# The Heron-Allen Society

Newsletter
no. 1

Spring 2001

## SOCIETY NEWS

**The Heron-Allen Society was formed at a meeting at the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester on 5 June 2000.**

**Objectives: It was agreed that the objectives of the Society should be to study and record all aspects of the life and interests of Edward Heron Allen, 1861-1943 and to promote his work. It was further agreed that the Society would encourage the publication of biographical material, perhaps first in separate studies relating to his different interests, with the final target of a complete biography.**

Edward Heron-Allen,
(1861-1943) c.1920

**Activities:** It was agreed that there would be regular meetings, perhaps once a year, which should include at least one talk on an aspect of his activities to be followed by a meal or social gathering. Normally the talk or talks will be published and distributed to members, and should form part of the biographical project. It was further agreed that a newsletter would be published annually and that archive material relating to Edward Heron-Allen and his family should be collected and preserved in the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester.

**Archives:** Archive material will, if possible be deposited in the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester, where it will be added to and catalogued with the existing Heron-Allen collections. Owners of material may choose to deposit material on indefinite loan, thus retaining their ownership and their right to withdraw material. There will be no restriction on access unless specified by the owner.

**Website:** It was felt desirable for the Society to have a website. Initially Ray Russell has put information about Edward Heron-Allen, including a biography, a bibliography and information about the Society on his own Tartarus Press website (http://freepages.pavilion.net/users/tartarus/blayre4.htm).

## Officers:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairman/Archivist | Timothy McCann | West Sussex Record Office<br>County Hall, Chichester.<br>West Sussex. PO19 1RN<br>Tel: 01243 753616 |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Ivor Jones | Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row<br>Shaftsbury Dorset. SP7 OQH<br>Tel: 01747 838201 |
| Minutes Secretary | Peter Wilkinson | West Sussex Record Office<br>County Hall, Chichester,<br>West Sussex. PO19 1RN<br>Tel: 01243 753618 |

**Membership**: It was agreed that Members would pay a fee (a minimum of £10) on joining. For this they will receive the newsletter, information about the annual colloquium and information about the Society's activities. Any Society publication will normally be paid for separately. For more information please write to the Secretary.

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# FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The first annual Heron-Allen Society Symposium will be held in the Conference Room at West Sussex Record Office, Orchard Street, Chichester at 11.00am on Saturday 7 July 2001.

## PROGRAMME

Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

'Personal Recollections of Edward Heron-Allen'; given by his grandson Ivor Jones

'Edward Heron-Allen's Collection of Scarabs', given by his grand daughter Liza Wood

'Princess Daphne', by Ray Russell

Discussion

Lunch

Annual Subscription and Treasurers Report

Members Forum

Those wishing to attend the Symposium please contact the Secretary, Ivor Jones at Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftsbury, Dorset. SP7 OQH

# PUBLICATIONS

## Relating to Heron-Allen

### Recent Books

Edward Heron-Allen, *The Collected Papers of Christopher Blayre*. (Tartarus Press, 1998). [viii] +257pp. ISBN 1 872621 35 X. £25.
[out of print, although a few copies will be available at the Symposium in July]

Although it is possible to find copies of *The Purple Sapphire*, later published as *The Selected Strange Papers of Christopher Blayre*, his two later volumes of short stories are impossibly rare. "The Cheetah-Girl" withdrawn at the time on the grounds of obscenity, was subsequently issued in a limited edition of only 20. Similarly, only 100 copies of *Some Women of the University* were published.
These "strange papers", deposited with the fictional Christopher Blayre, Registrar of the University of Cosmopoli, are the weird and supernatural experiences of the professional staff of the University. By contrast, the Cambridge dons of M.R. James lead sheltered and uneventful lives.
*The Collected Strange Papers* contain: The Purple Sapphire, The House of the Way to Hell, Aalila, The Mirror that Remembered, Purpura Lapillus, Mano Pantea, The Thing that Smelt, The Blue Cockroach, The Man who killed the Jew, The Demon, The Book, The Cosmic Dust, The Cheetah Girl, "Zum Wildbad", The Boots, Another Squaw?, Passifloa Vindicta.

