The Heron-Allen Society

NEWSLETTER
No.20
Spring 2012

TWELFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Edward and Edith Heron-Allen outside Large Acres.

The twelfth annual Heron-Allen Society Symposium will be held at the Allen Room, Dean Street, Soho, London at 10.15 on Saturday 30 June 2012.

PROGRAMME

Theme: *"Edward Heron-Allen and some Women of his Acquaintance"*

10.15 Coffee

10.30 Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

Timothy J. McCann, 'Nocturnes, Novels and Necromancy: Blanche Roosevelt, Edmund Downey and Edward Heron-Allen'

John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, 'The Queen of Bohemia and the Poems and Passions of the Boy, Omar. Selina Dolaro's and Edward Heron-Allen's "Mes Amours"'

Ivor E. Jones, '"NOUR I MAH - The Lady of Light. "'

Jan Bargman and John E. Whittaker, 'Helene Bargmann – "the Last Lady"'

The Annual General Meeting

Lunch at Il Siciliano Italian Restaurant, 33 Dean Street.

The Allen Room is on the first floor of the building next door to St. Anne's Church and is best reached from Dean Street. Dean Street is off Shaftsbury Avenue, and the nearest underground station is at Leicester Square. It is also in easy walking distance of Piccadilly Circus and Tottenham Court Road. If approached from Shaftsbury Avenue, The Allen Room is to be found a few yards down Dean Street on the left hand side. There is an inscription to Edward Heron-Allen on the wall of the building.

The Allen Room forms the principal room in the house which was built in 1910 on the site of the old Parish Watch House, engine house and mortuary. As built, the house provided accommodation for two curates on the second and third floors, a boys club and gymnasium in the basement, a parish meeting hall on the ground floor, and on the first floor accommodation at the rear for the verger and his wife and the Allen Room, as a choir vestry and club.

It was named the Allen Room to celebrate the Allen Family and their local law firm, Allen and Sons. For four generations and a span of 150 years successive members of the family served as Vestry Clerks for the parish of St. Anne's and played a significant part in local affairs. The windows celebrating successive members of the Allen Family were provided by Mr. Churchwarden Curtis and were made locally by his company, Ward & Hughes, stained glass makers of 67 Frith Street. The opaque glass replaces panels blown out by the force of the explosion which occurred when St. Anne's Church was destroyed by a bomb on the night of 24 September 1940.

The Allen Room was used as a vestry and club for the gentlemen of the choir until the 1930s. After the war the St. Anne's Society – an attempt to form a bridge between the literary world and the church – met in the Room. In the 1960s it was used as place of worship for the parish and continued in use until the newly rebuilt church was consecrated next door on 26 July 1991. The Heron-Allen Society held their third and fifth symposiums here in 2003 and 2005.

Will those wishing to attend the Symposium please contact the Honorary Secretary, Juliet Field at 40 Portland Road, Oxford OX2 7EY. Tel: 01865 552640. E-mail: jools.field@btinternet.com. Those wishing to join us for lunch at Il Siciliano should inform the Honorary Secretary by 15 June.

UNSEEN CORSICA, BY EH-A (1921)

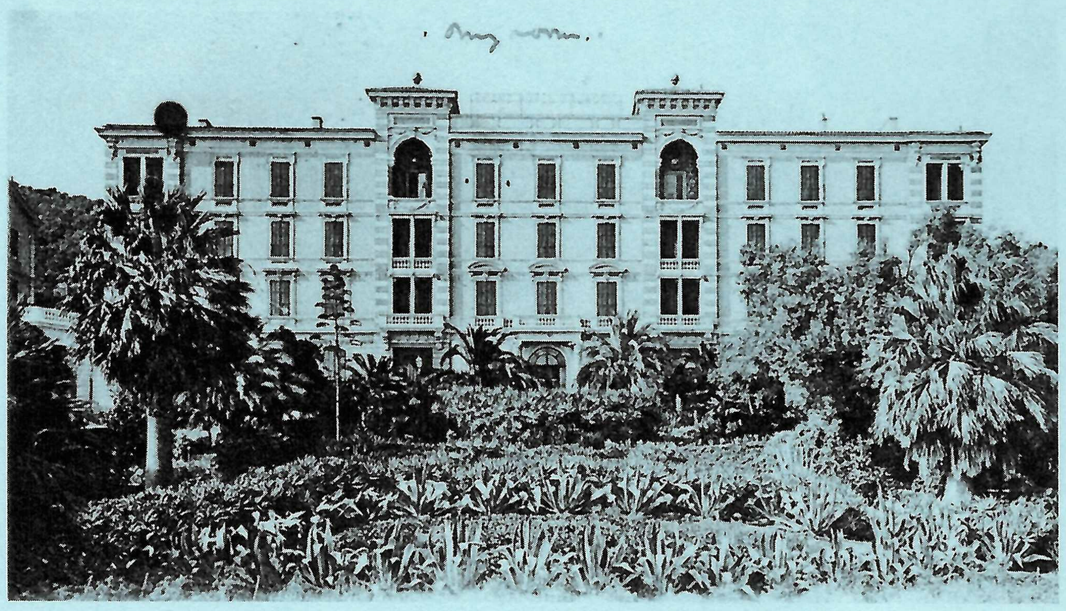
Edward Heron-Allen was "anything but ordinary" as Oscar Wilde said to Arthur Conan Doyle in an amusing fictional situation[i]. One his minor "singularities" was his visit to Corsica, not only because the island was then such an unusual destination for Britons-compared with the French Riviera or Italy- but also because the account he made of his visit to the island took three very different forms: a scientific paper, published in 1922, or 1923, a manuscript journal of personal impressions, which had so far been unpublished, and *Unseen Corsica* .

