of years have been compelled to tender their resignations. During the year twelve new members have been elected, and one new subscriber has been enrolled. Against this the deaths of four and the resignations of 29 members have to be recorded. The Council have decided to allow the names of those whose resignations are due to the war to remain upon the roll, and to send them copies of the quarterly parts of *Folk-Lore* as usual during the current year, in the hope that they may resume their subscriptions in 1916. The Council have carefully revised the list of members and subscribers, and have found it necessary to strike off the names of several members whose subscriptions were three or more years in arrear. The total number now stands at 435, as against 453 a year ago.

The amount received in subscriptions during the year 1914, including two life subscriptions of £5 5s. od. each, amounted to £414 10s. od., as compared with £451 13s. od. in 1913.

In these circumstances economy is essential, and the Council have accordingly decided *slightly* to reduce the size of the quarterly parts of *Folk-Lore*, and hope to do so without materially diminishing the value of their contents.

Meetings of the Society have been held as follows, viz. :

- 21st January.* "The Cult of the Bori among the Hausas." Major Tremearne.
- 18th February.* (Annual Meeting.) Presidential Address: "Folk-Lore and Psychology." Dr. R. R. Marett.
- 18th March.* "Folk-Lore in East Africa." Miss A. Werner.
- 22nd April.* "The Folk-Lore of London." Mr. E. Lovett.
- 20th May.* "La Chevauchée de St. Michel in the Island of Guernsey." Miss Edith Carey.
- 17th June.* "Roumanian Popular Tales and Legends of Birds, Beasts and Insects." Dr. Gaster.
- 18th November.* "The Dasahra. An Autumn Festival of the Hindus." Mr. W. Crooke.
- 16th December.* "Superstitions of the Shawia Berbers." Mr. M. W. Hilton Simpson.

The papers in January, March and April were profusely illustrated by lantern slides; and at the meeting held in March Mr. E. S. Hartland exhibited and presented to the Society a smock frock made at Newent in Gloucestershire over thirty years ago, which had been worn by a shepherd in that neighbourhood until quite recently.

The Council have had under consideration whether it might not be desirable to hold fewer meetings during the current session, but have come to the conclusion that they would be justified in proceeding as usual. As the meetings in November and December were thinly attended, they hope that the members at future meetings will support them in their enterprise.

The Council would be especially glad if members or friends of the Society having folklore objects of interest to exhibit would communicate with the Secretary. Mr. H. V. Routh, who kindly undertook to act as convener of the Exhibits and Museum Committee last year, is now serving with His Majesty's forces, and the Council hope some qualified member may be found to fill his place. A circular letter was issued a year ago, requesting members possessing

folklore specimens available for study to furnish the Secretary with particulars. This has produced a response from one of the members, to whom the Council are much indebted.

On Thursday, the 14th May, the Oxford Anthropological Society held a meeting at Oxford, to which members of the Folk-Lore Society and of the Royal Anthropological Institute were invited. The visitors were afforded an opportunity of seeing the Pitt-Rivers Museum, and afterwards had the privilege of listening to a most interesting paper by Professor Gilbert G. Murray, a member of the Society, on "Folk Influence in Early Greek Literature." The members of the Society who availed themselves of this opportunity of visiting Oxford were richly rewarded for their pains.

Several additions have been made to the Society's Library during the year, particulars of which have been duly noted in the pages of *Folk-Lore*.

Dr. Gaster and Mr. Longworth Dames were again deputed to attend the meeting of the Congress of Archaeological Societies as representatives of the Society; and the President, Mr. E. S. Hartland, Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, Sir E. im Thurn, Mr. H. Balfour, Dr. Haddon, and several other members represented the Society at the meeting of the British Association in Australia during August.

Other members were present by invitation of the French Association for the Advancement of the Science at its Congress at Havre in July.

The twenty-fifth volume of *Folk-Lore* has been issued during the year, and the Council are once more indebted to Mr. A. R. Wright for the compilation of the index.

The Council regret to announce that owing to pressure of work Mr. Wright has been obliged to give up the Editorship of *Folk-Lore*, and desire to place on record their keen appreciation of the work he has so ungrudgingly done on behalf of the Society. Mr. Wright's place has been taken

by Mr. W. Crooke, to whom the thanks of the Society are due for so kindly stepping into the breach.

The additional volumes for 1912 and 1913 have also been issued during the year. The *Handbook of Folklore*, by Miss C. S. Burne, which the Council eventually decided should be the additional volume for 1913, appeared early in August, and *County Folklore*, Vol. VII. (Fife, Clackmannan, and Kinross), collected by Mr. J. E. Simpkins, two months later. The Council congratulate Miss Burne most heartily on the completion of her labours, and have no hesitation in putting on record their belief that the Handbook will prove invaluable to students and collectors of Folklore. Mr. Simpkins also is to be congratulated upon the completion of a very interesting volume, which has been issued as the Society's additional publication for 1912.