### Articles

Ray Russell, 'Edward Heron-Allen and Christopher Blayre', in *The Antiquarian Book Monthly*, May 2000.
This was reprinted in *Tartarus Press. A Christmas Miscellany, 2000* (2000), 16-18.

### Forthcoming Books

*The Princess Daphne* by Edward Heron-Allen, with an introduction by R.B. Russell.

From the author who later wrote under the pseudonym of Christopher Blayre (The Cheetah-Girl), this entertaining novel was written in the 1880s, set in the 1870s., but is very much a part of the flowering decadent and aesthetic movement of the "naughty" 1890s. Oscar Wilde (a friend of Heron-Allen's) is not only mentioned by name, but his spirit is invoked in this cosmopolitan tale of bohemian artists and their complex, intertwining love-lives. Princess Daphne is often described as a tale of psychic vampirism, but is in reality a story of mesmerism, doppelgangers and metempsychosis. In New York a fascinating creole mesmerist uses the beautiful and dying Mahmoure as his subject for mesmerism, allowing him to observe the elegant and equally beautiful Princess Daphne in London. But the process saps his strength as it gives Mahmoure life, and upon his death, reunites him with his doppelganger. Essentially an unconventional love-story, in which Heron-Allen allows himself to stray into the realms of alternative sexuality, the novel is an amusing commentary on the late-19th century social scene.

£27.50. Limited to 250 copies. Dustjacket. Illustrated boards. 256+ pages.
ISBN 1 872621 57 0
Projected publication date: to be launched at the Edward Heron-Allen Symposium.

Brian W. Harvey and Carol Fitzgerald, (eds.), *Sussex Shore to Flanders Field - A Journal of the Great War by Edward Heron-Allen* will be jointly published by Sussex Record Society and Phillimore & Co., in 2002.

At the beginning of his War Journal Heron-Allen makes it clear that he had not attempted to write a factual history: he was concerned to explain and describe what it was like to live through the war, mainly in Sussex but also in London. He used his own

personal means to help form the Sussex volunteers, his linguistic skill to edit the propaganda journal - Le Courrier de l'Air - which was sent over enemy lines, and he visited and observed the Western Front. Heron-Allen's journal gives a vivid description of his perspective on English life both at the start of the Great War and its transformation during the ensuing five years. It was a transformation that would end forever the type of existence that Heron-Allen and his "tribe of 25" had enjoyed before 1914.

For more information please write to the Honorary Secretary, Sussex Record Society, West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 1RN.

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## LITERARY ORIGINALS

In his War Diary, Heron-Allen wrote on 9 February 1919: 'I sent my 'squib' on the 'sitting face' to Arthur Humphreys, the literary bookseller of 'Hatchards', who accepted it at once for his delightful magazine 'Books of Today' and asked me to add a paragraph to fill a page. I signed it 'Flavian' which is the name I have gone by among my intimate friends since Walter Pater wrote 'Marius the Epicurian' in the early eighties, modelling his character 'Flavian' upon what I was as a boy of twenty-one'.
Has anyone any evidence for Heron-Allen's statement?

Heron-Allen is also supposed to have been one of the models for Louis Glober in Anthony Powell's sequence of novels: *A Dance to the Music of Time*.
Again, has anyone any evidence for this attribution?

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## THE HERON-ALLEN COLLECTION AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

In October 1915 Heron-Allen made a will bequeathing to Arthur Earland, his collaborator, for his lifetime and subsequently to the British Museum (Natural History) his books, microscopes, apparatus, specimens and materials of every kind connected with Foraminifera. However in 1925 he asked permission of the Trustees to house his collection for up to a year because of problems with environmental conditions at Large Acres in Selsey, and in 1926 he presented his collection to the Museum. His final will in 1943 confirmed the gift. The collection was first described in 1927 by R. Kirkpatrick in 'The Heron-Allen Collection of foraminifera' in *the Natural History Magazine,* vol. 1, 27-30. Heron-Allen's 25 year partnership with Arthur Earland and their type slide collection is described by R.L. Hodgkinson in 'The Heron-Allen & Earland Type Slide Collection of Faraminifera in the British Museum (Natural History)', in *The Journal of Micropalaeontology*, vol. 8, (1989), 149-56. The Museum has a whole room, designated as 'The Heron-Allen Room' decorated by his portrait, which is open to researchers, though not to the general public'.