EH-A's decision to go to Corsica was due to the coincidence between his scientific curiosity and an opportunity given by a Corsican friend of his.

In April 1921, during a discussion about the beauty and charm of Corsica with Mr. de Santa Maria, (from Ajaccio), an attaché to the consular service of France in England, a mention was made of the "red sands" of the gulf of Ajaccio. Those sands were supposed to have given the name "Sanguinaires" [literally '*sanguinary*'] to the islands north of the gulf. EH-A found it likely, and even obvious, that the reddish colour of the sands originated, not from the fragments of red granite but from the profusion of a type of foraminifera, *Polytrema miniaceum (Pallas),* widespread in the Mediterranean. In order to confirm that hypothesis, EH-A eagerly accepted Santa Maria's invitation to visit Corsica.

EH-A stayed in Corsica from 22nd of April to May 2nd 1921. His headquarters were at the Grand Hotel in Ajaccio, arguably the most comfortable establishment for tourists in Corsica. Santa Maria was very considerate with his English friend. He chose for him the best local productions, in the subject of food and wines, explained some sociological, historical or agricultural aspects of the country, took him on trips into mountain villages and made him participate in family events, such as communions. With the collaboration of Arthur Earland, EH-A gave the scientific result of his observations in a paper published in 1923 in the "Bulletin" of a Corsican learned society[ii].

Grand Hôtel d'Ajaccio, The harbour of Ajaccio



As he said in a note "This paper is the bye-product of a journey to Corsica undertaken in connection with our "Terra Nova" Report, with a view to elucidating the life history of *Polytrema miniaceum (*Pallas*)*."[iii]

During his stay in Corsica E.H.-A. dutifully wrote a diary - his "log"- to which he added photographs taken on the spot with his Kodak, postcards, restaurant menus, receipts from shopkeepers, tickets from the local chamber of commerce, a process quite in keeping with his taste for collecting things. [iv]

In July 1921, EH-A wrote *Unseen Corsica*, and sent it to Maurice Vignon, the Director of the French Tourism Office in London. Vignon sent the typescript to the editors of *The Times, The Morning Post*, and *The Daily Telegraph*, but they all returned it to the sender. Eventually the text was accepted by the editor of *The Queen*, and published on Saturday, September 17, 1921.

The Queen magazine was a British society publication established in 1861 by Samuel Beeton, "a flash and dashing publisher", the husband of the famous Mrs. Beeton, (Isabella Mary, "the most famous cookery writer in British history")[v] . It focused on British High Society and the lives of socialites. It was eventually merged with its rival *Harpers Bazaar*[vi]. EH-A was very dissatisfied with this text. He had expected it to have been published in *The Times*. Moreover he must have found it even more irritating to discover the misprints in *The Queen* article, some of which are absolute nonsense. "With the husband attached", instead of "with *her* husband attached", is a grammatical error; the same is true for "they have to take to the maquis", instead of "they have *had* to take to the maquis". "The man whose "morn"- instead of "*turn*"- it is to take to the maquis" does not mean anything. "Newly-appointed officer *or* gendarmes" is a mistake because is seems to involve two persons instead of one.

But the greatest howlers can be found in the second half of the article. "A hardened girl-artist", instead of "*travel-hardened*", is puzzling, to say the least. The statement: "The women are plain - and this is curious, for Ajaccio has many beautiful women" is preposterous. "What becomes of them?" does not make sense.
To one who has read his travel diary of Corsica, it is clear that EH-A operated a romanticized transposition of his own experience. There is a slight sense of class consciousness when he implicitly claims to be a "civilised European traveller" who admits he cannot honestly recommend "the structural conveniences" of Corsican houses, or inns. Also when he finds charming that in Corsica "you may find yourself sitting at lunch with a friend of your coachman's", a situation which would have been unthinkable in his dining room at Large Acres, Selsey Bill, or at 33 Hamilton Terrace, London, N.W. His reference to the peaceful Corsican villages "where the road- hog is unknown" rings a lugubrious note, since nine years later, EHA was to suffer the terrible loss of his youngest daughter, Armorel, tragically killed in a road accident.[vii]

EH-A plays with the notorious label given to the island, and he tries to reclaim this bad reputation. But he carries the paradox too far when he states that "the bandits are the most charming people in the world"! As a matter of fact this statement is an echo of a joke he used in his travel diary, where he pretends to consider his friend Santa Maria as well acquainted with - and even related to - all the bandits of the neighbourhood. When he left England, EH-A carried with him the short novel written by Prosper Mérimée, *Colomba*, the founding stone of one of the most persistent stereotypes concerning Corsica as a bandit-ridden place. This reading underlies the passage in *The*

THE QUEEN

Saturday, Sept 17, 1921.

Unseen Corsica.

