

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

THE European War, which has already affected the lives and outlook of millions of people, presents problems to the Editors of ANTIQUITY, who for various reasons have had to consider what course they should take. At first the difficulties which were envisaged pointed to the present (December) number having to be the last of the series which began in March 1927, but after the most careful survey of all the possibilities and probabilities they decided to take courage, and at any rate plan for the year 1940. At the same time they are well aware there may be a risk of their hopes not being entirely realized.



This decision having been made, we would like to thank those of our Subscribers who quite spontaneously have written expressing in the most friendly terms their hope that ANTIQUITY will continue. They press the view that it occupies a place entirely its own, and that every endeavour should be made to avoid the gap which its end would leave for all who are interested in the subjects with which it deals. Admitted that such expressions are few compared with the number of our Subscribers, but we believe that *the majority of them will expect us to make the endeavour.*

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One of the staunchest of our friends says it is of 'paramount importance that all *foci* of Culture and Learning should be kept alive' during the present troubles, and with this we are in entire agreement. It seems to us it is right that ANTIQUITY should play its part in this effort, so that when Europe breathes freely once more, we may continue, with unabated strength, to represent what we consider an essential contribution to Learning and Progress.



Our reliance on the continued help and interest of those who have so wonderfully supported us since ANTIQUITY was established enables us to take this stand. It is only that which gives us courage; without it we quite certainly could not continue publication. We should very much dislike to make any difference in the standard, size, or the quality of the illustrations which have won fame for our Review; or change in any way the principles which have been maintained and have brought it to the position which it holds. The difficulties which now affect the production of such a journal as ANTIQUITY present financial problems which have to be carefully weighed. It is here that our Subscribers can fortify our decision, and this assistance can be given in more than one way.



First, we ask for early attention to the circular which will be found inserted in the present number (with the exception of copies posted to those who already have standing orders for payment of subscription). Those who are with us in the wish to add our service to Culture and Learning will show it by sending the subscription for the year 1940 as soon as it may be convenient. We do not as a rule post a reminder for payment until June, but under existing conditions it is most important we should know fairly closely how many copies of each number will be required. The restrictions on the use of paper make this very necessary.

Secondly, those who hitherto have not made use of payment by Bank Order would be giving the best help by doing so, and filling in that part of our circular. They save themselves trouble, and ourselves time and expense through not having to post statements.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From those who already have a standing order, but who for sufficient reason may need to consider its withdrawal (and we are of course fully alive to the pressure of the taxation which so many will feel), notice to this effect will be appreciated. At the same time we trust that ANTIQUITY will not be chosen as one of the victims of the recent Budget.

The courses mentioned will enable us to know approximately what our circulation for 1940 will be, and to avoid posting copies of the March number which are really not desired, though we earnestly hope there will not be many cancelled.



We have entered into these details in order to know where we stand. For our part, if we can meet our bills—which are by no means light—it is all we ask. The work which production involves is considerable, but so long as ANTIQUITY lives we are prepared for that, and shall do all in our power to keep the flag flying.

In due time the World will regain sanity, and much that makes life worth while will return, though we are aware that the inevitable outcome of the War will mean curtailment of many quiet pleasures.



The present number of ANTIQUITY has been planned so that it will include the usual particulars of the contents of our Volume, and an Index which is as complete as those which have preceded it. The only difference in size is a few pages less of text, which will balance the special cost of the additions mentioned.



One of the considerations which give some anxiety is the flow of contributions of articles and notes. Many writers for ANTIQUITY are on Active Service and have no present opportunity for such work. Material is essential for the life of the Review, and we hope it will continue to be offered for publication.

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Anglo-Saxon Ship-burial in Suffolk

It was our intention, as we announced in September, to make the present number one of special importance by devoting it to articles dealing with the wonderful discovery earlier this year of the Saxon ship-burial and its treasure at Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, in Suffolk. The outbreak of War prevented this, but we now hope to publish several such articles in March. That number will therefore contain the first full and authoritative description of the greatest archaeological discovery ever made in Britain.



It is already well known that Mrs E. M. Pretty, the owner of the burial-site, has most generously presented the whole of the finds to the Nation. Eventually they will form a special exhibit in the British Museum. Mrs Pretty's gift means therefore that for all time the treasure of Sutton Hoo can be studied as a whole, and these magnificent examples of Saxon workmanship examined under the best conditions.

We take the opportunity of thanking those concerned with this unprecedented revelation of Saxon days, both for this exclusive privilege thus granted to us, and for their forbearance in consequence of the inevitable postponement. The articles will be illustrated by photographs of the objects of gold, silver and bronze, and other materials, together with others taken by one of the Editors during the excavations.