

A review of the archives of the Geological Society Club

From the Founding in 1824 to the
Sesquicentennial in 1974

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*Strange to see how a good dinner and feasting
reconciles everybody*

Samuel Pepys
9th November 1665

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INTRODUCTION

In celebration of the Centenary of the Geological Society in 1907, H.B. Woodward published his fine history which traced the Society's emergence from gatherings of small groups of men of '... culture and wide sympathies.'. Their meetings were generally associated with hospitality in one form or another. For example, in 1807 such a group gathered at '... tea time once week at the hospitable dwelling of Dr. Babington ...' and even resorted '... to his house as early as seven in the morning ...' (Greenough in Rudwick, 1963). These arrangements did not meet with universal approval, however. Humphry Davy wrote to Greenough that '... The chills of Novr are very unfavourable to ardor in the pursuit of science, and I conceive we should all think better and talk better after experiencing the effects of Roast Beef and wine than in preparing for tea, coffee and Buttered Buns. Cannot a dinner meeting at some central Tavern be arranged for our general dispositions ...' (Rudwick, 1963).

Of particular importance in these early gatherings were the members of the Askesian Society and the British Mineralogical Society, founded in 1796 and 1799 respectively. In 1806 the Askesian Society incorporated its junior partner and soon afterwards the members '... transferred their attention to the more comprehensive master-science of Geology.' (Woodward, 1907). Eleven of them formed the Geological Society on 13th. November, 1807 at a dinner held in the Freemasons' Tavern. Humphry Davy had written that morning to W.H. Pepys, the Secretary and Treasurer of the former Mineralogical Society, to say '... We are forming a little talking Geological Dinner Club, of which I hope you will be a member, I shall propose you today.' To further the aims of the Geological Society (hereafter the Society) it was resolved at that meeting *inter alia*,

'That the Society dine together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the first Friday of every month, from November to June inclusive, at 15s. per head, visitors to pay as members. Dinner to be on the table at 5 o'clock precisely. Fine for non-attendance 10s. 6d. Any member may avoid this fine by sending notice to the Secretary of his intention to be absent three days before the meeting.'

These societal dining arrangements lapsed within three or four years, probably overtaken by an increase in the size of the Society and the failure of the system of fines. These latter were probably required to meet the cost of the pre-booked dinners, but by 1809 only £6. 16s. 6d. of the £37. 16s. due had been collected. However, dining in some form continued at least until 1818 (Rudwick, 1963). The present Review does not deal *in extensio* with the dining activities of the Society, but it should be noted that formal anniversary dinners were arranged by the Society from 1811; mention is made by Woodward (1907) of those held in 1811, 1822, 1835 and

1853. He also commented on the lack of any formal dining, by either Society or Club, to recognize the Society's 50th. Anniversary in 1857.

Bearing in mind the importance attached to a gastronomical component in these various gatherings, whatever the hour, it can be argued cogently that the present Club is the direct descendant of that '... little talking Geological Dinner Club ...', notwithstanding the break in time between its formation in 1807 and the start in 1824 of the present archives. The Founders would undoubtedly be gratified to know that the essential objects of their Club have been maintained. During its first 150 years the Club met on not less than 2192 occasions and no fewer than 39,276 members and guests have dined under its auspices. That total includes countless speakers from the Society's meetings who have afterwards enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the Club's dinners, characterized by the absence of '... post-prandial oratory ...' (Williams, 1973).

The Club has held formal dinners to mark various auspicious occasions. At the 2000th dinner, held on 18 February 1958 at the Martinez Spanish Restaurant, Swallow Street, Dr. W. Campbell Smith reviewed other notable anniversaries, recalling in his speech the 50th. anniversary of the Club at the Pall Mall Restaurant on 5 November 1874, the 1200th. dinner at St. James' Hall Restaurant on 21 June 1899 and the Centenary Dinner at the Criterion Restaurant on 5 November 1924. Many of the present members will recall that the Sesquicentennial was celebrated on 8 November 1974 at the 2192nd. meeting by a champagne buffet in the Society's apartments in Burlington House. That format was adopted, rather than the formal dinners elsewhere as previously, because the Club members had resolved to mark the occasion by the presentation to the Society of a table and chair for use in the Fellows' Lounge: a small brass plaque recording the event is mounted on the table.

An account of the activities of the Club during its first 100 years was prepared for the Centenary Dinner by the then Treasurer, George W. Lamplugh. It was published as a 23-page booklet and included lists of the Founders, Treasurers, Secretaries, Long Memberships, Dining Places, a consolidated List of Members since the start and a 4-page historical summary: as the latter is out of print, it and the List of Founders is reproduced in Appendix A (1 and 2). The object of the present review is to examine the archives as such, rather than to recall the principal events. For that reason, concerns external to the Club which may have influenced the internal proceedings are referred to only exceptionally, as are external publications: in particular, geological issues are eschewed. The Review has been undertaken on a chronological basis. The alternative of treating individual topics, for example Honorary Membership, would have entailed considering each development outwith its historical setting. That seemed less desirable than the chronological approach, despite the consequent inevitability of a rather repetitive text.

THE ARCHIVES

The Club's archives for the 157 years between 1824 and 1980/81 were placed in the safe keeping of the Society in 1986 by the then Treasurer, Mr. F.W. Dunning. Those up to the Sesquicentennial in 1974 are the subject of this Review. The Society's Honorary Archivist, Mr. John Thackray, has classified the material into the five sections listed in Appendix B under references GSC M. 1-11, A. 1-7, F. 1-6, L. 1-2 and Miscellaneous 1-14: they are so referred to in this Review, excluding the letters GSC. Thus, the transcript of the speech by Campbell Smith referred to above is to be found in Misc. 14 and Lamplugh's Centenary List in Misc. 12 (App.B). For the sake of convenience the archives have been divided into periods defined partly by the style of the documentation and partly by changes in Treasurerships. Membership of other learned societies is not referred to. Baptismal names have been used throughout. Bracketted comments in *italic* are those of the author.

Inevitably some inconsistencies and breaks are to be found in the records covering such a long period of time. The most regrettable is the absence of the Minute book(s) for the period 1921-1946 and the Attendance book(s) for 1920-1948. It is no longer possible to claim, as did Lamplugh in 1924 '... That the Club possesses records of its dinners from the beginning'. The numbers of dinners and diners are known with reasonable accuracy, but the names of members and guests who attended routine dinners between 1921 and 1948 are not. Comprehensive records would have been kept but their present whereabouts are unknown. The gap is filled partly by copies of most annual reports and calling papers for the period 1938-1950, as well as a set of the 1933 Club Rules, presented in 1984 by Sir James Stubblefield (App.B. Misc. 13).

1824-1890

The earliest archive (App. B. Misc. 1: a red, leather-bound, quarto volume) records that thirteen Fellows of the Society met at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James's Street on 5th. November 1824 to form a club to be governed by eight rules. It would be limited to 40 Fellows of the Society, of whom 30 were listed at the meeting. Members were to be elected by ballot when a vacancy arose, with a quorum of seven Members - '... three black balls shall exclude whatever maybe the numbers present.'. If there were '... more candidates than vacancies the ballots are to be taken in the order in which the candidates have been proposed.'. Dr. John Vetch M.D. was the first Member to be so elected, on 3 December 1824. Visitors could be introduced but '... the same person if resident within 20 miles of London be not admissible more than twice in the same fashion.'. (*In 1977 a class of Country Member was introduced with a limiting residential distance of 100 miles.*)

The then President of the Society, the Very Rev. William Buckland, became the President of the Club, as have all but one of his successors within the period of this Review: in the President's absence the Chair is taken by the Senior Member present. Charles Stokes was elected the first Treasurer, to exercise the dual roles of Treasurer and Secretary. The next entry in Misc. 1, dated 15 April 1825, records the creation of a non-contributing class of Supernumerary Member, to accommodate those going overseas for more than a year and who would occupy without a ballot the first vacancy arising after their return — Sir Alexander Caldcleugh was the first such Member. Five entries, dated between November 1824 and June 1826, relate to bets between various members for bottles of champagne, the subjects of which were summarized by Lamplugh (1924). Oddly, the record of Supernumerary Membership in April 1825 precedes that of some of the bets made earlier. Whatever the reason for this anomaly, the remainder of Misc. 1. was unused.

A record of the attendance at the first and subsequent meetings was entered into a separate volume M.1. Contrary to more modern practice, members and visitors were listed by the Treasurer rather than themselves signing an Attendance Book. The minutes record membership proposals, elections, retirements, deaths, transfers to the Supernumerary List and rare Rule changes. Discussions were not recorded, solely the results of ballots. Elections were taken at any dinner '... provided that there be a vacancy at the meeting subsequent to that on which the Candidate is proposed.' Thus, Roderick (afterwards Sir Roderick) I. Murchison was proposed on 3 February and elected on 3 March 1826. In these early years attendances were variable, falling from 18 to 20 in the first two years to a minimum of three in June 1828, but recovering to the earlier numbers by 1830. The cost appeared to be one factor and in April 1826 it was moved for discussion at the next meeting that '... the dining of the Club be provided on a less expensive scale ...': however, this was not approved.

From 1828 the Society met at Somerset House and the Club dined at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand, moving in 1846 to Wright's Hotel, Strand, and in 1847 to Clunn's Hotel, Covent Garden. John Taylor became Treasurer in April 1836, whilst a month later the approved number of members was reduced from 40 to 36 on a motion proposed by Murchison and seconded by Charles (afterwards Sir Charles) Lyell. The reason appears to be that three of the nominated Founders were not qualified as they were not Fellows of the Society and a fourth did not join until twelve years later (Lamplugh, 1924). A year later a '...close day at which visitors shall not be admitted ...' was adopted so that members who had not attended in the preceding year and who were in arrears with their subscription '... should thereon be declared to be no longer members of the Club.'. Entries at the beginning and end of M.1 record payments of some annual subscriptions, but a detailed cash book (F.1) was maintained from the start. This same form of documentation for minutes, attendances and finances was continued by the four Treasurers occupying the post until 1855 (M.1, M.2, F.1 and *pars* F.2).