CONSIDERING the great number of English people who have been to Corsica, it it astonishing (writes Mr Edward Heron-Allen) how few have seen it. Visitors to the Riviera "run over" and look at Ajaccio, Bastia, and, possibly, Calvi. Some of them rush to an inland town—Corte, Sartene, or Vizzavona—but, saving from the sea or from the high road, no one sees Corsica. The fact is that Corsica and the Corsicans do not want to be seen—the visitor is not catered for, and the hotels that provide the accommodation demanded by the civilised European traveller can be counted on the fingers of one hand. To the holiday-seeker Corsica means merely brigands and bandits, and the tripper is convinced that he will be lucky if his wife does not receive one of his ears by post, demanding an enormous ransom for the other—with husband attached. This legend, which is said in the island to have been "put about" by the Société d'Initiative des Alpes Maritimes for fear that Corsica might become a dangerous rival as a winter resort, arises from the confusion existing in European minds between the two terms. Brigands there are none, and the bandits are the most charming people in the world—scrupulously honest and enthusiastically hospitable. True, they happen to have scored the last point in their particular vendetta and have to take to the *maquis*, but, once there, they have nothing to fear excepting from the man whose "" it is in the vendetta, or from a zealous and newly-appointed officer gendarme. To see Corsica, the traveller needs to be in charge of a native—a bandit for choice. Thus properly "introduced," he is made welcome in the *maquis* and in the villages, where every man cultivates his own vineyard, or herds his own sheep, or lives upon his modest *rentes*, carrying time-honoured and historic names and the manners which are inseparable from them. The Corsicans are the most gaily hospitable people in the world. Drive up to one of the mountain villages and lunch in the inn kept by your coachman's friend (who lunches with you), and as you perambulate the village you will be invited to drink freshly-made coffee and the excellent Corsican brandy at every house that you stop to look at. If you carry a Kodak, it is a spontaneous introduction to the whole community whilst you drink, and that in a language which sprains both your Italian and your French, *la Vecchia, la Piccola, il Bambino*, the *Guarda-forestiere* are fetched from the farthest corners of the commune to be photographed. But to people who say to me, "Is it a good place to go for a holiday?" candour compels me to admit that the structural conveniences of the houses, and even of the principal inns, prescribe caution in recommendation. As a wise and hardened girl-artist observed to me, "It is all right for a party of girls or for a party of men, but it is almost impossible for a mixed lot." These disadvantages being accepted, Corsica is a paradise both for the mere tourist and for the scientist. The mountain roads and scenery have much in common with, whilst they almost exceed in beauty, those of the Pyrenees. The flowers are amazing. The *maquis* is a blaze of colour all the year round—roses, broom, arbutus, acacia extending for miles, both perpendicularly and horizontally and, where there is no *maquis*, acres of asphodel. The rivers and streams, where all may fish at will, swarm with trout; the game-hunter will find willing friends anxious to abandon their normal occupations to lead him to the haunts of the wild boar and moufflon and of varied lesser game; the mineralogist may pick up twenty different and beautiful granites in a morning's walk; the ornithologist will find himself surrounded by rare birds; whilst the coast, wherever you strike i, is a vast natural aquarium, where every branch of marine zoology may be studied with ease and comfort. The food and the wines are, generally speaking, admirable. The women are plain—and this is curious, for Ajaccio has many beautiful women. What becomes of them? Perhaps they fly to the mainland. There is much matrimony, but it is conducted on commercial lines, without regard to personal appearance, and, in a country where extra-matrimonial philandering is dealt with by "direct action" and a stiletto, good looks are at a discount, and in no way connote the possibilities of sporadic romance. The wise traveller will go to Corsica armed with a letter of introduction to a bandit *in esse* or *in posse*; he will be free and the guest of that bandit's district for as long as he likes, and will be passed on to the next district with the kindliest recommendations. It is refreshing to spend a few weeks in a country where "backsheesh," excepting at an inn, is regarded as an insult, in villages where the road-hog is unknown, and where letters may take a week to reach you.

A HILLSIDE

Edward Heron-Allen, 'Unseen Corica', in The Queen, 19 September 1921.

Queen where the bandits " happen to have scored the last point in their particular vendetta".

The rumour according to which the Corsicans are prone to kidnap and ransom "trippers" is said to have been launched by the Syndicat d'Initiative [tourist office] des Alpes Maritimes, in order to check the development of Corsica as a winter resort. The argument does not stand, because the French Riviera and Corsica did not fight in the same category, but what is to be stressed is the phrase "winter resort". Since the 1880's Ajaccio had indeed gained the reputation of a health resort for well-off British people. Even Maynard Owen Williams who made a most remarkable report on the island refers to *"the modern Miss Nevils who swarm Ajaccio in winter [and] dab away at sketches"*[viii]. EH-A gives no comment about the hotel where most of the British "health- seekers" stayed. However, we have a most valuable account on that subject. This account is given by one of the greatest English novelists, Joseph Conrad, who happened to stay in the Grand Hotel d'Ajaccio, just two months before EH-A. Conrad, frustrated because he could not find inspiration for a new work of fiction, vents his bad mood to a friend in a letter tinged with a touch of dark humour which gives us a picturesque sketch of the atmosphere EH-A must have known:

"The weather is bad – and no mistake. Cold. Wet. Horrors. A lot of rather smart people are staying in this beastly hotel. Amongst others Col. [Charles Finlayson] Hunter the distinguished Polo player with a delicate wife and two stylish girls of whom one is his step-daughter. Also Capt. [Robert Alexander] Abercrombie [of the Scots Guards] the great authority on Corsica of which he is supposed to know more than any other man: history, topography, customs, habits (dirty rather), shooting, fishing, climbing – and everything else you can think of. [...] There are also a few mature wandering women and a proportion of (rather better class) frumps. An atmosphere of intense good form pervades the place. Low tones – polite smiles – kind inquiries – small groups. The only disreputable looking person is the unavoidable Clergyman of the Church of England who looks as tho' he must have had a few adventures in his time..."[x]

EH-A's statement that Corsica is "a country where "*backsheesh*", excepting at an inn, is regarded as an insult" is quite in character, and it has long been a "national" characteristic until the mercantile spirit eventually made its way to the island, probably a little after World War II, if one may dare to pinpoint such an evolution. The

"refreshing" feeling expressed by a "civilized European traveller" such as EH-A, when he observed this trait, is made explicit by Maynard Owen Williams just two years after EH-A's journey: "Corsica is interesting because it is Corsica. With all its discomforts, the laggard land is worth a visit because it is laggard. Such unspoiled spots are so few in the modern world that one can tolerate petty inconveniences for the sake of knowing a people who have been little affected by modernism"[x].

