The Heron-Allen Society

Newsletter
no. 2
Spring 2002

SECOND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The second 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 6 July 2002.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

'The Importance of Heron-Allen's War Journal' by Professor Brian Harvey

'Edward Heron-Allen, the War Journal and Women' by Carol Fitzgerald

Discussion

Launch of *Sussex Shore to Flanders Fields - A Journal of the Great War* by Edward Heron-Allen published by Phillimore & Co., in association with Sussex Record Society.

Lunch

Annual General Meeting

'Heron-Allen in America' by Dr. Joan Navarre

Portrait of Edward Heron-Allen, 1861-1943, c.1910.

Will those wishing to attend the Symposium please contact the Secretary, Ivor Jones at Sweets Farm-house, Stour Row, Shaftesbury, Dorset. SP7 OQH.

THE FIRST HERON-ALLEN SYMPOSIUM, CHICHESTER, 7 JULY 2001

THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition was divided into ten sections. In the first –personal – were several photographs of Heron-Allen, mainly taken from his own archives, but including portraits from the Natural History Museum in London, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and two cartoons. There were pictures of his wife Edith (Nour) and his two daughters Itha (Ianthe Theodora) and Armorel Daphne, including photographs and the two portraits of his daughters that Pat Burley brought in a few days before the exhibition and lent to us. The section was rounded off by a selection of his bookplates. The second section was devoted to Large Acres, the house that Heron-Allen had built near the coast at Selsey, just south of Chichester in West Sussex in 1906 and his home until his death in 1943. There were several architectural designs of the house, the library and the outbuildings and the various additions he made over the years. There were plans of the gardens and the grounds as well as the design he made for the maze, and a series of photographs of the house at various stages of its existence. Finally there were some pages from the Visitors Books.

The next section was devoted to Heron-Allen the collector and included catalogues of the sale of his library and manuscripts at Sothebys in 1943 and of his silver collection, his furniture and effects and the

remainder of his library here in Chichester a few days later. It was illustrated by photographs of some of the finest examples of his silver and some books from his library. Next came Heron-Allen as a writer. In this section were exhibited title pages and inscriptions inside his literary works such as his novel *The Princess Daphne*, his short stories such as the *Collected Strange Papers of Christopher Blayre*, some of his pamphlets for the Sette of Odd Volumes, his edition of the *Sentimental Journey through the Correspondence of Madame de Sevigne* and some examples of his poetry culled from several of his books. There followed a look at Heron-Allen the Persian scholar, in which were exhibited the manuscripts and various editions of the *Rubiayat of Omar Khayyam* and of the *Lament of Baba Tahir*, as well as some of his Persian inscriptions in books and on artefacts around Selsey.

The next wall of the exhibition began with a section on Heron-Allen as a scientist. It included the oil painting of Heron-Allen in his study together with his scientific apparatus and the designs for his science laboratory at Large Acres. There were a group of documents relating to the meteorological station he established at Selsey together with the records he created. There were letters from famous scientists with whom he had co-operated and copies of his work on Barnacles. It was rounded off with a selection of his notes and published writings on foraminifera in Selsey, Ireland and all over the world. There followed a section on Heron-Allen as a musicologist. Included were many of his manuscripts on the early history of the violin such as his work on the neffer sign and the Welsh crwth, various editions of his great work *The Violin as it was and is*; a selection of his drawings to illustrate the book and letters from celebrated violinists and musicians. There followed a small section on Heron-Allen as a cheirosopher limited to various pages, diagrams and illustration from his *Codex Chiromantiae* and *Manual of Cheirosophy*.