The oldest printed copy of the Rules in the archives is attached to the fly-leaf of M.2 and is dated 18 May 1837. A subsequently renowned Rule was adopted on 24 February 1847 whereby '... That if there be a vacancy & more than one Candidate, the Candidate to be first put in nomination shall be decided by Ballot.'. It was also

agreed that elections should only be held on two days each year — fixed in February 1851 as the first meeting after the Anniversary dinner and the last meeting of each session in June. In February 1848 a Committee of three was appointed to assist the Treasurer and its proceedings are recorded on loose sheets in Misc.2. A circular aimed at recovering significant arrears in subscriptions was approved, as were the following recommendations for negotiation between the Treasurer and the proprietor of Clunn's Hotel:

That '... wine in the proportion of a pint each person present be put on the table (one third Moselle & two thirds Sherry) and that no wine be put on the table beyond that allowance without the order of the Vice Presidents ... Brandy be discontinued unless officially called for, & to be charged at 6d. per glass ... the charge for tea and coffee be reduced to 1/- per head ... the charges for Ale & Soda Water to be reduced ... the charges for lights and waiters to be shown separately on the bill ... the wax candles to be replaced by composite.'

At the dinner on 5 June 1850 it was agreed that the Club would also dine at the Crown and Sceptre, Greenwich, on Saturday 15 June. Although this was the only occasion on which the Club met outside London, no report appears in any of the archives and the reason for the meeting is not recorded. (*It seems not unlikely, however, that it can be associated with the paper presented to the Society on 5 June by Sir Henry De la Beche, 'On the Tertiary Strata and their Dislocations in the neighbourhood of Blackheath' written by the Rev. H.M. De la Condamine. The Greenwich Fault featured in this and a field excursion could well have been arranged.*)

Charles Darwin returned from his 5-year voyage on the Beagle in October 1836. He first attended the Club as a visitor on 4th January 1837 when he read his first paper to the Society. He was elected a member in May of that year and transferred to the Supernumerary List from 1841 (*in an extension of the terms of that class to cover those members leaving the Club on grounds of ill-health*): the last dinner he attended as a Member was in December 1851, his last year on the Council of the Society. As one of several retired members he was invited to attend the 50th Anniversary Dinner (Misc.4), but sent a letter of apology (Anon., 1874). Also in 1851, four of the Founder Members were declared Honorary Members. — G.B. Greenough, J. Taylor, Very Rev. W. Buckland and H. Warburton, as in 1854 were Sir Henry De la Beche and Professor Edward Forbes.

In 1855 Robert Mylne became Treasurer and the style of the records changed. In a new Minute Book (M.3) a list of those present for each dinner was recorded, whilst on the facing page the costs for both food and beverages were detailed. The entry for a typical dinner is shown in Figure 1. These details were fair copied by Mylne into F.2 in which at the end of each Session he entered a summary of the year's proceedings. The dinner arranged for 21 May 1855 was postponed owing to a fatal riding accident to the President, Dr. Daniel Sharpe. Meals for 12 Gentlemen had been ordered but on cancellation Clunn's Hotel charged only half price (£2.5s. at 7s.6d. per head).

Some discontent arose in the spring of 1860 concerning the venue for dinners. The Society decided in June that in order to accommodate ladies it would meet at Burlington House, rather than Somerset House (Woodward, 1907). The Club

8th April 1857

Sir Chas Lyell		Dinner & Dessert for 2	
M. Buisson	Visitor	16 Gendles @ 9/6	5 " 4 " 0
Sir P. Egerton		Alc	7 " 0
Sir R. Murchison		Soda	5 " 0
D ^r Flornbeck	Visitor	Seltzer	1 " 0
D ^r Briggs		Sherry	2 " 8 " 0
Rev ^d J. S. Clinton	Visitor	Port	18 " 0
S ^r F. Gibson Esq		Tea & coffee for 10	10 " 0
Col. Bantock		Attendance	8 " 0
W. J. Hamilton Esq			
D. Lyell Esq			
A. C. Ramsay Esq			
D ^r Percy			
J. Prestwich Esq			
W. Smyth Esq			
R. W. Mylne Esq			
			£ 10 " 1 " 0
		13 Members @ 4.17.6	6 " 4 " 6
		3 Visitors @ 1.16.0	3 " 13 " 6
			<u>£ 3 " 13 " 6</u>

Figure 1 Entry for a typical dinner in 1857.

needed to dine closer to this new venue and in the sessional summary Mylne recorded that on 28 March '... a notion of motion should be given considering the propriety of removing the Club to some place more west'. On 18 April the proposition was rejected, but on 2 May '... the subject of removal of the Club was again renewed and without notice having been given it was decided to arrange the future meetings of the Club at some place near Burlington House'. Charles Lyell was heavily involved in these exchanges. In both M.3 and F2 the dates for dinners on 16 May, 30 May and 13 June are entered but no attendances or dining details are shown. That dinners were held is evident from M.3 in which pencilled notes refer to the 'Balance of Bill for dining at the Thatched House in St. James's Street': these are not in Mylne's hand, but a proposal for the election of the Rev. S.W. King is by Mylne. Those costs are not included in the Sessional summary in which Mylne listed the bills he paid. He also recorded his resignation as Treasurer and Lyell's nomination of William Hamilton to succeed him.

The explanation for these ructions is to be found in L.1 in a three-way exchange of letters between Lyell, Mylne and either William Hamilton or, possibly, Charles Nicols, Clerk and Resident to the Society. Writing to Mylne from 53, Harley Street on 1 June, Lyell rehearsed the proceedings at the dinner on 30 May from which Mylne had been absent. Lyell complained that his proposal of Rev S.W. King as a member could not be entered as no Club books were there. (*This was remedied subsequently as mentioned above*). He further wrote in an agitated style (*without punctuation*):

'As I took part together with the President and Mr Hamilton in arranging the transfer of the club to St. James St. I shall be happy if your engagements should prevent you from being at our next club to receive the book and should not dislike to go over the affairs of the club with the President and an old Treasurer Mr Hamilton for I look on this as a critical time in the fortunes of the Society of which the club is a useful and integral part.'

Hardly surprisingly this epistle gave rise to an indignant letter of resignation from Mylne to the members of the Club, dated 13 June. In this he outlined the financial position which had arisen as a result of the transfer, including compensation of £5 to Clunn's Hotel yet to be paid and a debt to himself of £23.12s.4d. He also reported that he had written to members in arrears asking that contributions should be sent to Nicols at the Society. The third letter, also from Mylne on 13 June, is addressed 'My Dear Sir' but to no named recipient. In the letter Mylne referred to outstanding questions of membership and with it he transferred '... the Club box and key and all the books connected therewith ...'. Hamilton was not formally elected Treasurer until 8 November and, although he seems the more probable recipient, Nicols may have acted for the Club temporarily.

William Hamilton adopted the style of the entries in M.3 he had used during his earlier Treasurership. The detailed fair-copying into F.2 ceased, although sessional financial summaries were entered. From 1863 the Society returned to Somerset House and the Club to Clunn's Hotel. Hamilton continued as Treasurer until his election to the Presidency of the Society in 1864. Warrington (afterwards Sir. W.) Wilkinson Smyth succeeded him, but Robert Mylne stood in his stead from April to June due to Smyth's unavoidable absence. In April, Smyth's '... health was proposed with all the honors by Lord Enniskillen and drunk with enthusiasm upstanding,' — the unavoidable absence being occasioned by Smyth's marriage.

Woodward (1907) recorded that in 1864 a Junior Geological Club was started* by several Fellows. The sole archive of this Junior Club has been added to those of the present Club in the safe-keeping of the Society (Misc. 11). It identifies George E. Roberts as the Treasurer and lists 12 Founder Members, of whom three were, or became, members of the present Club. Subsequently a further 15 members were elected on one of nine dates, some of which coincide with the days of eight documented dinners held at the Rainbow Tavern. A further three members of the senior Club were amongst those elected. The final dinner list is dated 25 January, presumably 1865. There is an entry headed Rules of the Club, but none are recorded. A printed calling paper for dinners, addressed from the Junior Geological Club, Geological Society, Somerset House, is pasted into the penultimate page of Misc. 11 but there are no other entries.

In 1866 Smyth succeeded Hamilton as President of the Society and Captain (afterwards Sir Douglas) Galton R.E. became Treasurer. Entries in both M.3 and F.2 became less full and rather untidy until December 1868 when Peter Duncan was elected in his stead. He continued to use both F.2 and M.3, but the last routine entry in the former relates to a dinner on 4 February 1874 and in the latter to 24 March 1875. A congratulatory letter was sent to Sir Charles Lyell in January 1874 to mark

his 50 years of membership. Robert Mylne resumed the Treasurership in 1874 and from then until 1900 no separate cash book appears in the archives, although annual financial summaries for the period 1881–1890 are preserved as loose sheets in F.5.

Copies of six printed lists of members relating to various years in the period 1856–1872 are pasted into F.2, as is a consolidated membership list for the first 50 years. This was printed for the 50th Anniversary Dinner held at the Pall Mall Restaurant on 5 November 1874. A copy of the menu for that occasion is reproduced in Figure 2(a). The significance of the event was recognized in that, uniquely to that date, the signatures of the 22 Members and 12 Visitors attending were entered into the final pages of F.2, the last signature being that of Charles Lyell. The 1860 rift with Mylne seems to have eased, for with Mylne again Treasurer, Lyell, in responding to a toast in the name of the Club, remarked diplomatically that:

'... great as had often been the differences of opinion in the Geological Society, from the time of Buckland, Coneybeare, De la Beche, Fitton, Sedgwick and Murchison, down to the present day, there had always been perfect harmony in the Club.' (Anon., 1874).