EH-A was fairly unlucky with his publications concerning Corsica. The edition of his paper [about] "Les Foraminifères des Sables Rouges" was an excruciating exchange between the two English collaborators – EH-A and Arthur Earland – and the Corsican editor of the Bulletin de la Sociétés des Sciences, and even after the fifth corrections, there were still lamentable misprints left, so much so that Earland suggested that they should limit the printing to the minimum copies. Part of the reason was that the text was so scientifically specific that the apprentice Corsican Linotype printer could not cope with the task. The printing was made in the workshop of a local newspaper very ill-equipped for such a mission.

Curiously enough, EH-A did not pay attention to two significant and unique events that took place in the very period he was in Corsica. One was the busy preparation of the celebration of Napoleon's death, with Ajaccio being profusely decorated in view of the arrival of Marshal Franchey d'Esperey, the representative of the government of the French Republic, aboard a warship, the torpedo-boat *Mécanicien principal Lestin*.[xi] The other sensational event was the first automobile tour of Corsica, called "Circuit automobile". The local newspapers were full of echoes concerning this "circuit". Among the eighteen competitors, there were crack pilots, such as "the famous airman Joseph Sadi-Lecointe", in a Rolland-Pilain car, Albert Guyot, one of the racing aces who had won many competitions in France and in America, and Rougier, "the famous record man of Mont Ventoux"...[xii] This "circuit" had deliberately been planned to promote the image of Corsica, as the champions themselves had declared: " we want to help the development of tourism in an island too little known, and whose beauty is incomparable".[xiii] "Too little known" is what EH-A meant by " unseen". His article was a small contribution to these well-meaning endeavours to promote Corsica, by paying - sometimes too emphatically- a full tribute to the splendour of springtime in Corsica. Two years later, on the same theme, a young English lady who had resided in Ajaccio for twelve years in a period when the fashionable season was from the middle of November to the middle of May, invented a felicitous slogan for Corsica: "The Scented Isle".[xiv] The first automobile tour of Corsica in 1921, the first regular flight between Antibes and Ajaccio in 1923 marked the slow intrusion of modernism in that unspoilt territory[xv]. In 1923, André Gide went to Corsica, not in winter, but in August, to enjoy sunbathing and swimming[xvi]. From winter to summer, the fashions in holiday-making were turning the tide.

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i. *Oscar Wilde and the Ring of Death*, by Giles Brandreth, London, John Murray, 2008 (see Timothy McCann's article in *Newsletter n° 18* of the Heron-Allen Society, Spring 2001, and "The singular life of EH-A.", by T. McCann, in *Opusculum XIV* of the Heron-Allen Society)

ii. "Les foraminifères des Sables Rouges du Golfe d'Ajaccio", par MM. Edw. HERON-ALLEN et Arthur EARLAND, avec 2 planches contenant 49 figures, in *Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Historiques et Naturelles de la Corse*, n° 441-444, Bastia, Imprimerie Casimir Piaggi, 1922, p. 109-149.

iii. In a document kindly supplied by Timothy McCann (archives of The Natural History Museum in London).

iv. This diary is about to be published under the title: « Impressions de voyage en Corse par Edward Heron-Allen (avril-mai 1921), journal inédit, présenté, traduit et annoté par Francis Beretti », in *Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Historiques et Naturelles de la Corse*, n° 734-735 (2011), p. 27-84). The original manuscript, in English, is the property of the Heron-Allen Society.

v. See Mark Brown, "Mrs. Beeton couldn't cook but she could copy, reveals historian" in *The Guardian*, Friday 2 June 2006. Thanks to *Mrs. Beeton's book of Household Management* (1861), Mrs. Beeton is considered as "the most famous cookery writer in British history" (see website).

vi. Information kindly provided by Timothy McCann.

vii. "The Beauty and Mystery of the Foraminifera". The Scientific Research of Edward Heron-Allen FRS, by Richard L. Hodgkinson and John E. Whittaker, *Opusculum IV*, Heron-Allen Society, 2003, p. 20.

viii. "The Coasts of Corsica", p. 235.

ix. *The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad*, volume 7, 1920-1922, edited by Laurence Davies and J.H. Stape, Cambridge University Press, 2005, p.256.

x. Maynard Owen Williams, "The Coasts of Corsica" in *The National Geographic Magazine*, September 1923, p.227.

xi. *Bastia Journal*, Thursday 28 April 1921

xii. *Le Petit Bastiais*, 13 and 14 April 1921.

xiii. In a letter signed by six pilots, published in *Bastia Journal*, 29 October 1921

xiv. Dorothy Archer, *Corsica, the Scented Isle*, London 1924.

xv. Pierre-Jean Campocasso, « Voyages en Corse », in *La Corse et le tourisme*, Albiana, Ajaccio, 2006, p. 283.

xvi. André Gide, *Journal*, 8 août 1923, Paris, Gallimard 1951, p. 768.

Francis Beretti

WITH THE PLETHERA OF HERON-ALLEN PSEUDONYMS, DID THE PERSONA OF FLAVIAN HERON-ALLEN REALLY EXIST?