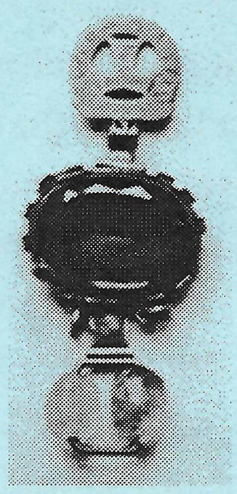
The final two sections were nearer to home. The first featured Heron-Allen in his local community and showed him as Manager of the Hundred of Manhood and Selsey Tramway Company, as the provider of the organ for the parish church, as a regular lecturer in his home village and as a patron of many local events. The second, entitled Heron-Allen as an archaeologist and local historian featured all his local books, booklets and articles with letters from fellow researchers and antiquarians.

Various members kindly brought items with them which were exhibited in showcases. Ivor Jones brought with him the two volumes of the Large Acres Visitor's Books, replete with signatures, poems letters and drawings by his illustrious guests in the scientific, literary and social world – Maud Allan and John Gielgud from the theatre, Sir Joseph Lancaster from the scientific world and A.J. A. Symons and Vyvyan Holland (Oscar Wilde's younger son, and Heron-Allen's most regular visitor) from the literary world. He also brought some of Heron-Allen's travel diaries and more of his publications. Pat Burley turned up with the original oil-painting of Itha, Ivor's mother, which Ivor had never seen, and which we hung on the wall in the exhibition. Dr. John Whittaker, from the Natural History Museum in London, brought with him the original Purple Sapphire, and Joan Navarre provided a photocopy of a portrait of the elusive Selina Dolaro

Pat Coleby and Liza Wood, Edward Heron-Allen's grand-daughters, Tim McCann Chairman of the Heron-Allen Society, holding 'The Purple Sapphire' and Ivor Jones, grandson of Edward Heron-Allen, at the first Heron-Allen Symposium, 7 July 2001

THE PURPLE SAPPHIRE

John Whittaker from the Natural History Museum kindly brought with him the Purple Sapphire. Many of us only knew the Purple Sapphire as the first story in Heron-Allen book of short stories entitled *The Strange Papers of Christopher Blayre* – a story of a precious stone, which brings death and destruction to everyone who owns it. We did not realise that there really was such a stone. Dr. Whittaker revealed that Itha had deposited the original stone with the Natural History Museum in London in 1944. He explained that the Museum were slightly embarrassed by the gift since they did not like the association with such a story and there was some doubt about the rightful ownership of the stone. Heron-Allen had left a note stating that the stone had originally been looted from the



'The Purple Sapphire'
photographed by David Nicholls

Temple of the God Indra at Kanpur during the Indian Mutiny in 1855 and had been brought to England by an officer of the Bengal Cavalry. The officer lost his health and his money. The son suffered such ill-fortune that he gave the stone to a friend, who shortly afterwards committed suicide returning the stone in his will. In 1890 the son gave the stone to Heron-Allen.

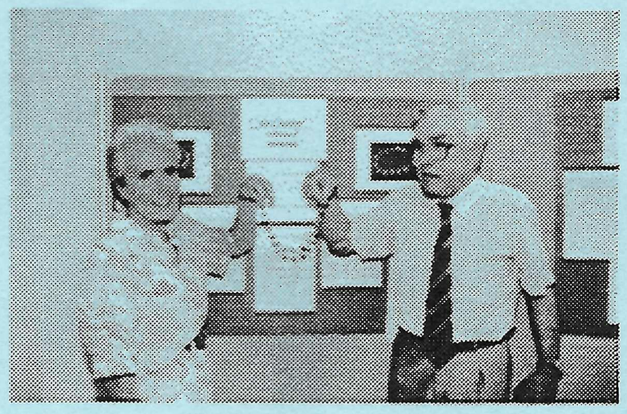
Heron-Allen immediately began to experience misfortune until he had it bound round with a double-headed snake that had been a finger ring of Heydon the Astrologer, looped with the Zodiacal plaques and neutralised between Heydon's Magic Tau and the two amethyst scarabs of Queen Hatasu's period, brought from Thebes and it remained quietly in his library. Nonetheless he, his wife and several other witnesses frequently saw in Heron-Allen's library a Hindu Yoga, who haunts the stone trying to get it back. He apparently sat on his heels in the corner of the Library digging in the floor with his hands, as if searching for it. In 1902 Heron-Allen gave the stone to a friend, who was overwhelmed with disasters and returned it to him. After suffering a disaster himself, he threw it in Regents Canal. Three months later it was returned to him by a Wardour Street dealer who bought it from a dredger. He then gave it to a female singer, who immediately lost her voice and never sang again. So Heron-Allen packed it in seven boxes and gave it to his bank, with instructions that it should not be opened until three years after his death, with the recommendation that it should then be cast into the sea!