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## THE HERON-ALLEN PLAQUE

Selsey Regeneration is an organisation concerned with the revival of the town and seeks to promote tourism in the area. As part of this initiative it has promoted the erection a series of plaques around Selsey as part of the Selsey Heritage Trail. This is part of the West Sussex Blue Plaque scheme, under which 25 such plaques have already been erected. Ten plaques will be erected, one of which will be fixed on a commercial property in High Street, Selsey, which is by the site of the former main driveway to Heron-Allen's house - Large Acres.

The wording of the plaque is still in draft and has not been finalised, and members are asked to comment. The draft reads: 'Edward Heron-Allen / 1861-1943 / lawyer / scholar & polymath / lived at 'Large Acres' / a house formerly near this site / His writings included / ancient Persian literature / musicology, palmistry / Selsey local history / marine biology / esoteric fiction'. At the moment no date has been fixed for the erection of the Heron-Allen plaque, but it will probably be unveiled in the autumn of this year.

*For more information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftsbury Dorset. SR7 OQH.*
*Contributions for the Newsletter should be sent to Timothy McCann, West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 1RN*

Ref:EHA3
Phone 01 747 838 201
E. mail will follow shortly

Ivor E. Jones
Sweets Farmhouse
Stour Row
Shaftesbury
Dorset SP7 0QH

15th June, 2000

Dear

Enclosed are the Inaugural Minutes of the Heron-Allen Society.

If you have any memorabilia of Edward Heron-Allen please let me know; when he died in 1943 his very extensive library was sold piece-meal and no records were kept.

Further Opuscula will cover his book-plates, his collection of Scarabs and Egyptiania (20 years before Carter!), Foraminifera study at Clare Island, County Mayo (possibly in situ). If you have any subject again please let me know.

Looking forward to your membership of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Ivor E. Jones

# THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

Inaugural Minutes

At a meeting at the West Sussex Record Office on 5 June 2000 it was decided to form the Heron-Allen Society.

Present: Ivor Jones, (grandson of Edward Heron-Allen), Brian Harvey, Carol Harvey, Timothy McCann, Ray Russell and Peter Wilkinson.

Objectives

To study and record all aspects of the life and interests of Edward Heron-Allen and to promote his work.

Additionally the Society will encourage the publication of biographical material, perhaps first in separate studies relating to his different interests and with the final target of a complete biography.

Activities

There will be regular meetings, perhaps annually, which should include at least one talk on an aspect of his activities, and a meal or social gathering. Normally the talk will be published and distributed to members – and should form part of the biographical project mentioned above.

A newsletter should be published annually.

Archive material relating to Edward Heron-Allen and his family will be collected and preserved.

Officers

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| Secretary/Treasurer: | Ivor Jones, | Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SR7 0QH (01747 838201) |
| Chairman/Archivist: | Timothy McCann, | West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RN (01243 753600) |
| Minutes Secretary: | Peter Wilkinson | West Sussex Record Office (as above) |

Finance

Members will pay a fee ( a minimum of £10) on joining. For this they will receive the newsletter and information about the Society's activities. Any publications will normally be paid for separately.

It was resolved that an account in the name of the Society will be opened with the Shaftesbury Branch of the HSBC and that the signatories will be Ivor Jones and Timothy McCann.

Archives

Archive material will, if possible, be deposited in the West Sussex Record Office, where it will be added to the existing Heron-Allen collections. Owners of material may choose to deposit on indefinite loan, thus retaining their ownership and their right to withdraw material. There will be no restriction on access unless specified by the owner.

Members will be asked to provide details of their own holdings of Heron-Allen material.

