

## Obituary

FREDERICK BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A.

MR. BLIGH BOND, who died on 8 March 1945, was born on 30 June 1861, the third son of the Rev. Frederick H. Bond. After his education at Bath College, he studied architecture and was articled to Charles F. Hanson, and for two years worked with Sir Arthur Blomfield, R.A. He afterwards practised independently, and his principal works were the Handel Cosham Memorial Hospital, the Medical School at Bristol, and the Music School at Clifton College.

Bligh Bond was appointed Architect to the Diocesan Societies in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and in that capacity became responsible for much restoration work which was always conservative in character and free from individualism. Amongst many other of his works might be mentioned the North Chapel at Curry Rivel, the Lady Chapel at Martock, the reredoses at Ilminster and North Curry. When the Diocesan Societies were merged into the newly-formed Diocesan Board of Finance, Bligh Bond failed to obtain the post of consulting architect, and this was for him a bitter disappointment.

He joined the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society in 1903 and remained a member until his death. For the volumes of *Proceedings* for 1906, 1907 and 1908 he wrote articles on the Somerset Screens, as he had done before on the Devonshire Screens for the Devon Association; other papers on the same subject were written by him for the *Journal of the R.I.B.A.* Much of this was incorporated in the two large volumes which he wrote in collaboration with the Rev. Dom Bede Camm, and published under the name of *Roodcreens and Roodlofts* in 1909.

In the same year he published *An Architectural Handbook to Glastonbury Abbey*, and a second and revised edition was issued in 1910.

Two years before, Glastonbury Abbey had been purchased and handed over to trustees who granted the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society permission to excavate on the site, and Bligh Bond became director of the excavations. During the course of these excavations he located the two western towers, the great north porch, the form of the transepts, and much of the layout of the monastic buildings. But his most remarkable discovery was the existence of the Edgar Chapel at the east end of the choir.

There had been various theories of what Leland meant by his words, 'Abbate Beere builded Edgares Chapel at the Est End of the Church, but Abbate Whiting performed sum part of it'. There was Phelps's plan, in his unfinished history of Somerset, which showed a short projection at the east end with an apse, which he

called 'the Lady's Chapel'. In addition there is a report of a Commissioner made to Queen Elizabeth which gives a series of measurements and amongst them mentions 'The Chapter House in length 90 ft.', but seemingly in connection with the alignment of the Church itself, as he first states the whole length of the Church, 594 feet; then proceeds with particular measurements: The Chapter House 90 feet, the Quire 159 feet, the body of the Church 228 feet, the Joseph's Chapel 117 feet, making his total of 594 feet. The question in dispute was what and where were Leland's 'Edgar Chapel', Phelps's 'Lady Chapel', and the Commissioner's 'Chapter House'. Professor Willis, Mr. James Parker and Professor E. A. Freeman had all given varying answers. In 1903-4 the late Sir William St. John Hope, finding no traces of foundations east of the choir, gave it as his opinion that the Church terminated as that of Abbey Dore with four parallel chapels, and that there could have been no such extension as a central chapel.

Bligh Bond re-opened the subject and in the presence of the writer he probed and came down upon the south-west angle of the west wall of the chapel. When completely excavated the internal length of the chapel proved to be 87 feet; allowing 3 feet for the thickness of the east wall that would give the 90 feet of the Commissioner's 'Chapter House'.

At the extreme east end at a higher level were found two converging trenches of a different character which did not meet. Bond argued that they were united by a cross-wall and so formed the foundations of a straight-sided apse to the chapel. Others have maintained that these could only have been drains. The writer, who was present when the trenches were revealed, can vouch for their existence, but he was always doubtful if they could have sustained any important structure. On the other hand he feels strongly that the trenches should be indicated on any plan of the excavations.

A series of well-illustrated reports on these excavations was published in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archaeological Society, vols. liv-lxii, lxv and lxxii. In *The Gate of Remembrance* published in 1918 Bligh Bond told the story of the means by which he was led to re-open the question, and put his theory to the test of excavation.

In later life he spent some time in the United States of America, and on returning home did not resume his architectural practice. In 1936 Bond gave a portion of his Library to the Society, and these books are listed in Part I of this volume. He was seen from time to time at our meetings, and later settled at Dolgelly where he died.

G. W. SAUNDERS.

## The RT. HON. LORD HYLTON, F.S.A.

(PLATE VII)

SIR HYLTON GEORGE HYLTON JOLLIFFE, Bt., third Baron Hylton, of Hylton in the County Palatine of Durham and of Petersfield, was born on 10 November 1862, second child but only son of Hedworth, second Lord Hylton, by Agnes Mary Georgiana, eldest daughter of George, second Earl of Strafford. He was educated at Eton and at Oriel College, Oxford. In 1888 he entered the diplomatic service and served in Constantinople, at The Hague, and in Paris, Vienna, and Stockholm.

In 1895 he was elected to represent the Wells Division of Somerset, and on 29 August in the following year he married Lady Alice Adelina Hervey, younger daughter of the third Marquess of Bristol. On 31 October 1899 he succeeded his father in the peerage. For some years he held a commission in the North Somerset Imperial Yeomanry, retiring as a captain. In 1915, Lord Hylton was appointed a Lord-in-Waiting, and became Joint Chief Government Whip in the House of Lords till 1922. In May 1918 he became Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard and continued in office until 1924.<sup>1</sup>

Lord Hylton was elected a member of the Somerset Archæological Society in 1900, and in 1911 was elected a trustee and remained so up to the time of his death. In 1911 also he became the Society's President at the Annual Meeting held at Frome, when the members were entertained at Ammerdown. Subsequently he became one of the Vice-presidents of the Society. In 1906 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and in 1909 became a member of the Court of the University of Bristol.

The Somerset Archæological Society published Lord Hylton's presidential address (*Proceedings*, lvii, i, 14-22), which was followed by these papers:

'Two Fourteenth-Century Manor Houses' (Writhlington and Hassage), vol. lxxiii, 50-56.

'The Manor Houses of Hardington and Vallis,' vol. lxxiv, 78-86.

'Kilmersdon Manor House,' vol. lxxv, 42-45.

'Babington House and High Downside,' vol. lxxvi, 39-45.

Lord Hylton was the author of several historical and political books, and published in 1910 *Notes on the History of Kilmersdon*—a work covering nearly 300 pages and containing a map of the district and some pedigrees. In 1932 he printed privately an account of the Somerset Fencible Cavalry. In a pamphlet Lord Hylton described certain 'tracts' in the Ammerdown Library; and in 1939 another appeared on the Parish of Hemington.

<sup>1</sup> The particulars above are taken, for the most part, from *The Times* of 28 May 1945.



THE RT. HON. LORD HYLTON, F.S.A.

*From a Portrait by T. Van Oss, 1836*

Among the documents Lord Hylton gave the Society were the original returns, dated 1804, of live and dead stock, etc., which were to be removed in case of invasion from twenty-six parishes in his neighbourhood (*Proceedings*, lxviii, p. xcviij).

Lord Hylton was keenly interested in and a generous contributor to the excavations conducted in 1927-29 on behalf of the Society by the undersigned at Kingsdown Camp, parish of Mells. The site was close to Ammerdown, and Lord Hylton and his friends were frequent visitors to this series of excavations.<sup>2</sup>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

<sup>2</sup> The work proved of great archæological interest, a fully illustrated report appearing in *Archæologia*, lxxx, 59-98. This very small camp was of more than one period; the outer ditch proved to be pre-Flavian, and was in all probability dug in the Claudius-Nero period; the inner ditch, of late pre-historic date, had silted up before the Romans arrived.