

OBITUARIES

URSULA HALLIDAY, MA

An Address Given in St Mary's Church, Oare, 22 March 1992

Ursula Halliday was born on 17 November 1928. Her father, Harold Rhodes, was an artist specialising in stained glass and church carving who became principal of Bradford College of Art. Ursula attended Bradford Girls' Grammar School where she was head girl. She won an exhibition to Cambridge where she obtained a first class honours degree in English Language, Literature, Life and Thought, and was awarded the Newnham College Prize in 1949. In the same year she married Ben Halliday and subsequently had four children, of whom three survive her. When they were all at school or university she taught for a short time at Ruskin College, Oxford, and was an active member of the National Council of Women. When Ben inherited his family land at Glenthorne, they settled there permanently. How fortunate for Exmoor and for us all that they did.

The richness of Ursula's life completely belied the misconception of some town dwellers that people have nothing to do in the country. She played a full part in the life of the locality. At countless events she would be there, helping with quiet efficiency, and adding a brightness by the warmth of her personality and her interest in everyone. She was a fine musician and was organist at Oare Church for nearly 20 years. Indeed, she helped this church in all sorts of ways: I remember the newspaper photograph of Ursula, Ben, and friends wearing gumboots and carrying a variety of implements – I think they had been mending the tower. Ursula worked hard on the Management Committee and later on the League of Friends Committee of Lynton Cottage Hospital – the hospital which looked after her so well in her last days.

She was always a voracious reader and her scholarship, combined with her artistic upbringing, made her able, during the course of her life, to revive and refurbish with great success a number of pleasantly-situated houses, including Glenthorne, Yenworthy and Ashton. There she created an atmosphere which always made people feel welcome. She also became interested in research into the history of the locality, studying documents going back to medieval times. Her talks to local societies and groups are remembered not just for the fascinating information they contained, but for the lively way in which she presented it. Even being snowed up at Glenthorne did not defeat her: she once dictated her paper over the telephone so that a friend could read it to a meeting. Ursula played an important part in the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, and in 1988 was made Vice Chairman. Her influence was quickly felt. Local history activities blossomed under her leadership, and we were all looking forward to her becoming Chairman in the future.

She seemed to move easily between her variety of occupations, and to have a zest

for each – from her many local commitments to providing support when a grandchild was born, from helping on the farm to being absorbed in academic research. One moment she would be making mince pies, the next saying ‘I’ll look it up in my Anglo-Saxon dictionary’ in much the same way as most people would say ‘I’ll look it up in the telephone directory’. Everyone has their own special memories of Ursula. I think particularly of her warmth and friendly smile, of her sense of humour, of interesting conversations and perceptive comments, of her concern for others and complete lack of egotism, of her dignity and bravery.

Ursula will be much and widely missed. We feel great sympathy for her family. We are glad and grateful to have known her.

ELIZABETH GASS

LEONARD CHARLES HAYWARD, BA, BSc (Econ.), FSA

Born at Devizes in 1906, Leonard Hayward was educated at Devizes Grammar School and at University College, London, graduating in history and later in economics. Before coming to Somerset in 1945, he taught at Malmesbury, Whitehaven, Henley, and Chingford. He then became Senior History Master and Librarian of Yeovil School, and, together with his wife Norah, commenced excavations at Lufton Roman villa. Work at the villa continued annually until 1952, and then again between 1960 and 1963, with the assistance of Yeovil School Archaeological Society (which he had formed) and girls from Yeovil High School.

In 1954, he was invited to collaborate with the late John Goodchild, together with the late E.A. Batty, in writing a history of Yeovil to celebrate the centenary of the incorporation of the borough. It was following this that Leonard Hayward called a meeting which resulted in the formation of Yeovil Archaeological Field Club (now Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society), and a committee was formed of E.A. Batty, J. Stevens Cox, C. Tavender, and E.H. Silcox, with Mr Hayward as chairman, a position he continued to fill until 1975.

It was also in 1954 that he commenced direction of five short seasons of excavation at the Roman villa at Ilchester Mead, again with Yeovil School Archaeological Society assisted by girls from Yeovil High School and members of Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society. It was these excavation works which earned him a fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries. A member of the Council of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, he was president in 1980. On his retirement from school work in 1965, having in the meantime reorganised the school’s museum, he became secretary-treasurer of *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset* for the next 23 years, and was a frequent contributor to that journal. Between 1966 and 1970, he served, under Sir Mortimer Wheeler’s presidency, as a member of the Camelot Research Committee, formed in connection with the excavations at Cadbury Castle directed by Leslie Alcock. He was also for many years a member of Ilchester Town Trust.

In 1954, he had been co-opted as a member of Yeovil Borough Library and Museum Committee, and when this committee ceased under local government reorganisation in 1974, he became leader of Yeovil Museum Working Party, consisting of a small group of voluntary workers carrying out curatorial duties. This led, in 1982, to the formation of the Friends of Yeovil Museum (now the Museum of South Somerset) of which he became first chairman and co-ordinator. He continued in that capacity until his resignation in 1987, when he was presented with a commemorative scroll in recognition of his long and valued services by the chairman of South Somerset District Council. In addition, the

gallery of the museum in which archaeology is featured has been named the Hayward Gallery.