At the Heron-Allen web site, there was a peculiar query concerning a literary statement from Edward Heron-Allen in his war diary, *Journal of the Great War*. (1) To paraphrase the query, Heron-Allen wrote in diary that he had sent an article to a local literary bookseller and signed it 'Flavian'. Heron-Allen claimed that this was the name that "I have gone by among my intimate friends since Walter Pater wrote 'Marius the Epicurian' (sic) in the early eighties, modelling his character 'Flavian' upon what I was as a boy of twenty-one."The web site asked "Has anyone any evidence for Heron-Allen's statement?"We have always enjoyed a literary challenge, but this old query stayed dormant for years. Edward Heron-Allen has written under many pseudonyms for years: Nora Helen Warddel, Andrew T. Sibbald, Selina Dolaro, Ronald Redhew Neal, Ripieno, The McAmati, Observer, Rosin Le Beau (also Rosin Le Beaue), Sul Sol, Flavian, Necromancer and Christopher Blayre. Another possible pseudonym is an anagram of his name, Darrell O'Dennahew but, there have been no O'Dennahew documents identified to date. Timothy J. McCann recently uncovered the additional pseudonym, 'Petronius' in a series of five signed letters to Josephine Preston Peabody from 1903 – 1907. (2) McCann then unearthed a huge collection of 170 Heron-Allen letters in which respondents referred to Heron-Allen as 'Orpheus', 'Apollo' and 'Sir Heron'. (3)

At the recent Eleventh Annual Symposium of the Heron-Allen Society at the Royal College of Music, Peter Horton shocked the attendees with the finding of another previously unrecognized pseudonym, 'Florian'. (4) There were a total of six Florian articles in *The Strad* magazine reviewing (criticizing) some musical criticisms. Peter Horton was able to cross reference the Strad articles with Heron-Allen's own personal notes from his violin library currently conserved at the Royal College of Music.

Florian:
An English Virtuosa. *The Strad* 1(no. 8): Dec. 1890, pg. 141-142

Florian:
Mons, Gerardy, Herr Gompertz and the Sarasate Adieu.
The Strad 1
(No. 9): Jan. 1891, pg. 165-166

Florian:
A Pause for Reflection. *The Strad* 1(No. 10): Feb. 1891,
pg. 185-187

Florian:
The Shinner Quartette "Master" Gerardy and Mons Remenyi.
The Strad 1(No. 11): Mar. 1891pg. 205-207

Florian:
Florian's Defence. *The Strad* 2(No. 13) May. 1891,
pg. 19 Supplement

Florian:
A Word with "Lina". *The Strad* 2(No. 13,) May. 1891,
pg. 19 Supplement

Based on Peter Horton's superb investigative technique and intuition, we searched *The Strad* magazine looking only for known Heron-Allen pseudonyms and found an additional six unrecognized (at least by us!) 'Rosin Le Beau' letters and articles. The additions of twelve new articles are a pretty amazing discovery, all possible because of the investigative skills of one interested person.

Heron-Allen's earliest known stories, submitted with the pseudonym, 'Flavian', were two unusual pieces that appeared in the short-lived *Anglo-French Review* journal: *The Purpura Lapillus* (August 1919), and *The Blue Cockroach* (October 1919). (5) These two stories were reprinted and incorporated with 6 additional stories under the new pseudonym, Christopher Blayre in 1921 and titled, *The Purple Sapphire and Other Posthumous papers. Selected from the unofficial Records of the University of Cosmopoli*. (6) The only other known Flavian article is the previously mentioned story titled *Sitting Face* which Heron-Allen purportedly published in a magazine called *Books of Today* by Hatchards, a literary book selling corporation. (7) We have never found any library reference to this magazine.
Is there any substance to this Flavian persona? In 1886, Heron-Allen was a very handsome young fellow of a delicate physical mould with blonde hair, blue eyes and exquisite manners. His literary and language skills were extraordinary for a person lacking any formal post-secondary school training. At the tender age of 21, he was already recognized as an authority on the history of the violin and had already presented papers at the foremost literary club in London, The Sette of Odd Volumes. His black/white Sarong cabinet photos in the mid-1880s suggest light brown or possibly blonde hair. Flavian as a name is of Latin origin and means "yellow hair". But who was this Flavian character in Water Pater's novel *Marius the Epicurean*? (8) In 1885, Water Pater published this historical and philosophical novel which was set in Rome, A.D. 161-177. In summary, Marius, a child of a patrician family, was impressed by his town's traditions and religious rituals. But his youth ends abruptly following the death of both parents resulting in his departure to a boarding school. He is befriended and influenced by an older brilliant hedonistic boy, "Flavianus". Flavian who is described as an avid student of words, of the literary art and author of literary works, introduces Marius to an appreciation of literature. (9) In our opinion, the claim of Heron-Allen of being called Flavian by his closest friends is very plausible and believable if his intimate friends had read Pater's novel and could see the general resemblance of Flavianus to Heron-Allen. But did Pater really model his character after this 21 year-old man? Heron-Allen reportedly briefly socialized with Walter Pater in the 1890s. (10) The Heron-Allen Society even claims in its web site article of Heron-Allen's biography that he knew Walter Pater, but there was no mention of when they first met. (11) Since Pater began this novel in 1882 and it was published in 1885, if the "modelling of Flavian after Heron-Allen" claim is to be believed, Pater and Heron-Allen would have to have met at least during the time of Heron-Allen's famous visit to the Sette of Odd Volumes in London presenting his History *of the Violin* Opusculum in 1882 or perhaps during the Palmistry craze following Frith's and Heron-Allen's book, *Chiromancy Or the Science of Palmistry* in 1883. (12,13) Timothy J. McCann, Chairman of the Heron-Allen Society, has identified the exact time and place of his first meeting with Pater from Heron-Allen's personal diary. (14)

December 21, 1885
Heron-Allen describes a party at Andre Raffalovich's home in Albert Hall Mansion where he lists among the guests, "Walter Pater the author of 'Marius the Epicurian' (sic)". He further states "Pater the author of 'Marius the Epicurian' is also a most charming, a quiet man with a deep intense look & curious head. I am going to visit him & have sent him my mesmerism article."