(a)
 "The Geological Society" Club,
 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

5th NOVEMBER, 1874.

MENU DU DINER.

POTAGES.

A la Reine. Consommé aux Légumes.

POISSONS.

Turbot, sauce Homard.
 Filets de Soles farcies à la "Pall Mall."
 Eporlans frits.

ENTRÉES.

Ris de Veau, piqué, aux Epinards.
 Salmi de Faisan aux Truffes.
 Filets de Bœuf à la Béarnaise.

RELEVÉ.

Dinde braisée, sauce Celéri.
 Selle de Mouton.

RÔT.

Becasses.

RELEVÉ DE RÔTS.

Ose à la Moëlle.

ENTREMETS.

Pouding Cabinet.
 Charlotte de Pommes.

DESSERT.

THE PALL MALL,
 14, Regent Street, Waterloo Place, S.W.

(b)

150th ANNIVERSARY: MEETING NUMBER 2192

HELD IN THE APARTMENTS OF THE
 GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
 BURLINGTON HOUSE
 PICCADILLY
 8th NOVEMBER 1974

MENU

Whole Fresh Salmon

Vol-au-Vent

Gold Meats in Aspic

Sweets

Cheese Board

Coffee

Champagne

PRESENTATION OF A WRITING DESK AND CHAIR
 BY THE CLUB TO THE SOCIETY
 FOR USE IN THE FELLOWS' ROOM

Figure 2 (a) Menu for the 50th Anniversary Dinner 1874 (F.2)
 (b) Menu for the 150th Anniversary Buffet 1974 (Misc.5).

Lyell died three months later and his death was marked at the dinner on 25 February 1875 by the following entry in M.3:

'Resolved — That the Club has heard with the deepest regret of the death of the Senior Member Sir Charles Lyell, Bart: who had been a Member for upwards of 50 years and desire to place on the records of the Club their sense of irreparable loss which Geological Science has sustained by the death of one who was at the same time so distinguished so genial and so beloved.'

The wine allowance of one pint per person agreed in 1848 continued to be adhered to approximately. For example, at the first dinner recorded in M.4, 15 diners consumed four sherries, seven clarets and two ports, amounting in all to some 17 pints, augmented by Apollinaris, Seltzers, sodas and ales. A resolution was adopted in December 1878 requiring a two thirds majority for selection of a candidate for ballot. In December 1879 a Committee was appointed to consider the cost of Club dinners which had been stable at 15s. (10/6d for food and 4/6d for beverages). Mylne prepared a series of tables outlining the expenditure of the Club during his two Treasurerships. These were used by the Committee as the basis for their discussions and at a lunch at the Criterion they agreed to seek a new venue. After trials at a few establishments, the St. James' Hall Restaurant met with approval and, with a few exceptions, continued as the venue for the next 23 years.

In December 1881 the Earls of Enniskillen and Selkirk were appointed Honorary Members after 52 and 50 years respectively. Such membership was defined as permitting the enjoyment of the full privileges of the Club without the payment of future annual subscriptions. Unaware of this definition and writing from St. Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbrightshire, Lord Selkirk sought an explanation of the term, commenting that:

I am aware that my deafness makes me now a very useless member but I like to come and meet some of my friends occasionally ... Poor Lord Enniskillen is now stone blind or very near it, & must be in great trouble owing to the state of affairs in Ireland tho' they don't murder much in his district the people there not being very liberally (*sic*) disposed ...'.

March 1883 saw the largest routine dinner to that date, with 24 members and 11 guests; (*possibly associated with the paper communicated that day by Sir Archibald Geikie 'On the supposed Pre-Cambrian Rocks of St. David's'*). Mylne continued his normal 2-page entries in a new Minute Book M.5, in which a copy of the 1888 printing of the Rules is preserved. From 5 November 1884 Attendance Sheets (A.1) were signed by both members and visitors, additionally to the entries in M.5. Although not identified as such in the records, the Sheets date from the 60th Anniversary Dinner, perhaps favouring the view that it was decided to introduce the signing system as routine from that particular occasion. Alternatively, signed sheets may have been in use previously but were not retained. On 17 November 1886 the death of Lord Enniskillen was marked by an appropriate resolution. He had been a member for 56 years and had been an active host at various gatherings for the leaders of the geological sciences. In August 1835 he and his father had entertained '... the happy

hammerers ...' — Sedgwick, Murchison, Griffith, Phillips, Egerton and Agassiz — at their Irish seat, where, as the young Lord Cole, he held his unique collection of fossil fish (James, 1986). In June 1837 he invited some members to supper and 'high jinks' in his London rooms, where in November 1838 Lyell seems to have acquired a hangover such that '... I lost the enjoyment of Murchison's dinner next day, and for five days only did half a day's work or less.' (Woodward, 1907).

A special dinner was held on 22 June 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, when the 14 diners consumed eight bottles of champagne in addition to their wine allowance. With the Attendance Sheet for the dinner on 19 June 1889 there is a loose page containing the signatures of four members of the Associated Engineering Societies of the USA who dined with the Club — Edgar Richards and Fred. P. Dewey of Washington D.C., R.G. Leckie of Sherbrooke, Canada and A.E. Hunt, Vice-Chairman Am. Inst. Mining Engrs., Pittsburg. In December of that year a resolution was advanced for consideration at the next Close meeting in February 1890, to increase the membership from 36 to 40. However, there were no vacancies at that date so no Close meeting was called and the resolution was not put.

1890–1904

A telegram preserved in L.2 announced Robert Myne's death on 1 July 1890 and the President expressed regret at the Club's loss at the first dinner of the Session in November. In two spells of five and fifteen years, Mylne had acted as Treasurer for a longer period than any other before or since. The Club papers were transferred to Hilary Bauerman who was subsequently elected to succeed Mylne. Bauerman maintained the style of entries but also recorded details of proceedings rather than solely their outcome. For example, he minuted the first occasions on which new members dined and entered full copies of the more significant letters and replies. In January 1891 a Committee was asked to review the Rules once again and in March recommended two changes. However, despite their being referred to the next Close meeting they were not considered and lapsed. The final entry in M.5, on 15 June 1891, relates to a letter of condolence to the widow of Peter Duncan, a former Treasurer.

The first entry in M.6 is a list of members with their dates of election to the Society and the Club, as well as the frequency of their attendances during the 1891/2 Session. A similar record precedes the entries for most of the succeeding sessions of Bauerman's Treasurership. A rather elaborate, black-edged entry records the postponement for a week of the dinner due on 20 January 1892 as a consequence of the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. In analysing the costs of dining for each Session in the period 1880 to 1892, Bauerman introduced into M.6 an early form of currency decimalization in that they ranged from 9.53s. per head in 1892/3 to 10.72s. in 1888/9.

Frank Rutley was a frequent diner during his membership (1891–1899) and three letters from him to Bauerman are retained in L.2. The third, dated November

1898, thanks Bauerman for '... a most useful and concentrated mass of information about the 'Iron Ore Deposits of the Ural.'; (a good illustration of Bauerman's pre-disposition to accumulate data). He goes on to say '... I have been obliged to send the resignation of my post ... Paralysis has effectively laid hold of my right leg ... Whenever you are out this way (West Kensington) and feel disposed to visit the hermitage you will generally find me up and about between 3 o'clock and the small hours.'. Sir Joseph Prestwich had been transferred to Honorary Membership in 1891 and associated correspondence is to be found in L.2. In January 1896 he was congratulated by the Club on his Knighthood — just six months before his death. An abnormally small dinner was held on 27 May 1896 with but three members and one visitor attending. The final entry in M.6 is an abstract of the Sessional accounts for 1897/8.

Although M.7 was started in 1898, the first non-routine entry relates to the dinner on 21 June 1899. As it was the '... the last of the 75th. Session of the Club making the 1200th. meeting since it's foundation the health of the Senior Members Sir John Evans and Dr. T. Wiltshire (both present) was drunk with acclamation.'. No mention is made in the records of the arrival of the new Millenium, but the unusual consumption of champagne at each of three dinners in May and June and again in December may be related to it.

On 5 December 1900 Professor Charles Lapworth was elected to the Club. He assumed the Presidency from 26 February 1902 and took the leading role in amending the Rules in several respects. The procedures he adopted included, uniquely, the convening of two General Meetings of the Club at Burlington House in the afternoons of 19 November 1902 and 4 February 1903. The changes agreed at these meetings were adopted on 11th March and included a return to the original limit of 40 Ordinary members and the appointment of a standing Committee to manage the Club's affairs. The first members under the Chairmanship of the President, were Hilary Bauerman, Horace W. Monckton, William T. Blandford and the Professors Edmund J. Garwood and William W. Watts. Monckton codified the Rules along the lines discussed by the Committee and various documents concerning the changes are preserved in Misc. 6, including letters by Lapworth, notes by Watts and draft Rules by Monckton. The outcome of these activities was the adoption and printing of Monckton's proposed set of 19 Rules, dated June 9th. 1904, of which copies are found in Misc. 6 and A.4. Lapworth became ill in April 1903 but the Club recognized his role by passing a resolution on 3 February 1904 that the Club '... on the occasion of the last meeting during Professor Lapworth's Presidency desire to express their sincere sympathy with him in his prolonged illness and a cordial wish that they may soon have the pleasure of welcoming his return to their festive board.'.

