

OBITUARY NOTICES

SIR CYRIL FOX

Sir Cyril Fox died on 15 January 1967, aged 84, after a long illness. A brilliant scholar and a man of many interests, his books are well known and widely read as archaeological classics, especially *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923) and *Personality of Britain* (1932). He was a great field worker and surveyed and later published the full survey of the great earthwork between England and Wales called Offa's Dyke. His career was distinguished; from Keeper of Archaeology he later became Director of the National Museum of Wales, a post which he held from 1926 until his retirement in 1948. He was knighted in 1935 and won many further honours, becoming Fellow of the British Academy, and President of both the Society of Antiquaries and the Council for British Archaeology from 1944 to 1949.

Sir Cyril was President of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1950/51. He had always been deeply interested in the cultural interaction between the two shores of the Bristol Channel and his Presidential Address was largely devoted to a discussion of parallels between cultures and techniques from the Bronze Age onwards in Somerset and South Wales. The Address concluded with some valuable observations on King Alfred's campaign against the Danes in 878.

In my early career I was indebted to Sir Cyril for much good advice for which I shall always remember him with gratitude.

R.S.S.

WILFRID LEIGHTON, F.S.A.

Mr. Wilfrid Leighton, F.S.A., High Sheriff of Somerset in 1953 and President of the Society in 1958, died on 12 April 1967 aged 81. Born in Bishops Wearmouth near Sunderland, Wilfrid Leighton was a chartered accountant whose professional life was centred in Bristol where he was well known for his work for the charities of the City, having been for thirty years clerk to the Governors of Bristol Grammar School, the Red Maids School and Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, and secretary to the Trustees of the Bristol Municipal Charities. Living first at Burnett Manor and later in Bath, Wilfrid Leighton had many interests in Somerset as well as in Bristol. He was a county magistrate for thirty years, first chairman of the Somerset branch of the Magistrates' Association and one of the last lay justices to act as a chairman at Somerset Quarter Sessions. He served as a captain in the army in World War I, and in various capacities in the Civil Defence organization in World War II. He was keenly interested in local history and was for many years on the Councils both of the Bristol and Gloucestershire and the Somerset Archaeological Societies, being President of the former in 1947. He had also been a member of the Council of the Somerset Record Society since 1955 and was chairman 1962-1965. In a busy life, he also found

time to be a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee of Bristol and Bath and Wells, and to play a leading part in the rescue and restoration of the Theatre Royal at Bristol.

He will be much missed by his many friends and by all those connected with the societies and good causes with which he was associated, who have reason to remember with gratitude the wise advice and generous assistance which he gave them over the years and the unhurried way in which he always seemed to find time to deal with their needs.

The Society wishes to express its deepest sympathy with Mrs. Leighton and her family.

S.W.R.

SIR FRANK STENTON, F.B.A.

The Council also records with deep regret the death during the year of Sir Frank Stenton, the distinguished historian and author of *Anglo-Saxon England* (Oxford, 1943). Like Sir Cyril Fox and Mr. Leighton, he was President of this Society; his Address, "Wessex beyond Selwood", given on the occasion of the 1959 Annual Meeting was unfortunately never written down and published.

JOHN COWLEY, M.A., F.R.E.S.

John Cowley was born at Albourne, near Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, and died at Weston-super-Mare in June, 1967, aged 58. He came to live at Edington, Somerset, in 1943, and it was due to his initiative that, with the support of the late Arthur Turner, the Entomological Section of the Society was re-formed in 1949. He acted as Hon. Secretary of that Section until the Natural History Section was formed in 1953 when he became its Assistant Hon. Secretary and one of its representatives on the Council until 1960. He was Chairman of the Natural History Section from 1957 to 1960, during which time he served on the Executive Committee of the Council.

As a child of six John Cowley was already teaching his elder sister the names of butterflies and moths and the plants on which the caterpillars fed. His special interest in dragonflies (including fossil *Odonata*) developed during his years at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and in later years he also took up the study of flies. He bequeathed his collections of *Odonata* and *Diptera* to the British Museum (Natural History). His sister has kindly given his extensive insect records to the Society.

John Cowley contributed records of at least ten Orders of insects and of spiders to the *Proceedings* of the Society. He published papers in the *Journal of the Royal Entomological Society of London* and in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

One of the last tasks he undertook for the Society was the cataloguing of the natural history books in the Library. He was quiet, gentle and unassuming, but always ready to help other naturalists from his store of expert knowledge.

O.M.H.