Publication of reports on his excavations were *The Roman Villa at Lufton near Yeovil* (1972), and *Ilchester Mead Roman Villa* (1982). His other publications included *A Yeovil Town Walk* (1975), *Yeovil Almshouses* (1976), *The Romans at Ilchester, Lufton, Yeovil and District* (1978), as co-author with R.W. McDowell *The George Hotel, Yeovil* (n.d.), and, with the writer, *Bygone Yeovil* (1980). But perhaps the work which gave him most pleasure was that produced in 1987 – the result of 30 years' research – *From Portreeve to Mayor, the Growth of Yeovil 1750–1854*, which deals with the remarkable growth of that town in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Leonard Hayward, who died on 25 March 1992, leaving a wife and daughter, will long be remembered with affection, not only by those who came into contact with him in the course of archaeological digs, museum work, and local history lectures, but also by a multitude of scholars for whom his patience and quiet good humour made the teaching of history and archaeology a welcome subject in the school curriculum.

LESLIE BROOKE

WILFRED ARTHUR SEABY, MA, FSA, FMA

Wilfred Seaby, former Secretary of the Society and Keeper of the County Museum, died at Solihull on 30 October 1991, aged 81. Born in 1910, he was educated at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and acquired a considerable knowledge and love of art from his father, Professor Allen W. Seaby, head of the School of Art at Reading University. Although he began his career in 1927 with the London numismatists B.A. Seaby Ltd, he soon found his true vocation in museum work, joining the staff of Reading Museum in 1931. He became Assistant in Archaeology at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery four years later, and, having served during the Second World War in the RAF Photographic Intelligence Section, returned to Birmingham in 1946 as Keeper of the Department of Archaeology, Numismatics and Metalworks.

When Harold St George Gray retired as Secretary of the Society in 1949, after a tenure of 48 years, Wilfred Seaby was appointed to succeed him. The Society was in its centenary year, and Seaby found members not only remembering the achievements of the past, but thinking hard about the future. By 1950, he and the Chairman, A.W. Vivian-Neal, were writing of the 'fundamental changes' overtaking the Society. Museum attendances had increased dramatically since 1935; educational use of the collections was burgeoning; but the financial base on which the Society rested seemed increasingly insecure, despite the annual grants by then being received from Somerset County Council.

In the short time he remained at Taunton, Wilfred Seaby was unable to carry through all the changes which he and others thought necessary. But much was achieved, none the less, and the present basic form of the museum owes much to his ideas: the library was reorganised; new office accommodation was provided; and in 1952 major repairs to the Castle began. Work centred on the Great Hall – excavated that year by Dr Raleigh Radford and A.D. Hallam – and by the time Seaby resigned his post at the end of 1952, plans had been drawn up for the installation in the Great Hall of the 18th century staircase from St. Mary Redcliffe Vicarage, and negotiations were complete which would bring the Low Ham Roman pavement to Taunton. His colleagues at Taunton might be apt to tear their hair

over some of Wilfred Seaby's more impulsive decisions, and on his departure they inherited a museum in upheaval where the major work of reorganisation still remained to be done. But they remembered him, nevertheless, as a lovable and intellectually stimulating man, as a good companion, and as someone who inspired many members of the Society to take a deeper interest in Somerset archaeology. Practical courses in excavation (at Catsgore and Littleton, for example) were among his innovations.

Seaby left Taunton to become a distinguished Director of Belfast Museum and Art Gallery (later the Ulster Museum), remaining there until his retirement in 1970. He published extensively on archaeological and numismatic subjects, and his article 'Coinage from Ham Hill in the County Museum, Taunton' appeared in volume 95 of these *Proceedings*. He is survived by his wife Nora, whom he married in 1937. They had two sons and one daughter.

T.W.M.

VIRGINIA CASTLE, BA

Virginia Castle, Chairman of the Society's Local History Committee, died on 4 May 1992 at the age of only 56. Mrs Castle was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and graduated in psychology from the Open University. She and her husband Stanley Castle moved to Cocklake near Wedmore in 1985, and in the same year she became a member of the Society. She was soon an active member of the Local History Committee, which, though she was a keen genealogist, remained her chief interest, and whose Chairman she became in succession to Mrs Ursula Halliday. Mrs Castle was also Secretary of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society, and was working on a biography of Richard Trew of Axbridge at the time of her death. It will now be completed by her husband. To him the Society offers its sympathy at so sad and untimely a loss.

B.W.W.

BRYAN WILLIAM MOORE, FRES

Bryan Moore, a natural history recorder for the Society, died at Upper Swainswick, near Bath, on 15 February 1992, surrounded by his family and amid the countryside he loved so much. He had bravely borne many years of suffering from Parkinson's Disease. He was born in 1919 and served in the Royal Engineers throughout the Second World War before returning to the family business as a building surveyor. He was a committed Christian, and as churchwarden of St Michael's Church, Bath, fought a long battle to keep the church open when the Diocese wished to dispose of it. The church's present ministry is a living memorial to the success of his campaign. His life was enriched by his great love of creation in all its forms, and in addition to his membership of this Society, he was a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and a member of numerous other organisations concerned with natural history and nature conservation.

Bryan Moore will be remembered for his keen mind and wide interests, and was an inspiration to many younger naturalists. He leaves a wife and twin daughters, all of whom have followed him in his interests.

R.M.