Professor Agassiz was a guest at the dinner on 3 March 1904, whilst Bauerman indicated on 8 June that he was going to Saint Louis on family business and could not act as Treasurer in 1904/5. In some respects Bauerman was the most diligent of the nine Treasurers who held office during the last Century. His records of memberships and costs were kept in a format common to his predecessors, but he recorded the management of the affairs in far more detail. In a set of loose pages (Misc. 7) and

three volumes (Misc. 8, 9, and 10) he encapsulated the organizational aspects of the Club in a remarkable series of comprehensive, if somewhat repetitive, tables, abstracts, listings and charts. Space inhibits their full description, but two examples capture the flavour of his efforts. The table shown in Figure 3, showing the consumption of beverages at one dinner in each of 11 irregularly-spaced years, is but one of several similar analyses. It appears to show some trends, with sherry becoming less popular, unlike claret, port and mineral water which were all fairly stable, whilst beer disappeared totally from 1880. The archives confirm the disappearance of beer, but the apparently sudden arrival of hock is an accident of selection. The second example, in Figure 4, is a reduced reproduction of a chart illustrating the financial and numerical state of the Club from 1855 to 1900. A gradual increase in the attendances can be perceived with a broad peak in the decade from 1877 to 1888, followed by a sharp drop to 1889/90 and a gradual recovery to 1900. There is nothing in the archives to indicate whether or not Bauerman attempted to explain the causes underlying the trends his analyses seem to suggest. On the cover of Misc. 8 Lamplugh notes 'Best source for Review of Club's activities, Cost etc. G. W. L. June 1924' and he used much of the information for his history (App. A.), as did Monckton in compiling a consolidated list of deceased and living members in 1905, which Lamplugh revised and extended for the Centenary List. Bauerman was so effective as Treasurer that in 1903/4 there was no need for an annual subscription. Small wonder that the President's vote of

	No	Coke		Sherry	Claret	Hock
		Sum	Watt.			
1845 Mar 12.	21	16/-	6/-	— 8	—	—
1855 Nov 21	19	13/7	5/4	— 10	—	—
1862 Dec 3	19	14/2	5/9	— 9	—	—
1874 May 13	21	14/11	6/1	— 5	10	—
1879 Feb 26	20	15/4	7/4	— 4	13	—
1880 Nov 17	20	9/11	1/8	— 4	10	—
1883 Mar 21	35	9/9	3/2	— 5	18	—
1885 Mar 11	20	10/-	3/9	— 3	10	—
1889 Dec 18	23	10/4	3/9	— 4	13	—
1890 Jan 8 th	23	9/5	3/3	— 2	12	—
1893 Mar 8	19	9/10	3/5	— 1	4	8

Figure 3 A table by Hilary Bauerman showing the beverages consumed at individual dinners during eleven irregularly spaced years (Misc.7).

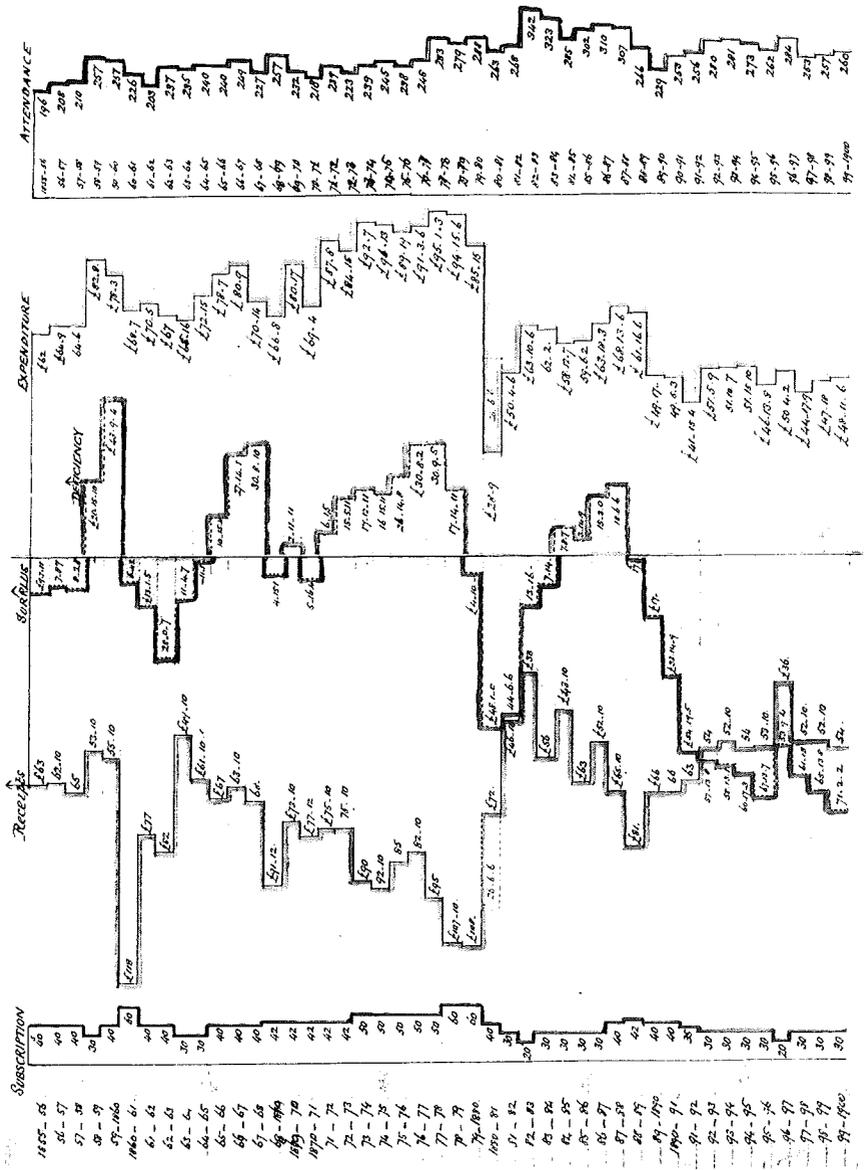


Figure 4
 A chart illustrating Hilary Bauermanis analysis of the Club's affairs from 1855 to 1890 (Misc.7).

thanks at the end of his Treasurership was received with acclamation. He was succeeded in 1904 by Horace Monckton as Treasurer and Aubrey (later Sir Aubrey) Strahan became Secretary. The new Rule 10 led to the appointment of three of the new Council of the Society as Temporary Club Members.

1904–1921

Monckton's entries in M.7 maintained the well established two-page format and he continued Bauerman's practice of annotating dinner lists. For example, he recorded that on 10 May 1905 Captain Hutton of The Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand dined as the guest of the Club. However, following the appointment of Club Secretaries it was they who recorded routine management issues not directly associated with dinners, the accounting of which remained as the Treasurer's province. Although no hand-written documents by identifiable secretaries of this period are preserved in the archives, there are some notes by Treasurers on elections, retirements and deaths. Annual management reports were prepared and printed as calling papers for the relevant Close meeting, as for example that for 1908 prepared by Aubrey Strahan (Misc. 5). Complete reports for other years are not in the archives, although that they were produced is shown by cuttings from them pasted into M.7, M.8 and M.9.

From the 1905/6 Session onwards the appointment of Temporary Members from freshly-elected Councils of the Society became routine. At the dinner on 8 November 1905 the number of diners reached a new peak of 38. At an exceptional time of the year for Club dinners, the 27th. September 1907 saw the Club entertaining the Foreign and Colonial Guests who were attending the Society's Centenary celebrations. A list of those present pasted into M.8 includes 32 members and 88 Guests all of whose signatures appear in A.5. A list of subscribers and subscriptions to an appeal to meet the costs of the guests is also in M.8. The dinner was held at the Criterion Restaurant, the normal venue of the time, at a cost of £53. 15s. 6d. The Club's own celebration of the Centenary was held on the actual Anniversary date, 13 November, and was recorded in the 1907/8 Session. After dinner on 2 December 1908 the Club congratulated Sir Archibald Geikie on his election as President of the Royal Society.

The Treasurership passed in 1909 from Horace Monckton to Bedford McNeill who continued the reporting practices as before. On 17 November the Club dined four foreign delegates to a Committee convened at the Foreign Office to prepare an International Map of the World. A photograph of the Committee from the Illustrated London News of 25 November is pasted into A.5. The Club's guests, from Austria, Hungary, Germany and the USA did not sign the Attendance Book, but are identified in M.8 and on the photograph. The meetings of both Society and Club for 11 May 1910 were cancelled in consequence of the death of King Edward VII. A year later on 24 May there were 38 diners to celebrate the accession of King George V and his impending Coronation. The present members will be interested to learn that L.J. Wills was a guest on 28 February 1912. The dinner on 18 December of

that year was attended by no less than 33 Members and 20 Guests — the largest number on record for an apparently normal dinner. (*The reason being that the paper to be read that evening at the Society was on the discovery of the Piltdown skull*). That is the last non-routine entry in M.8 which was closed on 23 April 1913.

Succeeding records in M.9 continued through the years of the First World War into 1921, whilst parallel records in the Attendance Book A.5 ceased in 1920. Bedford McNeill remained in post and he signed the Sessional report for 1912/13 as Treasurer, but George Barrow assumed the reporting role from 4 November 1914. The first indication in the archives of any effect of the War is an entry for 19 February 1915 when '... In consequence of the war the Geol. Society decided not to hold the Annual Dinner so for the benefit of those coming from a distance it was decided to have a Special Club Dinner.' — 24 Members and eight Guests attended. From 3 November 1915 the Society changed the times of meetings from 8 to 5 p.m. as 'Owing to the possibility of Air-raids over the Metropolis, and the consequent disorganization of traffic, difficulties may be experienced by those Fellows who attend the Evening Meetings of the Society.' A copy of this notice pasted into M.9 has added in ink 'This caused the Club dinner to be held after the meeting at 7.15.' and elsewhere '... due to the war or rather the Zeppelin raids in the autumn.' A further wartime change is recorded on 1 December 1915, 'Owing to the new "dark" regulations this bill had to be settled there (*at the Criterion*) before 9.30 P.M.'. A second Special Anniversary Dinner for the Society was held on 18 February 1916 — 34 dining. In that year Bedford McNeill died and, uniquely in the archives, a copy of his obituary is pasted onto the fly-leaf of M.9. In June 1917 disquiet concerning the quality of the wines and an increase in their price led to a change in venue to Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant from 7 November. A third Anniversary Dinner was held for the Society in February 1918, with 31 diners.

