

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

THE present number of ANTIQUITY completes our seventh volume and we hope it will not be considered tiresome if our Notes are concerned with domestic affairs.



The last three years must have tested the vitality of many journals, and there is evidence that even those of a popular nature have felt the economic storm which our country and all parts of the World has experienced. It has affected the means of those who always support and encourage good literature, and it has also influenced many not so affected to curtail expenditure in directions where continued support would have been most helpful, and to them we appeal particularly.



We are glad to say that in spite of difficulties ANTIQUITY has held its own and we can safely assert that its repute was never greater than now. In many respects it stands alone among the archaeological journals of the World. At the same time there are certain signs which give rise to anxious moments as to the future and cannot be ignored.

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So far we have not begun economies in the number of printed pages, or of illustrations (as will be evident from the contents of this number) but it is possible that eventually some change will have to be considered.

At the moment we do not feel that the question of such changes need be faced for the next year at any rate, and our hope is that they may be avoided altogether, for what we seek now is the help of our subscribers—those who have supported ANTIQUITY from its first number and those who began to subscribe later, and all who have encouraged us by friendly criticism and personal help.



We aim at securing at least another 500 subscribers. So far as our own efforts are concerned no opportunity is missed of introducing ANTIQUITY by means of information-leaflets and specimen copies, but there are many people (as we know from experience) who have never seen it. It is here that each one of our subscribers can help us. A card to either of the Editors (addresses on page 2 of our cover) will ensure particulars being sent to any part of the World. If at the same time a direct recommendation is given we feel sure it would have welcome results.



Another form of help by those able to give it is to subscribe for ANTIQUITY to be sent to a friend for one year (One Pound to any address). This often leads to the subscription being continued by the recipient. Several of our subscribers have for this purpose taken more than one copy of each number and a very good friend has this year been responsible for four copies.



Lastly—though we pause as to the wisdom of mentioning this—there may be some subscribers who are hesitating whether their own subscriptions shall be continued. To them we appeal on the grounds

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that ANTIQUITY makes a real contribution to knowledge. We also ask the few subscribers who have already intimated that they would not require it after the December number to alter their decision.

We would also draw attention to the notice printed on the next page.



In our last number we published some remarkable air-photographs taken in the Oxford district by Major Allen ; and we threw out a hint that it was to be hoped that other countries would soon begin exploring their countryside by the same method. We were thinking particularly of France, partly because the conditions, geological and agricultural, of that country are peculiarly favourable, and partly because this method of research is one that seems specially adapted to the French genius.



Our contemporary, the *Journal des Débats* (28 September), which never fails to inform its readers of the contents of each number of ANTIQUITY, admits the great possibilities which await the air-archaeologist in France. M. Henry de Varigny, in his column entitled 'Revue des Sciences', suggests further 'que Crawford rédigeât un manuel de l'exploration archéologique par avion et photographie aérienne'. We do not however think that we can do more than we have already done, in 'Wessex from the Air', 'Air Survey and Archaeology', and 'Air-photography for Archaeologists' (to say nothing of articles and notes in ANTIQUITY) to lay down the first principles of the method. Surely with these publications the aviator should be able to do what is required? The 50 photographs published in 'Wessex from the Air' were the only ones taken by archaeologists; all the others, until Major Allen's, were taken by pilots of the Royal Air Force in the ordinary course of their photographic duties. What our pilots can do, surely French pilots can do also. With the exceptions just noted, all our results in England have been obtained through the cooperation of archaeologists on the ground with aviators who had little or no special archaeological knowledge. It is tantalizing to think of the neglected opportunities, of the lost historical documents, so to speak, of a summer like the one just past. For an air-photograph of a

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new ancient site *is* a document of almost equal value to an original manuscript of the period ; and when that period is prehistoric, and therefore without manuscripts, it is the ideal substitute.



Since the last paragraph was written we have received a copy of the *Journal des Débats* (26 October), in which M. Henry de Varigny records the taking of air-photographs of an alleged ancient site in France. It is unfortunate that the first efforts should be wasted upon a fraud. The Côtes de Clermont, which is the site photographed, contains nothing but recent and quite modern structures of an agricultural nature, which should deceive no one with the least claim to be called an archaeologist. (We formed this opinion ourselves merely from the photographs published in *The Times*). The site of Gergovia is quite certainly the hill 7 kilometres to the south of Clermont Ferrand—a hill to which the name Dzargoy is still applied, and which was formerly called Gergoye. We recently exposed this false claim in ANTIQUITY (June 1933, pp. 216-9).



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A renewal form for subscriptions for 1934 is inserted in this number and we shall be very glad if our subscribers will return it with their cheques as promptly as they may find convenient. The forms are omitted from copies sent to subscribers who pay through banks or who have already paid for 1934.