True to form nobody was prepared to open the seven boxes, so when the press arrived, the Chairman unsealed the boxes, picked up the purple sapphire, which is actually an amethyst, and held it in his hands for the press to photograph. Of course, everybody wanted to see it, but nobody else would touch it, so after showing it to everyone who wanted to see it, the Chairman locked it in the showcase he had borrowed for the purpose.

THE SYMPOSIUM

Promptly at 11 the Chairman started proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Record Office, outlining the programme of the day and pointing out the facilities. 48 people attended the morning session, including 18 members of the Heron-Allen Society. Then the Chairman gave the first talk of the Symposium. He revealed that he had originally entitled his talk 'The Quest for Heron-Allen' after A.J.A Symons, a regular guest at Large Acres, and his legendary *The Quest for Corvo*, but, at the last minute, changed it to 'The Quest for the Heron-Allen Society'. In autobiographical form he interweaved the story of his interest in Heron-Allen, the collection of Heron-Allen documents in the Record Office, and the story of the various members of the Heron-Allen Society and how they had all got to know each other. After introducing several members of the Society. he went on to describe the founding of the Society in the year 2000, what the Society had done since and what it planned to do in the future. His talk was later published as Opusculum III of the Society.

The Chairman then introduced Ivor Jones, Heron-Allen's grandson and the prime-mover in the revival of interest in Heron-Allen and the foundation of the Society. Ivor gave a very personal account of his grandfather, viewing him as a family man and as a companion, and he illustrated his talk with extracts from Heron-Allen's diaries and personal recollections. He gave a completely new impression of his grandfather and confessed his admiration of and affection for him. Ivor's talk was published as Opusculum II in the Society's series.



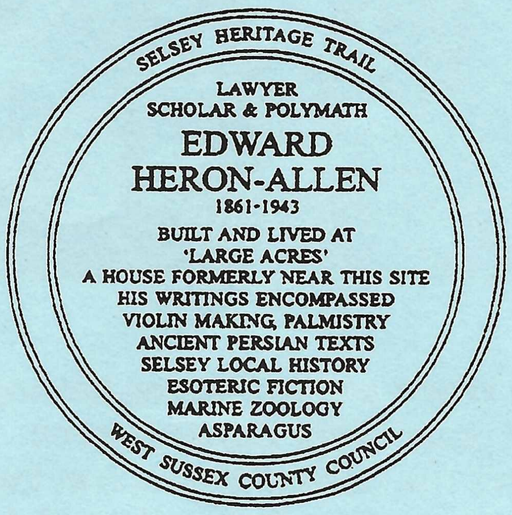
Liza Wood and Ivor Jones holding their grandfather Edward Heron-Allen's necklace of Scarabs at the first Heron-Allen Symposium, 7 July 2001

Ivor's sister Liza Wood was our next speaker. She had arrived at the Symposium wearing a necklace composed of fourteen of Heron-Allen's collection of scarabs and more as pendants and wrist bands. With the help of some displays which she had brought with her, she took us through the whole

collection describing each scarab and what it represented, where it came from (if known) and roughly how old it was. It was an aspect of Heron-Allen's collecting that had hitherto been known by very few of us.