Despite there being a dinner two days after the end of the War, there is no mention of that event in either M.9 or A.5. William Watts became Treasurer in 1918 and noted on 18 December that there was no Christmas Pudding but dried fruit and that the Treasurer read 'Mammal-Saurian War'. Dinner on 5 February 1919 was held in Oddenino's Brasserie rather than in the usual private room owing to a waiter's strike. The Trocadero was the venue for the fourth Society Anniversary dinner, whilst five days later a Close meeting at Oddenino's adopted new Rules. These were reduced by combination from 19 to 15, with some minor amendments: a copy of the reprinted Rules dated 26th February 1919 is pasted to the rear free endpaper of A.5. The principal change was the introduction under Rule 5. ii. of Temporary Honorary Members — 'Eminent men of science being Fellows of the Society temporarily resident in the United Kingdom.' who could be nominated by the Committee for one session, renewable. Another change required the Club rather than the Committee to decide the dates for the second and any subsequent Close meetings. Rule 14. defined in sub-sections i.-ix. the agenda to be taken at the first Close meeting each year. An odd comment by Watts appears in the entry for 21 May 1919 — 'Feminine for Fellow thought to be Feline' — the first mention of the fair sex in the archives (*possibly early rumblings of their admission to the Club a mere 54 years later!*). At a Close meeting on 3 December 1919 Walter Campbell Smith, whose

subsequent speech at the 2000th. dinner outlined the activities of the Club, was elected and John Allen Howe became Secretary. The Committee nominated six Temporary Honorary Members under the new Rule 5.ii. — Col. T. Edgeworth David, Dr. W.F. Smeeth, Sir Douglas Mawson, Prof. F. Dawson Adams, Major. R.W. Brock and Dr. W.G. Miller. From January 1920 the Club changed its venue to Stewarts Restaurant, Piccadilly. Signatures for the dinner on 5 May 1920 form the last entry in A.5, whilst that in M.9 is for the dinner on 21 April 1921.

1921–1946

The only archives compiled during this period by the Officers of Club and presently available are the Centenary booklet of 1924, a set of Rules dated 6th. December 1933 and the Annual Report for 1937/38 from Sir James Stubblefield's collection (Misc. 13), as well as correspondence relating to his election at the meeting on 1 December 1937. The mystery of the missing Minute and Attendance books covering the period 1920–1946 remains unresolved. It is inconceivable that the Officers of the time, alone or in concert, deliberately discarded them. Attendance records were available in 1938 because the then Treasurer included in the Annual Report for that year a table showing the numbers of diners for the period 1902–1932 as a single entry with individual entries for each year thereafter. The books may yet emerge from some institutional or personal hide-out, unless the hands of executors have intervened. Any such emergence is likely to be from within the greater London area as, until recently, the Club's officers have generally been London-based.

The Centenary Dinner was held on 5 November 1924 at the Criterion Restaurant. It is known that the toast of "Kindred Clubs" was proposed by Sir William Boyd Dawkins and "The Club" by a Club guest, Sir William Bragg, but details are not in the archives. The contents of the Centenary List (Misc.12) are enumerated in the Introduction above, but to illustrate the style of the document a facsimile of the List of Founders is reproduced in Appendix A (2). The printing of that booklet and so far as is known of all the Club's printing until 1933, was by Spottiwoode, Ballantyne & Co. Ltd. It had a cover price of Two Shillings and Sixpence but, as no contemporary accounts are available, it is not known whether the sales generated income for the Club.

The letter notifying James Stubblefield of his election at the meeting on 1 December 1937 was signed by Charles W. Hobley as Acting Treasurer, although he had become Club Secretary that year. Also relevant to his election is another letter from W.W. Watts saying '... They elected Bulman and Read as well so I feel I can now resign my Secretaryship with the feeling that I have not lived in vain ...'. At that date Watts had already been an Honorary Member for five years — a position not previously, or subsequently, known to be associated with an active role in the management of the Club.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Statement for 1937/38 was prepared by Hobley in the same format as that for 1908 — an earlier printed report available for comparison. The Treasurer, elected in 1937, was William T. Gordon of King's

College, London. In the table of attendances referred to above he added footnotes regarding Special Dinners. One such, in 1934/35 followed a joint meeting of the Geological and Royal Astronomical Societies. On another occasion in that year there were more than 200 diners at a dinner held on 4 July 1935 for the foreign delegates to the Centenary of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. On that occasion the members of the Club and the staff of the Survey jointly entertained their guests at the Rembrandt Hotel, Brompton Road (Flett, 1937).

The first effect of the Second World War on the Club was to convert it from Humphry Davy's '... little talking Geological Dining Club ...' to the equivalent Luncheon Club. The need for change was outlined in a hand-written, duplicated Circular by Gordon, distributed from Bristol University to where King's College, London, had been evacuated. In this he wrote:

'The propriety of continuing the dinners of the Club during war time offers some difficulty for the following reasons:

- (1) The Government is averse to the holding of meetings that entail the gathering together of considerable numbers of persons in one place. Our dinners are probably outwith this ban as our numbers are not large on any occasion.
- (2) The nightly "Black out" makes movement about London most difficult except in day light or when there is a moon.
- (3) Buses are fewer and the Suburban trains cease at an early hour.'

He also referred to the probability that the times of the Society meetings would be changed to 2.30 or 3.00 p.m. and the awkward hiatus which would then arise between the end of the meeting and any dinner held at 7.00 p.m. He proposed that the issues should be discussed at a lunch held at Stewart's Restaurant on 1 November 1939. It was then agreed that lunches would be taken at one o'clock during the ensuing months, but that the timing would be reviewed again when '... there is longer day light and no need to consider the Black out.'

At the subsequent lunch on 22 November 1939, Gordon summarized the results of a survey dating from April 1939 which sought views on a proposal to enlarge the Club to 45 members. Of 34 responses, 24 were in favour, nine against and one doubtful; the necessity of broadening the representation of those in the commercial and applied fields was recognized. At the Close meeting on 15 December the Secretary proposed a motion in favour of enlargement but the Treasurer advanced an amendment postponing a decision during the war. The Annual Report for 1938/39, the printed exception referred to above, mentions the April plebiscite but not the result of the ensuing vote; from subsequent reports it seems that the increase was adopted.

The Close meeting due in December 1941 was postponed until 21 January 1942 when the Annual Report for 1940/41 was taken, recording that there were six meetings attended by 62 members and one guest — despite the Blitz conditions prevailing. Notice was given that at the next Close meeting the Committee might advance amendments to Rule 3. concerning elections. Preparatory to this, Gordon prepared and distributed a two-column sheet listing the 1933 version of Rule.3. i-ix.

inc. on one side and the suggested amendments alongside them. No Annual Report for 1941/42 is available so the discussions on that document are not recorded. Restaurant lunching became ever more difficult to arrange as food rationing tightened in 1942 and in a letter dated 29 October Gordon cancelled the meetings for that Session. However in May 1943 he wrote that:

'At the request of the President of the Geological Society and several of our members I have explored the possibilities of renewing, in some measure, the meetings of the Club. I have not found a caterer willing ... to serve even light refreshments ... the Council of the Society, however, has agreed to let us have the use of the Council Room if we can arrange to secure the necessary service ... the Porter at the Society's apartments is willing to set out sandwiches and any other food material we can secure, and his wife will make tea and coffee, so that a kind of sandwich lunch is made possible. ... The cost cannot be less than 3/6 per head ... I must send to Messrs. Lyons in London who have agreed to supply sandwiches. Alternative liquid refreshment may be possible and I have written to two sources on the chance.'

The first such lunch was held at Burlington House at 12.30 p.m. on 19 May and its success justified the adoption of that procedure for two more meetings in that Session, in June and July, and so continued until the end of the war. The Annual Report of the Committee for 1942/43 was adopted in January 1944 and confirmed that three meetings were held in 1943 — the first in May. An archival inconsistency then arises as the table of attendances in the Treasurer's Statement for the same year gives six meetings with 109 diners. This compares with a later table compiled in 1946 which takes the three meetings of the Annual Report as definitive. The absence of other archives leaves this discrepancy unresolved, although the balance of evidence favours the 1946 interpretation. (*The dinner numbers from here onwards should, perhaps, carry the qualifier ± 3 !*).

A calling paper for lunch on 17 November 1943 indicates that '... delegates will be asked as Club guests.'. The Delegates in question were from the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy as a joint meeting was held with the Society to discuss the contribution of Geological Surveys to Colonial development and the future of the Colonial Surveys, with a view to representation to Government. The Annual report for 1944/45 was taken in April 1946, 11 months after the war in Europe had ended. In early 1946 Gordon was able to advise that 'Arrangements had been made for members to dine together on the evenings of the meetings of the Society as in pre-war years ... dinner will be served in the dining room of the Marquis of Granby in Cambridge Circus at 7 for 7.15': the first was probably held on 13 February 1946. Making up for the scarcity during the war, the Secretary was able to record that twelve meetings had been held in 1944/45 — 11 Ordinary and one recognizing the Society's Anniversary.