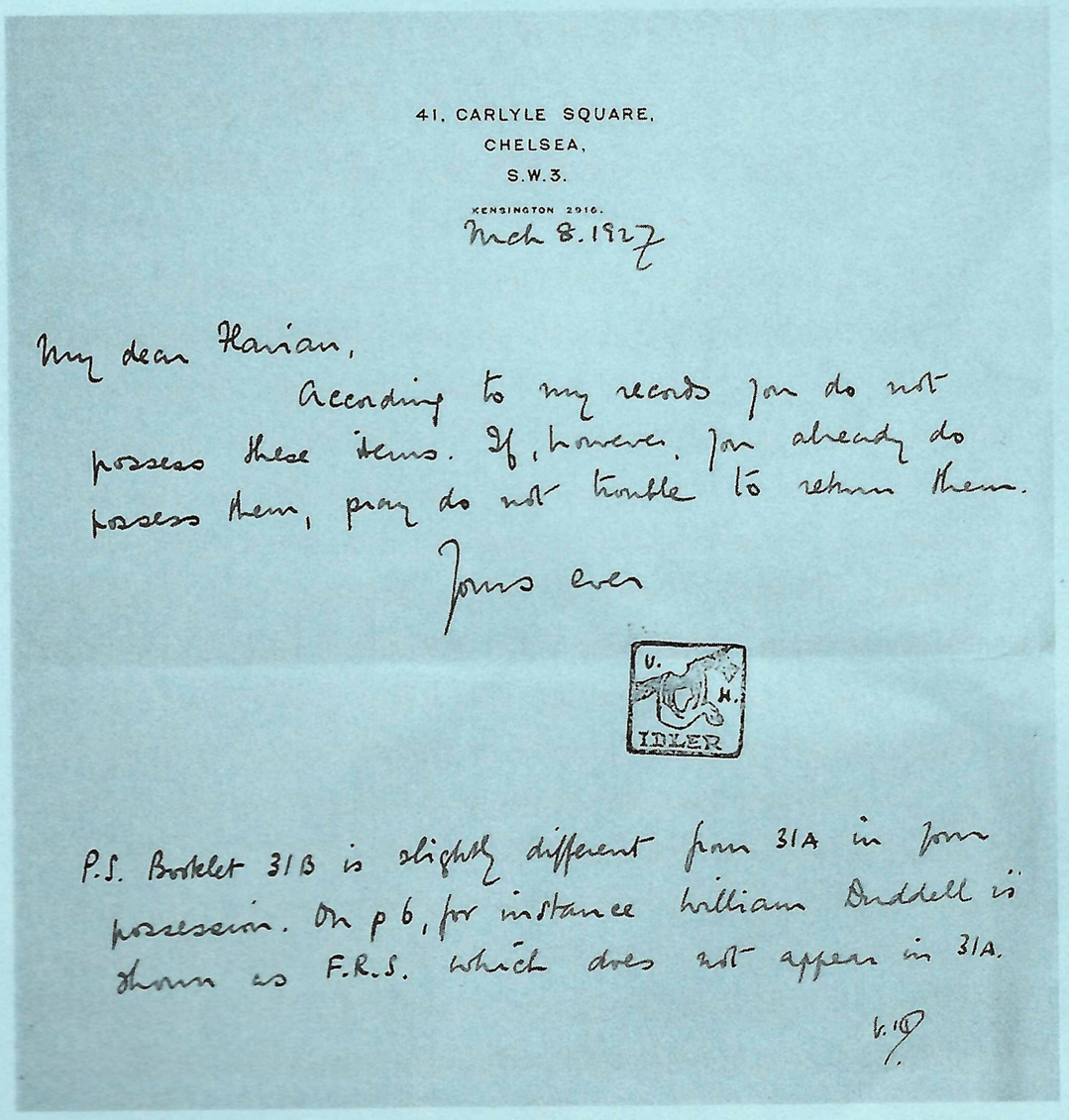
December 28, 1885

Heron-Allen wrote "I called on Walter Pater & improved the acquaintance **begun** at Andre Raffalovitch's last Monday. He is really a fascinating man, very plain but, quiet and sweet looking. He lives in a pretty little house in Earls Terrace with two very plain & rather uninteresting sisters."

We can confidently conclude that Heron-Allen, at the very least, inadvertently embellished this Flavian association statement in 1919 perhaps under the fog of time, age and pressures of World War I.