The final talk was to have been by Ray Russell of the Tartarus Press talking about Heron-Allen's novel – *the Princess Daphne* – which he had just republished and which he intended to launch at the Symposium. Unfortunately, because of a serious problem with his printers, he was not able to be with us. Instead he had sent down a parcel containing: a few copies of *Princess Daphne;* the small opusculum printing Ivor Jones's address to the symposium, and a copy of what he had intended to say. Ivor gallantly stepped into the breach and read Ray's contribution to the proceedings. When he had finished, the Chairman invited questions from the floor for all the speakers and quite a lively session ensued. He brought the session to a conclusion at about one o'clock, thanked everyone for their contribution towards the day and everyone adjourned for lunch.

The eighteen members of the Society attending the Symposium lunched together at the Pasta Factory in South Street, Chichester, When we returned to the Record Office, we were joined by a small group of people, including two men who had lived in Selsey and knew Heron-Allen personally. The Annual General Meeting of the Society followed, during which such matters as the annual subscription, the frequency of the newsletter, the titles of the officers, the date and venue of next year's AGM, and the future direction of the Society were discussed. It was agreed that the 2002 Symposium should be held again in Chichester and that the 2003 Symposium should be held at the Natural History Museum in London. At the suggestion of Merlin Holland, Edward Heron-Allen was unanimously elected as President of the Heron-Allen Society, Tim McCann was re-elected Chairman, and Ivor Jones as Secretary and Treasurer. Professor Brian Harvey thanked the Chairman for mounting the exhibition, for arranging the symposium and for chairing the day, and eventually we all went our separate ways.



Draft design for the Heron-Allen Plaque to be erected near to the entrance to Large Acres, Selsey, in July 2002

THE HERON-ALLEN PLAQUE

The Heron-Allen Plaque, one of the first for the Selsey Heritage Trail, has now been ordered from the foundry. It will be positioned on a local estate agent's premises by the side of what was once the driveway into Large Acres, Heron-Allen's home in Selsey. The plaque is one of a series to be erected in Selsey and is part of West Sussex County Council, Blue Plaque Scheme. The design of the plaque is shown opposite. The unveiling ceremony has been provisionally booked for either Friday 12 July 2002 or Friday 19 July 2002. For further details please contact the Honorary Secretary.

THE HERON-ALLEN WAR JOURNAL

Copies of Brian W. Harvey and Carol Fitzgerald (eds.), *Sussex Shore to Flanders Fields - A Journal of the Great War by Edward Heron-Allen* (2002) (ISBN 1 86077 200 5) jointly published by Sussex Record Society and Phillimore & Co., will be on sale at the second Heron-Allen Symposium on 6 July 2002. Members who are unable to attend the Symposium can obtain their copies by writing to Phillimore & Co., Ltd., Shopwhyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 2BG or accessing their website: www. phillimore.co.uk. Members of Sussex Record Society will receive the volume as part of their annual subscription. For details write to the Honorary Secretary, Sussex Record Society, Barbican House, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 1YE.

THE HERON-ALLEN BIOGRAPHY

Joan Navarre is writing a biography of Edward Heron-Allen. Any information concerning Heron-Allen (e.g letters, manuscripts, photographs) will be greatly appreciated.
E-mail: jnavarre@hotmail.com

ADDITIONS TO THE HERON-ALLEN ARCHIVE AT WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters to Edward Heron-Allen from Bernard Quaritch, 1882 (Add. MS. 28,669)

Copies of 62 letters to Dr. Joseph Cushman from Edward Heron-Allen, 1918-1938 (Add. MS. 52,476); copies of 25 letters to Edward Heron-Allen by Dr. Joseph Cushman, 1918-1938 (Add. MS. 52,477); and copies of 6 letters to Dr. Joseph Cushman from Arthur Earland, 1918-1943 (Add. MS. 52,478) [By kind permission of of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, USA]

Copies of 2 letters to George Charles Williamson from Edward Heron-Allen, 1925 and 1926 (Add. MS/ 52,635) [By kind permission of Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA]

Five letters to Captain A.W.F. Fuller from Edward Heron-Allen, 1940 (Add. MS. 52,636)

OBITUARIES

By Arthur Earland in the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society*, vol. 63 (1943), 48-50.