The Council have decided to issue Dr. Gaster's "Collection of Rumanian Popular Tales and Legends of Birds, Beasts, and Insects" (a selection from which he read at the meeting of the Society held on the 17th June), as the additional volume for 1914.

During the year the executors of the late Mr. J. P. Emslie presented to the Society six small note-books, three of which contained Mr. Emslie's MS. collections of folklore. These have been added to the Society's library, and the remaining three, containing original drawings of antiquities and scenery chiefly in the City of London and County of Middlesex, have been offered to the London County Council, to be placed in their library.

The Bibliography of Anthropology and Folklore dealing with the year 1908 has not yet been completed.

The work of the Brand Committee has made considerable progress since the last report, and the Committee had hoped to be able to announce that the work of classifying the material collected might begin in the early months of 1915, but the general stress and strain occasioned by the

war have inevitably diverted the energies of many workers into other channels ; and the collections, though very considerable, are therefore not yet sufficiently complete for classification.

The chief additions to them since our last Report are the whole of the folklore notes included in the twenty volumes of *Byegones*, extracted under the direction of Miss Hartland, and the calendar customs noted in the twenty-one volumes of the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, extracted by Miss Legge.

The Council have pleasure in stating that their relations with Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson, the Society's publishers, have continued to be of the most harmonious character, and they sincerely hope that they may be able to retain the services of the firm in the future.

The Council have found that several volumes of the publications of the Society included in the salvage stock are not starred in the list printed in the last Prospectus. Copies of the Prospectus can be obtained on application from the Secretary, but members wishing to purchase at the reduced rate, either on their own behalf or on behalf of their friends, should apply for further particulars to Mr. C. J. Tabor, The White House, Knotts Green, Leyton, Essex, who has kindly undertaken to be responsible for the sale of the stock, and to ascertain whether any salvage copies of the volumes they require are available. The volumes have been rebound, and are for the most part in a very fair condition. The price is 4s. per volume, carriage paid, with all faults.

The Cash Account and Balance Sheet for the year are submitted herewith.

R. R. MARETT,  
*President.*

*February, 1915.*

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## CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1914.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
By Balance brought down,	£541 11 8	To <i>Folk-Lore</i> :—	
" Subscriptions for 1914 (358),	£375 18 0	Printing 2 parts, 1913, and Index,	£109 14 0
" " 1913 and earlier years (13),	13 13 0	" " 1914,	118 19 10
" " 1915, in advance (14),	14 14 0	Illustrations,	14 1 11
" Composition Fees,	404 5 0	<i>Handbook of Folklore</i> (Typing and printing),	£242 15 9
" Interest on Investments,	10 10 0	" <i>Fiftyshire Folklore</i> (Printing),	157 10 0
" Money on deposit,	32 17 1	" Expenses of Distribution of Publications and Publisher's Commissions,	150 3 3
" Sales of Stock per Sidgwick & Jackson and Advertisements,	12 10 6	" Expenses of Meetings :—	36 1 3
" Income Tax refunded,	49 15 7	Hire of Rooms,	—
	6 1 0	Refreshments,	£7 15 0
		Lantern,	10 10 0
		Advertising,	1 7 0
			5 4 8
		Binding of Stock,	24 16 8
		" Subscription to Archaeological Societies,	47 13 0
		" Expenses of Management :—	1 0 0
		Insurance,	—
		Postages, Stationery, and Printing,	£13 8 0
		Brand Committee's Expenses,	21 7 8
		Rent of Telephone,	7 8 4
		Warehousing Stock,	2 12 6
		Secretary's Salary and Poundage,	10 15 0
		Miscellaneous,	61 6 0
			1 6 5
			118 3 11
			£778 3 10
		Balance in Bank on deposit account,	£200 0 0
		" " on current account,	78 13 2
		" " in hands of Secretary,	0 13 10
			279 7 0
			£1,057 10 10

# BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1914.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Sundry Creditors, - - - - -	£243 18 4	Cash at Bankers, - - - - -	£278 13 2
Subscriptions paid in advance, - - - - -	14 14 0	" in hands of Secretary, - - - - -	0 13 10
Composition Fees, - - - - -	26 7 0		£279 7 0
Balance to credit of Society, - - - - -	1,086 10 4	Sundry Debtors, - - - - -	26 3 2
		Subscriptions in arrear, 1914 (54), - - - - -	£56 14 0
		" 1913 (9), - - - - -	9 9 0
		" earlier years (4), - - - - -	4 4 0
			70 7 0
		Investments at cost price :—	
		£500 Canada, 3½% Stock, - - - - -	£498 15 0
		£500 Natal, 3½% Stock, - - - - -	496 17 6
			995 12 6
			£1,371 9 8

In addition to the above there is a large stock of Publications of the Society, and also of bound volumes of the salvage stock, of which no account is taken here.

Examined with Vouchers and Pass Book and found correct.

EDWARD CLODD, *Hon. Treasurer.*

F. G. GREEN } *Hon. Auditors.*  
CHARLES J. TABOR }

January 18, 1915.