Programme

A newsletter will be sent out as soon as possible to everyone we have identified as having an interest in EH-A

A Symposium will be arranged at the West Sussex Record Office, in 2001. If possible it will be during the Chichester Festivities in June or July so that it can make use of the publicity. The main feature will be a talk by Ivor Jones on personal recollections of EH-A; and contributions on specific aspects will be sought from other members.

A Launch/Symposium will be held in 2002 to mark the publication of Brian and Carol Harvey's edition of the EH-A War Diary. Arrangements will be discussed with Phillimores and the Sussex Record Society as part of the promotion of the book.

Website

It is desirable for the Society to have a Website. Initially, Ray Russell has put information, including a bibliography, on his own Tartarus website (http://freepages.pavilion.net/users/tartarus/blayre4.htm) and will investigate the possibilities of acquiring a domain name (ideally "heron-allen.com") and setting up our own site.

The meeting closed with a toast in punch (EH-A's personal recipe) to the memory of Edward Heron-Allen and to the future of the Society.

*Peter Wilkinson* *Minutes Secretary* *12 June 2000*

# The Heron-Allen Society

13th February, 2001.

Sweets Farmhouse,
Stour Row,
Shaftesbury,
DORSET
SP7 OQH
01747 838 201.

Dear John

Enclosed is the Agenda for our first Symposium, plus directions of how to get to the West Sussex Record Office and a list of accommodations. I advise early booking as the Chichester Festival will be in full swing.

Very much looking forward to seeing you,

Yours sincerely,

Ivor Jones
Secretary.

# The Heron-Allen Society

## THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY FIRST SYMPOSIUM.

To be held in the **Conference Room, West Sussex Record Office at Chichester** on Saturday 7th July, 2001 at 11a.m.

Agenda.

1. Welcome and Opening Address by the Chairman.

2. 'Personal Recollections of Edward Heron-Allen' given by his grand-son Ivor Jones.

3. 'Edward Heron-Allen's Collection of Scarabs' given by his grand-daughter Liza Wood.

4. 'Princess Daphne'.

5. Discussion.

6. Lunch.

7. Annual Subscriptions and Treasurers Report.

8. Members Forum.

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Name (please print):

I shall / shall not attend the Symposium.

I shall / shall not stay for lunch at a local restaurant (venue to be decided) at my own cost.

Please detach and return as soon as possible to the Secretary:
Ivor Jones, Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftesbury, Dorset. SP7 OQH.

# THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

A meeting of the Society was held at the West Sussex Record Office on 7 July 2001.

Present: Ivor Jones, Edward Barrford, Pat Coleby, Thomas Creedy, Brian Harvey, Carol Harvey, Merlin Holland, Kim Leslie, Timothy McCann, Joan Navarre, Dr. John Whitaker, Peter Wilkinson, Liza Wood . Jane Stranley, Chris Jones

Apology for absence was received from Ray Russell.

Accounts and Subscriptions

Ivor Jones presented the accounts for the period 5 June 2000 to 6 July 2001, which showed a current balance £205.

It was agreed that the Society's financial year should henceforth run from 1 July to 30 June, and that the annual subscription should be £10. Members were asked to send this year's subscription to Ivor as soon as possible. - you've already paid £4 so only £6 is due thank you

Presidency

It was unanimously agreed the Perpetual President of the Society should be Edward Heron-Allen.

Future Meetings and Symposia

It was agreed that the next meeting and symposium should be at the West Sussex Record Office in the summer of 2002 and should mark the launch of the Heron-Allen War Diary.

Principal suggestions for the event were that it should coincide with the unveiling of the Heron-Allen plaque at Selsey, that the Selsey Society should be involved in the day, that a small exhibition be mounted at Selsey, and there should be a visit to E.H.A.'s grave. It was probably preferable to avoid the period of the Chichester Festivities (first half of July).

It was agreed to accept the kind invitation from Dr Whitaker to hold the 2003 meeting and symposium at the Museum of Natural History.

Publicity

Merlin Holland suggested that we should try to get an article into a national journal, stressing E.H.A.'s achievements as a polymath – particularly in natural history, music and literature.

*Peter Wilkinson Minutes Secretary 17 July 2001*