By R.A. Gregory in *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society*, vol. 4 (1943), 447-454.

By Anon in *The Times*, 30 March 1943.

By Anon in *Sussex Notes and Queries*, vol. IX (1943), 164.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Edward Heron-Allen in military uniform, c.1914 (by permission of Norma Hattey)

Ianthe Theodora Heron-Allen by R. Bogle, 1919 (colour photograph of painting by permission of Pat Burley)

Armorel Daphne Heron-Allen, c.1919 (colour photograph of oval head and shoulders portrait by permission of Pat Burley)

ARTICLES

Edward Heron-Allen, 'The Violin' in *Lippincott's*, Nov. 1889, 692-7.

Edward Heron-Allen, 'Old Violin Frauds' in *The Strad,* Oct. 1890, 113-5.

Edward Heron-Allen, 'The Violin Family' in J.A. Fuller Maitland (ed.), *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, vol. V (1914), 285-314.

Edward Heron-Allen, 'Contributions to the Study of Bionomics and the Reproductive Process in the Foraminfera; in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, vol. 206 (1915), 227-79.

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

THE CHEETAH-GIRL FIASCO

Ray Russell writes: In July 2001 a copy of The Cheetah-Girl, written under Edward Heron-Allen's "Christopher Blayre" pseudonym, was offered for sale on the internet. It was not only number "one" of only twenty copies, and signed, but it included the rare contemporary illustrations that had been made for it. It was remarkable that such a scarce book should appear for sale, but astounding that the price was only £250. The last copy at auction, in 1996, without any illustrations, sold for £1,600.

But some things are too good to be true. The dealer who was selling it, "A", obviously had no real idea of the rarity of the book. Before I could contact him I was phoned by dealer "B" who boasted that not only had he just beaten me to the book, but he had gazumped another dealer "C". It became clear that he was not calling to say that he would in turn be offering it to me, with a suitable commission, but to ask about the limitation, illustrations etc. He intimated that if he did sell it, the price would be more than I could pay. A short while later dealer "C" phoned to say, enraged, that he had been gazumped by "B", and to complain that "A" was obviously unethical in agreeing to do so. I sympathised with "C", and asked at what price he would have been willing to sell it to me for if he had managed to buy it. Like "B", who also knew that The Cheetah-Girl was at the top of my wants list, he had no intention of ever selling it to me, but was phoning because he wanted to know the bibliographical details. It was inevitable that "B" would phone back some time later to complain bitterly, and hypocritically, that he had in turn been gazumped. There was obviously a "D", and probably several other interested parties.

At this point I phoned dealer "A", not because I expected to be able to buy the book, but to ask about the illustrations, the number of which did not tally with the bibliographical details that I had. It was understandable that "A" would not disclose who had made the successful bid in what appeared to have been a blind auction, but he told me that it was definitely sold. However, I later heard from another source that the book had been withdrawn, the whole affair having become too embarrassing for "A". It is a shame that The Cheetah-Girl appeared at a bargain price. As a result of the frenzy of interest from dealers it has now disappeared from sight. Let us hope that if it reappears for sale it does so at a proper auction where interested parties will at least have a chance to view such a rarity, and its eventual sale may be handled transparently and ethically.

OFFICERS

Chairman/Archivist — Timothy McCann
West Sussex Record Office, County Hall,
Chichester. West Sussex. PO19 1RN
Tel: 01243-753616
E-mail: tim.mccann@westsussex.gov.uk

Secretary/Treasurer — Ivor Jones
Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftesbury,
Dorset.
SP7 OQH
Tel: 01747-838201
E-mail: ~~heron_allen.jones1@hotmail.com~~
heron_allenjones1@hotmail.com

Minutes Secretary — Peter Wilkinson
West Sussex Record Office, County Hall,
Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 1RN
Tel: 01243-753618
E.-Mail: peter.wilkinson@westsussex.gov.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Members pay a fee (a minimum of £10) on joining, and £10 annually thereafter. Members are entitled to the Newsletter, information about the annual Symposium and information about the Society's activities. Any Society publication will normally be paid for separately. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

For more information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Sweets Farmhouse, Stour Row, Shaftesbury Dorset. SR7 OQH. Contributions for the Newsletter should be sent to Timothy McCann, West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 1RN . Website: www.heron-allen.co.uk

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

A meeting of the Society was held at the West Sussex Record Office on 6 July 2002.