The Annual Reports, Treasurers' Statements and calling papers were all written, cyclostyled and distributed by Gordon throughout the war years. He clearly experienced significant difficulty not only in arranging for meals, but also in maintaining the paperwork. That he succeeded in attending to the activities of the Club

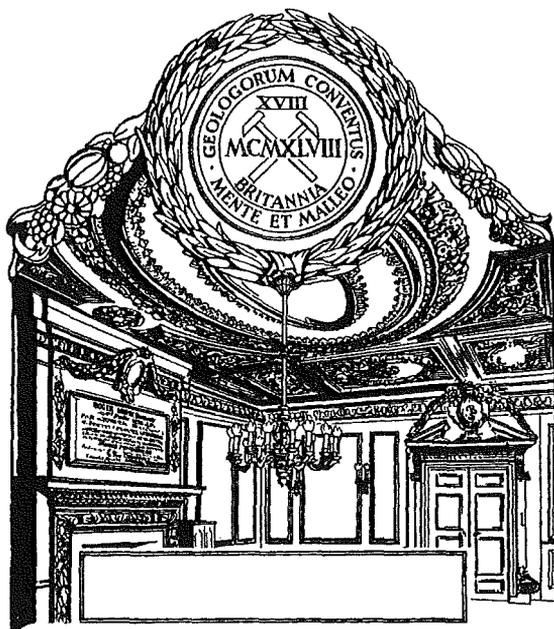
whilst evacuated to Bristol deserves the Club's recognition. In 1945 Roy W. Pocock was elected Treasurer and Thomas Eastwood became Secretary. As there had been limited overheads whilst the Club met at the Society's apartments there had been a minimal or no Annual Subscription, but the resumption of external dining necessitated its re-introduction at £1, with dinner costs at 7/6d. per member, 10/- for guests, exclusive of beverages. A continuing effect of the war was the poor quality and cost of wines and it was agreed that only beer and ale would be provided.

1946-1959

The record of the Close meeting of 10 April 1946 appears in Eastwood's hand in a new Minute Book M.10, ending the hiatus in the Club's Archives. With the Report for 1945/46 he instituted the continuing practice of pasting into the Minute Book copies of typed, rather than printed, Annual Reports, Treasurers' statements and Lists of Members. At the end of that Session there were 39 Ordinary, eight Honorary and nine Temporary Members, leaving six vacancies. The December Close meeting of 1947 adopted the Annual Report for 1946/47 and '.. agreed that the Club should entertain to dinner the Foreign Members of the Geological Society who are attending the International Geological Congress, 1948, and Mr. Chatwin suggested that the dinner might be held in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers.'. This venue was adopted in April 1948 when it was agreed that the occasion would count as a Club Dinner, that Members could each invite one male guest, preferably from overseas, and that the Committee could fill any places by other male guests if there was a shortfall in the full seating capacity of 95. The cost of each dinner would be 20/- to be paid by Club Members, with the principal expenses, including wines and cigars, being met by Club funds. The cover of the Menu cards, designed by Dr. Bulman, is shown in Figure 5. The dinner was held on 31 August and the 96 Members and Guests signed a new Attendance Book A.6, opened for the occasion. The toast to the Club's guests was proposed by the Senior Member, Dr. Walter Campbell Smith, and replied to by the Senior Foreign Fellow of the Society, Professor Leon William Collet of Geneva.

The occasion was outlined in the Annual report for 1947/48 and from the Treasurer's Statement it can be deduced that the resultant charge to Club funds for the event totalled £90.9s.9d. On 17 February 1949 Pocock circulated a series of Rule amendments proposed by Mr. F.N. Ashcroft and Dr. A.E. Trueman, yet again relating to the election procedures. A version of some of these was finally agreed on 23 March. Under the new Rule 3.(v) the previous requirement that candidates must attract a two-thirds majority was dropped, but the balloting procedure to decide the order in which they would be voted upon was retained. Rule 3.(vii) was amended so that 15 or more members, rather than the earlier seven, formed a quorum and that successful candidates had to attract the votes of not less than three quarters of the Members present — the reference to black balls was expunged. Rule 3.(viii) of the 1933 Version permitted the members present to hold further ballots of appropriately registered candidates if there were still vacancies after a ballot had

Figure 5 Copy of the front cover of the menu card for the 1889th. Dinner of the Club, held to entertain the Foreign Fellows of the Society attending the International Geological Congress, London, 1948.



**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CLUB • FOUNDED 1824**
1889th Meeting 31st August 1948
TALLOWCHANDLERS HALL
DOWGATE HILL • LONDON

been held. That was replaced by a rule stipulating that the decision of the Chairman of the meeting would be final if any dispute arose as to the interpretation of a ballot. At the end of the 1948/49 Session the Ordinary Members numbered 41, of whom 15 were eligible for Honorary Membership — a status not greatly sought after, either then or subsequently. A largely new Committee was elected on 14 December 1949 when it was agreed that a guarantee to the Society of £15 towards any loss on the Annual Dinner would be renewed for one year; such a deficit of £12.3s.2d. was met by the Club in June 1950. Roy Pocock remained Treasurer but Kingsley (later Sir Kingsley) C. Dunham became Secretary.

The Annual Report and Treasurers' Statement for 1949/50 was adopted at the Close meeting on 13 December at which the Committee was asked to investigate the 'Yorkshire Grey' as a possible venue, dine there at the Club's expense and report to the next meeting. Evidently it proved unsatisfactory and from 24 December 1951 dinners were held at the premises of the Society of Visiting Scientists (hereafter SVS), Old Burlington Street. From the same time Arthur F. Hallimond succeeded R.W.

Pocock as Treasurer. At the end of the 1950/51 Session there were still 13 Members eligible for election to Honorary status and the shortage of vacancies for new Members was a cause of increasing anxiety. Yet the voting procedure remained the dominant issue and the Committee was instructed to advance more amendments. Despite several discussions it was not until 17 December 1952 that two minor changes were adopted. The first reduced the period of validity of a nomination from 5 years to 3; secondly, nominations received less than 15 days before a Close meeting were to be omitted from the list circulated for that meeting. The Rules were re-printed in 1953/54 at a cost of £5 and a photocopy is in M.5. In March 1953 it was agreed that the Club would provide after-dinner drinks at the Society's Anniversary Dinner, matching those offered before dinner by the President and Council.

The Secretaryship changed rapidly in the early fifties. K.C. Dunham was succeeded in 1951 by Sydney E. Hollingworth whose Committee service ended in late 1952, to be followed by James H. Taylor in April 1953. The report of the Close meeting on 12 May 1954 included the following entry:

'During an interval in the proceedings Mr. A.J. Butler (*then Curator of the Geological Museum*) exhibited a carving in Portland Stone. The object, which once formed part of the Hercules statue in the Museum of Practical Geology, had been preserved with the archives of H.M. Geological Survey. It was inspected with the greatest interest by the Members present at the Close meeting. (*The story of Hercules' subsequent re-masculation and erection at the Survey's H.Q. at Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, is recounted in Wilson, 1985*).

Sydney H. Shaw was elected Treasurer in December 1955. During the mid fifties the desirability of increasing the membership was recognized fully and the enforcement of the Rules regarding non-attendance and elevation to Honorary rank, with consequential vacancies, were both advocated as mechanisms to this end. However, neither appealed sufficiently to be applied widely and a proposed amendment to the Rule 14.(iv), emphasizing the question of non-attendance was rejected in 1956, at which date there were 43 Ordinary, 14 Honorary and seven Temporary Members, whilst Daniel C. Ion was placed on the Supernumerary List. In February 1957 Norman L. Falcon became Secretary and he re-introduced discussion as to the significance of Honorary membership. Various devices had been adopted, with little success, to acquire the agreement of reluctant Ordinary Members to such elevation. Finally, at the Close meeting in December 1957 it was agreed that '... the principle of election to Honorary membership should be seen as an honour and not as a convenient means of creating vacancies in the Ordinary membership.'. Notwithstanding that declaration of principle, many eligible Members remain(ed) reluctant recipients of the Honour.

At the same meeting special arrangements were confirmed for the 2000th dinner to be held on 12 February 1958 at the Martinez Spanish Restaurant, Swallow Street. In social terms minds were beginning to change, for the Members had to be reminded in the calling papers that '... by the custom of the Club ladies are not invited as guests.'. The toast of the Geological Society Club was proposed by Dr. W. Campbell Smith who, in a witty speech (Misc. 14), reviewed the history of the Club

and associated the toast with the Treasurers to whom '... we owe our financial stability, our dinners and our drinks ...'. The occasion was also marked by the purchase of decanters for the Club's port, using the proceeds of a 'Decanter and dinner-deficit appeal' which raised £77.10s. Of this, 18 guineas were required for the purchase of three decanters, £23.2s.6d. for the dinner-deficit, leaving a balance of £35.9s.6d. in the fund. Unfortunately, both the balance and the decanters were short-lived. The Porter at the SVS dropped the case containing them down a flight of stairs so that two decanters and all three stoppers were broken and the third decanter had a chipped lip. The unanimous resolution of this incident at the Close meeting in December 1958 was reported by Syney Shaw in the minutes as '... perhaps the result of the Christmas spirit... ' since:

' ... after examination of the wreckage and a discussion it was agreed that the friendly circumstances in which the Club enjoys the facilities of the SVS were such as to make members reluctant to let the financial burden of the accident fall on SVS funds. It was proposed by Sir William Pugh and seconded by N.L. Falcon and carried that the Club funds be used to replace two decanters and the stopper of the third and that the chipped decanter be kept and used as the "survivor" of the originals.'

A postal ballot of members concerning the desirability of changing the dining arrangements in relation to venue, cost and numbers was mounted in March 1959. As a result a trial dinner was held on 25 June 1959 at the Overseas League, St. James's Street. It was not an unqualified success and the Committee continued to explore other possibilities. As well as entering into M.10 the names of Candidates for membership, Shaw and some of his successors pasted into the Book the nomination papers they received. At the Close meeting on 16 December 1959 further discussion of Honorary Membership took place and it was decided that election to that rank would not be made until the Member concerned had been sounded. At the same dinner the Treasurership passed from S.H. Shaw to Walter S. Pitcher.

