



Christopher Lewis Wykes, F.C.A. — an Obituary

The Society records with deep regret the death on 20 April 1985 of one of its longest serving, active members of an older tradition, Christopher Wykes. The Wykes' family traditions of service to the city and the county are very ancient indeed, and Christopher's many and varied contributions to that tradition are quite unique.

Coming from a professional background within this very English city, his education followed a predictable course. From Stoneygate School he won a scholarship to Uppingham in 1926 — a public school long associated with the education of generations of Wykes's — and was articled to the family firm of Chartered Accountants. He remained a member of that firm, renowned for its probity and astuteness, for forty years ending up as Senior Partner in 1967.

But what made him the interesting and enthusiastic person we all knew were the other varied interests he managed to follow in addition to his contribution to a busy and exacting profession. At Uppingham in the sixth-form he read the classics as well as the science course, some indication of what was to follow. His intellectual capacity made this no burden for a man who was to pass out eighth in all England in the intermediate examination of his profession.

Throughout his life he remained a deeply religious man, closely associated with the life of the Unitarian Church within the city and further afield. He was a member of the committee of Manchester College, Oxford, and his financial expertise was to be used to great advantage in the area of stipends and welfare of unitarian ministers.

His connections with the Leicester Symphony Orchestra go back over fifty years. He played the bassoon and the contra-bassoon — formidable instruments! He was congratulated by a certain Dr Malcolm Sargent for his skill and fortitude at the first concert given by the L.S.O. under the later Sir Malcolm Sargent. A further great physical passion practiced over many years was cycling, regarded in those pre-war days before the advent of the modern cult of fitness as mildly eccentric for a professional man, though this image was to be slightly marred by the concurrent adoption of a series of large briar pipes!

Again following the best of family traditions he played a distinguished and active part in both local and provincial Freemasonry. These activities were interrupted by a busy period of war service, in Northern Ireland, Algeria, Belgium and Germany, ending up with the rank of Captain.

It was the post-war period that brought Christopher Wykes into a further facet of his wide-ranging interests, The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. In the usual, genteel ways of that period he was 'invited' to join in 1948. He subsequently served with distinction as Treasurer from 1948 to 1969, as a member of the Committee from 1948 to 1983 and as an elected Vice President from 1984 until his death early this year. To all these varied and honorary activities Christopher gave his time, his generosity and his renowned financial expertise. All this experience was to be used in the compilation and

writing of a short but indispensable layman's guide to the setting up of *Charitable Subscriptions under Deeds of Covenant*, published in 1955 and running to a second edition the following year.

Yet as many of the members of the Society who remember him will recall; Christopher Wykes made a much wider, and more learned contribution to its life. My own personal memories of conversations and committee meetings with this extraordinarily warm Englishman, were his breadth of reading in virtually every branch of the humanities, particularly History and Literature. There was, in addition, his enormous enthusiasm for the activities of the Society always reflected in the bubbling yet precise nature of his conversation. A love of life, an enthusiasm for the things that matter, we shall all have to learn to live without.

DANIEL WILLIAMS

Miss Winifred Herrington, B.A. — an Obituary

The Society notes with regret the passing of Miss Winifred Herrington on 5th February 1985 at Croscombe near Wells, Somerset, at the grand age of 86.

Her career as a school teacher was spent largely in Somerset where she eventually held the headships of a number of primary schools within that authority. On retirement she came to Leicester and quickly made her mark in the Society, serving on the committee from the early 1960's until her return to Somerset seven years ago. She will be chiefly remembered for her inspired contributions to the Society's excursions as organiser, secretary and instigator. It was no accident that excursions, as an important aspect of our function, lost ground since her return to Somerset.

Miss Herrington was a lady of hidden depths and high intellectual attainments, particularly as a linguist. It was in this field that she made an easily forgotten yet vitally important contribution in the indexing of *Transactions* over a number of years. For Miss Herrington — I have never dared call her anything else — the most vital aspect of linguistic studies was her own native tongue, English. It was in this context that I, as Editor of *Transactions*, came to know her best. Her letters to me over the years contain many indignant protestations — often justified — about the declining standards of English grammar and syntax amongst contributors to *Transactions*. Her comments were shrewd, precise and entirely apposite, especially to me as Editor who had already done a great deal to make literary sense of the first draft of the article before it reached Miss Herrington in its page proof form.

But her greatest asset as an indexer was her marvellous knowledge of Leicestershire topography, acquired during her enthusiastic interest in local history at the libraries, the Record Office and, of course, at the Guildhall. She will be sadly missed, and to make the point there will be no index to this current volume as a fitting memorial to her invaluable contribution to *Transactions* over many years.

It is sad that the Society has lost so many of its active members over the last few years and Miss Herrington, elected a Vice President for her contributions, certainly comes into that category. Her loss leaves a discernable gap in our activities, the more so because, as in the case of excursions, that gap has hitherto been impossible to fill.

DANIEL WILLIAMS