

Secretaries' Report, 1966-1967

Information about the society's activities is sent out to members several times a year in circulars. Thus it has been possible to reduce the length of the printed report and effect a considerable saving in printing costs.

Meetings

Five sessional meetings were held throughout the year. Three of these were on archaeological topics in conjunction with the Department of Classics. Unfortunately the attendance from the latter was extremely poor. On the other hand the two caving lectures on Jamaica and Dan-yr-Ogof were well attended.

Caving

As reported at short notice in the last issue of *Proceedings* the G.B. Ladder Dig produced over 450 m. of new passage, much of it extremely beautiful. Since the report no further discoveries have been made but the Series has been much spoilt by visiting parties despite the additional restrictions on access.

During the early part of the year much work was put into completing the system of pipes to channel the water at Manor Farm, and digging out the winter's fill. This enabled us to break through, on June 11th 1966, at a depth of 15 m. to a passage 3.5 m. wide which went on down the valley. Unfortunately, before the obstruction could be passed and the passage surveyed, the entrance collapsed the next day due to overnight heavy rain. In view of the very dangerous nature of the shaft, it was decided to dig a new shaft through solid rock to strike the cave beneath. This shaft is now 10 m. deep.

As usual the U.B.S.S. visit to Co. Clare in July produced a considerable length of new passage, which is not yet surveyed. Doolin contributed around 900 m. consisting of an upper level series and two tributaries, while the new cave, Poll-Kilmoon East, gave 150 m. In January 1967 the surface features likely to correspond with the new discoveries in Doolin were noted. For the first time also the stream passage from swallet E2 was entered and explored to 360 m. to a pitch, which stopped progress as the party had no tackle.

Since the opening of the Severn Bridge, the U.B.S.S. has been more active in South Wales. One result was the passing of the sump in Bridge Cave, Pontneathvaughan, on January 21st, 1967. Subsequent trips have been made. The length of the surveyed passages exceed 3,300 metres (2 miles). A report on this cave, The Little Neath River Cave, appears in this issue.

Archæology

The excavations at Picken's Hole were completed this year. A highly disturbed Roman-British site was investigated at Binegar. Preliminary excavations were started at Stokeleigh Camp and the results were so interesting that they will be continued in June on a much larger scale.

Visits were paid to Avebury and to the laboratory of Archaeology and History of Art at Oxford.

Museum

The cellar has been exchanged for the room next to the Library and the museum workshop has been set up there. We are grateful to the University for making this exchange possible. Re-arrangement of the exhibits in the museum has continued. The punched card catalogue has been enlarged. Strip lighting for the main cases has been installed.

Field Headquarters

The hut was given a much needed clean out and a new coat of paint, inside and outside, during the summer.

Photography

During the autumn term all our slides of Aveline's Hole, Read's Cavern and Rowberrow Cavern and some others were stolen. It was with reluctance that the committee decided that the slide cabinet be kept locked. Keys may be obtained from the secretary.

Proceedings

Volume 11, No. 1 contained many interesting articles, and it is encouraging that the increase in sales has been maintained.

Acknowledgments

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of Bristol, and the grant from the Union towards the running expenses of the Society. We also wish to acknowledge gratefully the substantial donations made by individuals towards the cost of *Proceedings* and the dig at Manor Farm.

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Joint Hon. Secretaries