1959-1974

A move from the SVS became inevitable as their lease terminated in 1962. A survey of possible dining facilities within a radius of a quarter of a mile from Burlington House and with a price limit of 15/- (*as in the founding year of 1824*!), led to a trial dinner at the Goat Tavern, Stafford Street, and from June 1960 it became the regular venue. On 14 December 1960 the Ordinary membership was increased to 50. At various times the Treasurers had included a statement of numbers attending the dinners in the immediate past Session and in a variable range of preceding years. The practice concluded with the 1959/60 Session, by which time the attendances in the 57 sessions from 1902 to 1959 totalled 17,266 Members and Guests. Thereafter the listed attendances were limited to the average in each of the three most recent sessions.

The charge for dinners had risen to 16/- in 1960/61 and despite a further rise of 1/- in 1961/62, it was decided in December 1962 to keep the cost constant and to

subsidize any deficit from Club funds. Members were obviously feeling generous as at the same meeting it was agreed that the Treasurer's dinners from then on should be free to him. Kenneth A. Davies was the first to benefit from this largesse, having assumed the Treasurership, whilst William Bullerwell became Secretary. Following a Groundwater Symposium, held jointly by the Society and the Institution of Water Engineers, the 2068th. dinner was held at St. Stephen's Club, Queen Anne's Gate, with 25 Members and 25 Guests attending. Yet another discussion on voting procedures on 8 May 1963 resulted in yet another reference back to yet another Committee. Twenty eight members and four guests signed the last entry in the Attendance Book A.6 at that meeting: a replica volume A.7, also embossed on the cover 'Geological Society Club', was started on 29 May and continued to October 1980.

In a letter to the Treasurer dated 8 November 1963 and stapled into M.10, William Bullerwell wrote:

'... On reading again through our Rules, dated January 1954, it seems to me that a few of them are ineffective and that, in other cases, we have been adopting other procedures recently. It may, therefore, be thought desirable to examine all our Rules ... To start the ball rolling I set out below some comments on the Rules seriatim:

1. The only possible alteration to this Rule might be to delete the words "Gentlemen who are ..." so that membership should be open to Fellows without any sex discrimination. Perhaps we ought to consider our view on this, as at least one Fellow spoke to me about the possibility of such an alteration, at our last meeting. It may come up as a formal proposal one of these days.'

Apart from that radical, social proposal he made comprehensive comments on the remaining Rules, extending to two and a half pages of single-spaced, typed foolscap. His letter formed the basis of the Committee's deliberations, the results of which were first discussed at a Close meeting on 11 December 1963. Of the eight amendments to the 1954 Rules proposed, four were finally adopted in November 1964. The principal changes were that Ordinary Membership was increased to 55; that a quorum of 20 was required and the majority in a ballot was amended from three quarters to two thirds. Eligibility for Honorary Membership after 15 years remained in place, but was qualified by the addition of '... except at the discretion of the Committee.'

At the November dinner the Treasurer circulated a letter from a newly-elected Council Member '... declining Temporary Membership on principle' (*not enunciated*). By a unanimous vote it was agreed that Dr. E.R.W. Neale, the then Commonwealth Geological Liaison Officer, should become a Member under Rule 5.ii.; that practice continued in relation to the subsequent holders of the post. At the next Close meeting on 2 June 1965, the Treasurership passed jointly to Professor David Williams and David Gill. The post of Secretary was again held by J.H. Taylor until his tragic death in the field, when he was succeeded by Jack Ineson. A discussion was raised at the June meeting concerning the admission of lady members, especially those holding Society medals. That November, however, their continued ineligibility was decided after prolonged discussion, but the question of inviting as Club Guests ladies who had read papers to the Society was referred to the

Committee. The issue was put to a postal ballot and approved on 23 November 1966, with 29 in favour and four against the proposition. In early 1967 a letter of congratulations was sent from the Club to Professor W.G. Fearnside on his fiftieth year of membership.

By the end of the 1966/67 Session the various measures adopted to increase the membership had seen it rise to 80, consisting of 16 Honorary, 5⁴ Ordinary, nine Temporary and one Supernumerary Member. A yet further increase in Ordinary Membership to 60 was authorised in 1970. Gilbert Wilson joined David Gill as Joint Treasurer in November 1968 and in December 1970 they were followed by Vernon Wilson and David A. Gray. Following the death of Vernon Wilson in a car accident in 1971, Reginald G. Thurrell joined David Gray in the Treasurership. In November of that year the Club agreed that ladies who were co-authors of papers at the Society could be invited as guests of individual members.

For well over a century the Club had been dining the Society's speakers and for some while there had been unease in relation to the desire of the Society, rather than the Club, to entertain the Speaker after the William Smith Lecture. Resolutions on the topic and amendments were taken at Close Meetings in November 1971 and May 1972, with inconclusive results. The issue came to a head when Professor Sutton, himself a Member of the Club, had suggested at the Society's AGM that the growth of the size of the Society had led to a need to review the relationship between the Society and the Club. The Club responded and minutes of the May meeting record that 'In view of the evident desire of the Members to consider the implications of Professor Sutton's statement, the Treasurer suggested that a small Sub-committee be appointed to consider the position.' This was done with the following terms of reference:

'The Sub-committee shall take cognizance of the view that the relationship between the Club and the Society may need review, shall sound opinion on the subject and shall advise the Club'.

The first outcome of this arrangement was an agreement with the Society that after the William Smith Lecture on 4 July 1973, there should be an opportunity for the Members of the Club, Fellows of the Society and their Guests to dine at the Senior Common Room of King's College in the Strand. To meet the broader objectives the Sub-committee proposed nine amendments to the Rules, which were circulated in advance of an Extraordinary Close Meeting called to discuss them on 31 January 1973. Prior to the ballots on these amendments, prolonged debate took place essentially on the concept that the younger Fellows looked upon the Club as an anachronism and considered it an 'in' group which 'fixes' the affairs of the Society. Members recognized that the Club had that false image and felt that its objectives should perhaps be defined. Members must maintain the Club essentially as the social body it had always been and they wanted it to remain. That entailed electing the members as had been the practice. Otherwise the Club would have to be a representative body brought together for quite different purposes. By definition any Club is exclusive and, although that may seem quite scandalous to those who are not members, it is the essence of a club.

The first amendment put to the vote was to delete the reference in Rule 1. to "Gentlemen who are ...", as foreseen by William Bullerwell a decade earlier; it was adopted and the Club's door was opened to ladies. The addition of the following sentence to Rule 1. was also accepted — 'The object of the Club is social, to bring together geologists and others with interests and achievements in the Earth Sciences.' An amendment slip incorporating these changes was circulated at the time and a copy is retained in Misc. 5. It was agreed that the Society should be asked to publish a statement on the historical development of the Club in their Newsletter. This was drafted by Professor David Williams and published in September 1973; a copy is lodged in Misc. 5. Further ballots were postponed. The possibility of instituting a class of Country Member was referred to the Committee in May 1973.

After the William Smith Lecture in July 1973 the Club and Fellows dined at King's College as arranged; 21 Members and 14 Guests, including seven ladies, signed the Attendance Book. On 10 October a newly-elected Temporary Member, Dr. Pamela Lamplugh Robinson, a distant relative of the Club's Treasurer of the 1920s, became the first lady Member to attend a routine dinner. On 31 October 1973 the number of authorised Ordinary Members was raised to 65, but other proposed amendments were not put. The Members agreed that the 150th Anniversary of the Club should be marked by the presentation of a commemorative 'object' to the Society. Discussion between the Treasurers and the Officers of the Society resulted in an agreement that a writing table and chair for use in the Fellows' Lounge in Burlington House would be appropriate. An appeal was launched in the Club and raised £158. 60.

The presentation was made in the Fellows' Lounge at the 2192nd meeting of the Club. Thirty three Members and 28 Guests enjoyed a Champagne Buffet, the menu for which is shown in Figure 2(b). Sir Kingsley Dunham made the presentation, recalling in his speech the early days of the Club and the many illustrious British and Foreign Fellows and Guests of the Society who had enjoyed the sociability of the Club's festive board. He speculated on the immense pleasure that the Founder Members would evince if they could but see the permanent Fellows' Lounge in which this celebration of the Club's Sesquicentennial was taking place. In accepting the table and Chair on behalf of the Society, the President, Sir Peter Kent, thanked the Club not only for the handsome additions to the furniture, but also for the hospitality to the countless speakers of the Society who had been entertained as the Club's Guests in the preceding 150 years. He looked forward to a continuing fruitful, if changing, relationship between the Society and the Club.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Access to the archives was arranged by the Society's Honorary Archivist, Mr. John C. Thackray, for whose work on the documents the Club is greatly indebted. The author's thanks are also extended to Dr. A. J. Martin, Professor J. D. Mather and Dr. A. H. B. Stride who commented on the text.

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APPENDIX A

EXTRACTS FROM THE CENTENARY LIST OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CLUB

Appendix A (1)

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CLUB FOUNDED NOVEMBER 5TH, 1824

In H.B. Woodward's "History of the Geological Society," it is recorded that the Society had its origin in a "Geological Dinner Club," started on November 13th, 1807, by thirteen participants at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street. But with the rapid growth of the Society this Club came to an end in three or four years. One of its rules imposed a fine of 10s. 6d. for non-attendance without due notice, with the consequence that by the end of the second session (1809) "the fines from the first institution to the present time amount to £37 16s., of which £6 16s. 6d. only have been hitherto received" — a state of affairs which helps to explain the early demise of the Club. The fines were probably essential to cover the guarantee to the tavern-keeper of a fixed minimum attendance, such as was given by the present Club in its early days, any deficiency having to be met from the general fund.

The present Club was founded in 1824 by thirty members of the Geological Society, which by the time had a membership of over four hundred and was granted its Charter in the following year. Of the thirty, whose names are given in the List of Founders (p.7) several had been founders of the former Club. Three of these Founders, however, did not qualify afterwards for membership, and a fourth deferred doing so until twelve years later. The rules on establishment limited the number of members to forty, but this number was not attained during the early years, and was reduced to thirty-six by an amendment of the rules in 1836. The limit of thirty-six remained in force until 1904, when it was raised to the original forty again. Fellowship of the Geological Society has been from the first, an essential qualification. The President of the Society, if a member (as he has been, or has become, in all cases save one since its initiation), is President also of the Club; in his absence the chair is taken by the member present of senior standing.