Present: Timothy McCann (Chairman), Ivor Jones (Secretary),Ted Barfoot, Pat Combes, Tom Creedy, Fred Dinely, Brian Harvey, Carol Harvey, Olive Hiscock, Richard Hodgkinson, Merlin Holland, Fiona Jones, Rohinten Mazda, Joan Navarre, Peter Ogden, and Peter Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from: Brian Hulan, Ray Russell, Jane Stanley, John Whitaker, Dominic Wood and Lisa Wood. The Chairman then read out a letter from Susan Davies, grand-daughter of Arthur Earland, E. H-A's long-standing scientific collaborator, sending her greetings to members of the Symposium

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2001 were approved and signed.

Matters arising: the Chairman invited members and friends to the Selsey Day on July 15 when 5 memorial plaques were being unveiled, which would include the unveiling of the E.H.-A. plaque, as described in the Newsletter, and a foraminifera expedition under the leadership of our members from the Natural History Museum.

Financial report: the Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2002. They included subscription income of £358 and expenditure of £181 on the publication of *Opusculum 3*. The final balance was £331. He reported that, sadly, Ray Russell would no longer be able to undertake the production of *Opuscula* and that we would need to find an alternative designer/printer.

Subscriptions. The Treasurer reminded members that the annual subscription of £10 became payable on 1 ~~January~~ July 2002, and requested members to send him their subscription as soon as possible.

Elections. On the proposal of Joan Navarre, the officers were re-elected *en bloc*:

Chairman: T.J.McCann;
Secretary/Treasurer: I. Jones;
Minutes Secretary: P.M.Wilkinson.

Next year's Symposium: the Chairman reported the kind invitation from Dr.Whitaker to hold the Symposium at the Natural History Museum in London on 5 July 2003. This was gratefully accepted by the meeting, which confirmed the date (subject to building works at the Natural History Museum) and it was agreed to pay any necessary hire charges.

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

10 June 2002

Sweets Farmhouse
Stour Row
Shatfsbury
Dorset
SP7 OQH

Dear Mr. Mahoney

Here is the Programme for our second Annual Symposium, which will be held in the Conference Room at West Sussex Record Office, Orchard Street, Chichester, at 11.00am on Saturday 6 July 2002, together with directions how to get to the West Sussex Record Office. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether or not you intend to join us for the day by returning the attached tear-off slip. Please also let me know if you wish to join other members of the Society for lunch.

Yours sincerely

Ivor Jones

Ivor Jones
Honorary Secretary pp JM

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I/We would like to attend the 2nd. Annual Heron-Allen Symposium at West Sussex Record Office in Chichester on Saturday 6 July 2002.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

I/We would like to join other members of the Heron-Allen Society for lunch on Saturday 6 July 2002.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

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PROGRAMME

11.00	Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman
11.05	'The Importance of Heron-Allen's War Journal' by Professor Brian Harvey (preceded by a short introduction explaining the evolution and structure of the new book)
11.45	'Edward Heron-Allen, the War Journal and Women' by Carol Fitzgerald
12.20	Discussion and Questions
12.30	Launch of Brian Harvey and Carol Fitzgerald (eds.), *Sussex Shore to Flanders Field - A Journal of the Great War* by Edward Heron-Allen published by Phillimore & Co., in association with Sussex Record Society.
1,00	Lunch
3.00	Annual General Meeting
3.20	'Heron-Allen in America' by Dr. Joan Navarre.