

sided in the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. Augustus John, and at which fifty-five members and guests were present. The Gypsy Lore Society was founded in 1888 by Charles Godfrey Leland ("Hans Breitmann") and David MacRitchie of Edinburgh. Leland's enthusiasm for gypsy studies, characteristically overpowering, dated from 1870, when he settled in England for a period of years. Although he wrote several books on the gypsies between 1873 and 1882, it was not until 1888, three years after his return to England, that his desire to promote a wider interest in the investigation of the gypsy problem took practical shape in the foundation of a society devoted to that object; and indeed its formation was owing largely to his association with the organizing ability and scholarly habit of mind of MacRitchie, to whom also was due, with John Sampson and R. A. S. Macfie, the resuscitation of the Society in 1907, when it had been dormant for a period of years through lack of funds. Among the eleven original members, who formed the nucleus of the Society, were H. T. Crofton, Elizabeth Robbins Pennell, Leland's niece, famous as an interpreter of Ibsen's heroines on the stage, the Archduke Joseph of Austria, a fluent Romani linguist, Sir Richard Burton, the famous, if difficult, orientalist and traveller, Paul Bataillard, F. H. Groome, most eminent of the early students of gypsy folk-lore, and Walter Herries Pollock; while one of the earliest adherents in the United States was Mary Alicia Owen, later known as an authority on the folk-lore of the American Indian, whose early studies of the traditional tales and beliefs of the negroes of Missouri, if modelled on the "Uncle Remus" of Georgia of Joel Chandler Harris, were directly inspired by Leland's encouragement.

In an introductory article which opens a special jubilee number of the *Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society*, the editor, Archdeacon F. G. Ackerley, enumerates some of the more noteworthy contributions to the investigation of the gypsy problem which have appeared in its pages and elsewhere since the foundation of the Society. Among contributors to the *Journal*, the late Dr. John Sampson naturally takes a high place, not only on account of his linguistic studies, but also for his collection of Welsh Romani folk-tales; but it will be generally agreed that the term 'epoch-marking' here applied to Prof. R. A. S. Macalister's collection of material bearing on the language of the Nawar of Palestine is appropriate in more than a conventional and complimentary sense. It gave a new orientation to the study of the gypsy problem. Outside its own publications, the influence of the Society is to be seen in Dr. John Sampson's "Dialect of the Gypsies of Wales" (1926), which has been termed "the best of all Gypsy linguistic studies in any language" and Prof. E. Pittard's "Les Tsiganes ou Bohémiens" (1932) in which "is presented once and for all the physical anthropology of the race". Two great services the Society has performed for gypsy studies: it has abolished the pseudo-romantic rubbish which formerly passed for gypsy-lore, and it has exploded the popular

association of gypsies with Egypt by laying down the true lines for the investigation of the problem of their origin. It is difficult to say which has been the greater service to learning.

Archæological Collections in Spain

NOTWITHSTANDING reports of damage sustained by archæological collections in the museums of Madrid, it is now announced that an official verification by the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Municipality of Madrid has established the fact that the collections of both the Archæological Museum and the Anthropological Museum of Madrid are intact. Prof. Bosch Gimpera, to whom the editors of *L'Anthropologie* (48, 3-4; 1938) are indebted for the information, goes on to add that the other museums of the area under the Republican Government have been preserved from damage, while the official departments responsible for antiquities are taking every necessary precaution for their safety. As regards the museum at Valencia and the Catalan museums, Prof. Bosch Gimpera, as head of the antiquities service, is able to give his own personal assurance of their safety to his archæological colleagues outside Spain.

Italian Anthropological Expedition to Erythraea

ON his return at the close of last year from an expedition to the Tana basin of Ethiopia, Prof. L. Cipriani, director of the Anthropological Laboratory of the University of Florence, was forthwith placed in charge of an anthropological mission to northern Erythraea for the purpose of studying the little-known peoples north of Cheren. This mission was under the joint auspices of the Royal Academy of Italy and the Bureau of Colonial Studies of Florence. The expedition lasted from December 1937 until March 1938. According to a preliminary note of the results (*L'Anthropologie*, 48, 3-4; 1938), anthropometric measurements were made of 450 subjects, of whom there were 70 Bogo, 94 Maria, 26 Habab, and 159 representatives of groups adjacent to the last-named. For purposes of comparison, measurements were also made of 29 Abyssinians, as well as 30 Baria women and 20 Rasciàida. The blood groups were tested in 110 subjects. A further result of the expedition was the discovery of a large number of rock paintings in the granite caves of Carora near the Anglo-Egyptian frontier, as well as of stone implements of palæolithic type, the first to be recorded in Erythraea. Finally the expedition brought back to Italy 68 masks taken from the living, and more than two thousand photographs of ethnographical and anthropological subjects.

Stone Age Village in Yorkshire

Now that archæological research aims at the reconstruction of a cultural phase as a whole, rather than at bringing to light by excavation individual antiquities of exceptional interest or artistic merit, the announcement of the discovery of a remote but complete village of the stone age at Rinyo on the Island of Rousay, Orkney (*The Times*, July 29) has an importance which transcends the intrinsic interest of any individual object likely to be obtained there.