In 1825 a Supernumerary List was established, for members absent from the British Isles for the whole of a session or longer; and the scope of this list was afterwards extended to retain a few retiring members as Honorary, which distinction became recognized subsequently as a separate rank. In 1904 a new supernumerary class of Temporary Member was instituted, for nominated members of the Council of the Geological Society, if not already members of the Club, during their term of office; and in 1918 it was further decided to admit by invitation, as

Temporary Honorary Members (for the session), " eminent men of science, being Fellows of the Society, temporarily resident" in this country.

With rare exceptions, the dinners of the Club, from its foundation, have been held regularly on the evenings of every Ordinary Meeting of the Society — on Fridays until 1830, and since then on Wednesdays. Up to the war period the dinners were held before the meetings, but when the meeting-time was altered, in the eventful autumn of 1915, from 8 P.M. to the present hour, 5.30 P.M., a later dining-hour, after the meetings was adopted. The successive habitual dining-places of the Club are given in a subsequent list (p.9).

The Club possesses records of its dinners from the beginning. These are of interest not only in containing the names, as members or as guests, of many men of the past century eminent in other pursuits besides geology, but also because they reflect the change in social conditions during the century. The earliest minute-book (1824–1826) preserves the record of bets between members, on various subjects, in terms of champagne for the benefit of the company: how long toads will live enclosed in cavities in rock (*vide* Woodward's "Hist. of Geol. Soc.," p.66); whether the columns in front of the Pantheon in Rome are fluted; whether they are composed of granite; whether there are instances of Mountain Limestone overlying Coal Measures in conformable position. It is to be regretted that this very practical mode of expressing faith in an opinion in disputed matters of science has fallen into desuetude.

In the dinner lists are to be found the names, as guests, of most of the distinguished foreign geologists who have visited this country during the century, together with those of British nationality who have not been members of the Club.

A few exceptional events in the annals of the Club, culled more or less at random, may here be briefly recalled.

In 1850, on Saturday, June 15th, a supplementary dinner was held at the Crown and Sceptre Tavern, Greenwich, the only occasion on which the Club has dined out of London. In 1856, on May 21st, dinner was prepared, but postponed on account of an accident to the President, Dr. Daniel Sharpe, who had suffered a fall from his horse, which proved fatal to him. In 1874, on January 21st, Sir Charles Lyell was congratulated on his membership having lasted for fifty years.

On Thursday, November 5th, 1874, an extra dinner was held at the Pall Mall Restaurant to celebrate the Jubilee of the Club. A printed list of past and present Members was issued in commemoration. The usual ordinary dinner had been held at the same place on the previous day (November 4th). The minute-book records the Jubilee dinner without special comment, but a separate autograph-list of the diners is preserved, and an account of the function appeared in *Nature*, November 19th, 1874. Sir Charles Lyell, " one of the only two original members now living," was present and responded to one of the toasts. It was his last attendance at the Club; he died in the February following. The other original member referred to must have been Sir Alexander Caldcleugh (died 1888), whose active membership lasted only for the first year of the Club, but whose name was retained on the Supernumerary List until after 1843. Of the actual members at that date, the only survivor now is Sir William Boyd Dawkins, who, though not at the dinner, was then

a member of four years' standing; but Mr. William Whitaker, who is also on our Honorary List, was present at the dinner as a guest, and was elected a member in the following month.

In 1886 (November 17th) the records express the Members' regret for the death of the Earl of Enniskillen, a member for the past fifty-eight (fifty-six) years. He had continued to dine with the Club occasionally to the end of May, 1884. His term of membership stands at present the longest in the annals.

In 1889 (June 21st) we read " This being the last meeting of the 75th session of the Club, making the 1200th meeting since its foundation, the health of the senior members, Sir John Evans and Dr. T. Wiltshire [both present] was drunk with acclamation."

In the session 1903-1904 the financial affairs of the Club were so propitious that no subscription was required; a circumstance unique up to that time (and likely to remain so).

In 1907, on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of the Geological Society, a special dinner of the Club was held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, September 27th, to which the foreign and British delegates were invited. The dinner was attended by thirty-two members and eighty-eight guests, including eminent geologists from nearly all parts of the world. The expenses were met by a special subscription.

In 1910, on May 11th, there was no meeting, owing to the death of King Edward VII. In 1911, on May 24th, the meeting celebrated the accession of King George V, and his approaching coronation.

In 1912, the dinner on December 18th was attended by fifty-three members and guests, the biggest muster on record at an Ordinary Meeting of the Club. This muster is explained by exceptional interest in the paper at the subsequent meeting of the Geological Society, on the discovery of the Piltdown skull, by C. Dawson and Sir A. Smith Woodward.

During the war period, 1915-1919, the customary anniversary dinners of the Geological Society were suspended, but the Club carried on the tradition in a modified form by holding an extra dinner on the evening of the anniversary meetings in February from 1915 to 1919. The war conditions and regulations (restricted hours, prices, diet, etc.) are well illustrated by the records which, though too recent to require comment now, will probably be found of peculiar interest at the bi-centenary. The Treasurer of the period noted, among other things, that "the diminished food, especially fat, led men to drink more wine."

In 1924, November 5th, the Centenary dinner is to be held at the Criterion Restaurant: the occasion of this publication.

The list of deceased and living member which follows is based on that prepared by Mr. H.W. Monckton in 1905, now revised and brought up to date.

G. W. LAMPLUGH,
Treasurer.

September, 1924.

Appendix A (2)

Facsimile of the 1924 edition of the List of Founders

List of the Founders
OF
The Geological Society Club, 1824.

- *Arthur Aikin, F.L.S.
 *Francis Baily, F.R.S., M.R.I.A.
 Rev. Prof. William Buckland, D.D., F.R.S. *President*, 1824-6,
 1839-41.
 Henry Burton, M.D.
 *Alexander (afterwards Sir A.) Caldcleugh, F.R.S.
 Francis (afterwards Sir Francis) Legatt Chantrey, R.A., F.R.S.
 *Major (afterwards Major-General) Thomas Frederick Colby, R.E.,
 LL.D., F.R.S.
 *Henry Thomas Colebrooke, F.R.S.
 †Philip Davies Cooke, F.L.S.
 *Sir Alexander Crichton, M.D., F.R.S.
 Robert Ferguson, F.R.S.
 *William Henry Fitton, M.D., F.R.S. *President*, 1827-9.
 George Bellas Greenough, F.R.S. *President*, 1807-13, 1818-20,
 1833-5.
 John Guillemard, F.R.S.
 Thomas Horsfield, M.D., F.R.S.
 Rev. Andrew Irvine.
 Thomas Jemmett.
 †Aylmer Bourke Lambert, F.R.S.
 Charles (afterwards Sir Charles) Lyell, F.R.S. *President*, 1835-7,
 1849-51.
 Daniel Moore, F.R.S.
 *William Hasledine Pepys, F.R.S.
 Edmund Waller Rundell.
 †Jesse Watts Russell, M.P., LL.D., F.R.S.
 Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., F.R.S.
 *Charles Stokes, F.R.S. *Treasurer*.
 *John Taylor, F.R.S.
 Henry Tucker.
 *Joseph F. Vandercomb.
 James Vine.
 *Henry Warburton, F.R.S. *President*, 1843-5.

* Present at the first dinner, on November 5th, 1824.

† Did not take up membership.

APPENDIX B

ARCHIVES OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CLUB

(Held by the Geological Society: registered in January 1986)

Minute Books

- M.1 1824–1842
- M.2 1842–1855
- M.3 1855–1875
- M.4 1875–1883
- M.5 1883–1891
- M.6 1891–1898
- M.7 1898–1905
- M.8 1905–1913
- M.9 1913–1921
- M.10 1946–1978
- M.11 1977–1981

Attendance Sheets and Books

- A.1 1884–1892 (Sheets)
- A.2 1892–1896
- A.3 1896–1901
- A.4 1901–1906
- A.5 1906–1920
- A.6 1948–1963
- A.7 1963–1980

Financial Documents

- F.1 Cash Book 1824–1855
- F.2 Abstracts of accounts, with membership lists 1853–1873
- F.3 Cash Book 1900–1903
- F.4 Statement of expenditure during Treasurership of R.W. Mylne 1880
- F.5 Annual financial statements 1881–1890
- F.6 Miscellaneous bills and receipts 1848–1902

Correspondence

- L.1 Letters from members, mostly to R.W. Mylne 1855–1889
- L.2 Letters from members, mostly to H Bauerman 1890–1902

Miscellaneous Documents

- Misc.1 Rules, resolutions etc. (1 vol. 4to, mostly empty) 1824–1826
- Misc.2 Committee minutes on loose sheets 1848, 1862, 1889
- Misc.3 Printed membership lists 1858–1903
- Misc.4 Printed 50th Anniversary membership list 1874
- Misc.5 Printed notices, menus etc. 1824–1992
- Misc.6 Papers related to rule changes 1902–1904
- Misc.7 H. Bauerman's notes on the history of the Club 1890–1900

- Misc.8 H. Bauerman's lists of members, rules etc. 1824-1904
Misc.9 Summaries of membership by H. Bauerman (1850-1904) 1890-1905
Misc.10 Abstracts of minutes by H. Bauerman (1855-1902) 1890-1905
Misc.11 Junior Geological Club Book (1 vol. 8vo, mostly empty) 1864
Misc.12 Centenary list of the Geological Society Club (8vo, printed) 1924
Misc.13 C.J. Stubblefield's set of Club notices 1937-1950
Misc.14 W. Campbell Smith: transcript of speech at the 2000th meeting (1958) 1966