The following is a long tale relating to evidence that his closest intimate friends called him Flavian. In 2011, we were able to purchase a portion of Edward Heron-Allen's personal *Sette of Odd Volumes* books and ephemera. The collection included an almost complete set of the "Booklets" of the *Sette of Odd Volumes* published almost every year between 1890 and 1939. His "Booklet" collection was only missing two extremely rare variant issues, no. XV(B) and No. XXX. In 1907, the two variant issues labelled no. XV only differed by a **single** word buried in the internal text! Such "beyond subtle" differences could only be appreciated by extremely compulsive collectors, much like many philatelists. There were book collecting members of the Sette who were considered to be "odd"! They enjoyed the collecting of all possible variants of books and ephemera published by the Sette of Odd Volumes, items affiliated with the Sette (Dedication copies) or separately published books that had been presented at one of the Sette's formal monthly dinners. These affected members were also known to publish limited, numbered and signed Deluxe or "Large Print" editions, or books with "variant" covers probably to foil other members from ever having the ultimate satisfaction of a bibliomaniac: a complete collection of the Sette of Odd Volumes publications and all related ephemera. If one could not achieve this bibliomania of completeness, then affected members made sure that no one else would be able to sleep at night. They produced extremely limited variants (such as 6 copies) and distributed these only to their "loyal collecting friends". Heron-Allen had a particularly difficult task since he left the Sette in 1893 and did not rejoin until 1925. Yet, he continued to avidly collect these items. Heron-Allen publicly complained bitterly about these "variants", but he was also one of the most notorious offenders. The best example was his inaugural address pamphlet which was also issued in a separate extremely limited, numbered, signed edition of only ten copies, *Inaugural Address of His Oddship Edward Heron-Allen - Edition De Misera*. Half of the pages were printed on red paper! (15) So how did Heron-Allen attempt to fill in the missing gaps in his collection? Heron-Allen had an inside source on documents stored, donated and/or traded at the Sette, his close intimate friend, Vyvian Holland, the Sette's *Librarian* and the second son of Oscar Wilde. Holland reportedly had one of the few known complete collections of the Sette (portions of Holland's Sette publications just became available for purchase this year). In our recently purchased Heron-Allen collection of the Sette's "Booklets", we found two personal handwritten letters from Holland to Heron-Allen discussing the collecting of the Sette's publications. The letters are addressed to, "My Dear Flavian". (Fig. 1) Two Heron-Allen letters signed as 'Flavian' have recently been discovered. Heron-Allen sent a letter in 1930 to a Miss Ivy L. Kay (Fig. 2) thanking her for her letter of condolence on Armorel's death. (16) Timothy J. McCann uncovered the earliest known Flavian letter addressed to Josephine Preston Peabody dated Sept. 3, 1902. (17.)

Obviously Heron-Allen was known to a small group of intimate friends as Flavian and he at least flattered himself as the real-life model for Walter Pater's character, Flavianus/Flavian.



41, CARLYLE SQUARE,
CHELSEA,
S.W.3.
KENSINGTON 2916.

Mch 8. 1927

My dear Flavian,

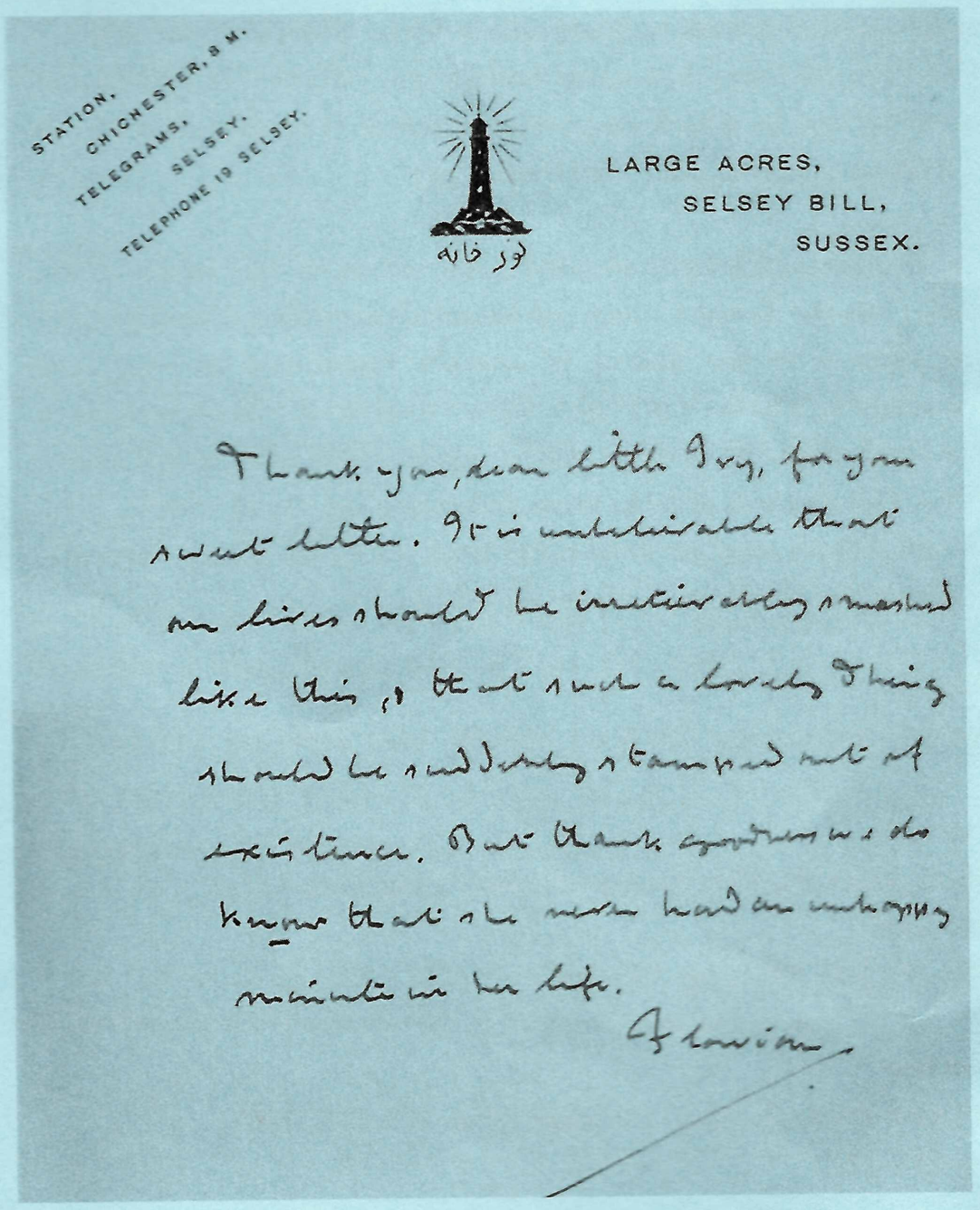
According to my records you do not possess these items. If, however, you already do possess them, pray do not trouble to return them.

Yours ever

V. H. IDLER

P.S. Booklet 31B is slightly different from 31A in your possession. On p 6, for instance William Ouddell is shown as F.R.S. which does not appear in 31A.

Fig. 1: Letter to Flavian from the "Idler", Vyvian Holland, Librarian to the Sette of Odd Volumes



STATION, CHICHESTER, S.R.
TELEGRAMS, SELSEY.
TELEPHONE 19 SELSEY.

LARGE ACRES,
SELSEY BILL,
SUSSEX.

Thank you, dear little Ivy, for your sweet letter. It is unbelievable that our lives should be interfered with & marred like this, & that such a lovely thing should be suddenly stamped out of existence. But thank goodness we do know that she never had an unhappy minute in her life.

Flavian

Fig. 2: Letter from Flavian to Ivy L. Kay regarding the Death of Armorel, circa 1930

John P. Mahoney
Barbara P. Mahoney
2920 Ivanhoe Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32312
mahoneysbooks@violinsandbows.com

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EDWARD HERON-ALLEN AND THE JESSIE ALICE PALMER BEQUESTS

One of the long-standing queries on the website of the Heron-Allen Society is a request for information about Jessie Alice Palmer and the Jessie Alice Palmer Charitable Trust bequests. The query arose from the discovery of a report in *The Times* of 5 January 1905, which stated that: .' Mr. Edward Heron-Allen has given a donation of £1,000 to found the Jessie Alice Palmer bed at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables at Streatham', and information was sought to explain why Heron-Allen had chosen to make this generous bequest and his relationship with Jessie Alice Palmer.

Edward Heron-Allen

In fact, a report in *The Times* the previous day goes some way the answering the question. On 4 January the newspaper reported, under the heading of The Jessie Alice Palmer Charitable Fund, that 'Edward Heron-Allen of Messrs. Allen & Son, solicitor, Carlisle Street, Soho Square, W., yesterday made the first three endowments under the above bequest of £1000 each in memory of Jessie Alice Palmer. They are as follows: £1,000 to Westminster Hospital, in recognition of the services to Science of Dr. William Murrell, F.R.C.P.; £1,000 to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, in recognition of the service to Science of Dr. W.S.A. Griffith, F.R.C.P.; and £1000 to the British Home for Incurables.

A further report in the same paper on 28 January 1905, stated that: 'Mr. Edward Heron-Allen has given a donation of £500 to the Infant Hospital to endow a bed in memory of the late Jessie Alice Palmer. But who was Jessie Alice Palmer and why was Edward Heron-Allen making these bequests on her behalf?

It seems that she was born at Marylebone sometime between 1848 and 1850, the daughter of the Rev. William H. Dickenson, and she

married Frederick Fish B. Palmer, who was born in Winchester in July 1847, and was also the child of a clergyman, at St. George's, Hanover Square in 1873. The marriage produced one child – a son, Frederick A.H. Palmer, who was born c. 1875. Her husband died in January 1879, and his death was recorded in Steyning Registration District in West Sussex. His will, proved on 28 May 1879 described him as formerly of Stone, Chalfont St. Giles near Slough in Buckinghamshire, but late of 2 Lansdowne Mansions , Brighton in Sussex. His estate was valued at under £45,000, so Jessie Alice Palmer's wealth obviously did not come from her husband. . By 1881 Jessie was living back at home with her father at 2 Cambridge Terrace, Regents Park in London. She was still there in 1891 and 1901, according to the census returns, where she is described as living there on her own means. She died in on 28 August 1903.

She had made a will on 10 September 1900, and her will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, on the 6th of September 1904, by Edward Heron-Allen, Arthur Frank de Fonblanque and John Richard Charles Rotton, the partners in the firm of Allen & Son of 17 Carlisle Street, Soho Square, who were the executors named in her will. Besides a number of bequests to her family, godchildren and staff, and given that her son had been provided for in her father's will, she left the remainder of her estate to Edward Heron-Allen to be distributed entirely at his discretion, one moiety in public charities and one moiety in private charities. The term "public charity" was to include any hospital convalescent home or charitable institution or asylum in the United Kingdom the objects of which were for the relief of the indigent sick or invalid persons, while "private charity" was to include the granting of annuities or the bestowal of gifts out of capital or income to gentlewomen who are not in receipt of an income exceeding fifty pounds a year, entirely at the discretion of Edward Heron-Allen. She further wished that the money set aside for public charities should be used to endow beds and cots in the great hospitals and convalescent homes in perpetuity to be known as the "Jessie Alice Palmer Beds"

The first grant of probate to Edward Heron- Allen in July 1904, valued the effects at £3621.10s, 3d., but there were clearly some problems. . As a result of information obtained that first grant was cancelled, and another grant of probate to Heron-Allen, de Fonblanque and Rotten was made on 6 September 1904, and this time the effects were valued at £28669.1s..6d. On 18 September the partners placed a standard notice in the *London Gazette* requesting all creditors and other persons having any claim or demands against the estate before the 25th of October to contact them, and, as we know, Heron-Allen was able to make the first bequests in January 1905.

TimothyJ. McCann

AN APOLOGY

Mr. Heron-Allen has our apologies. By a slip we gave him the name of Chiropodist instead of Cheirosophist.

Macon Telegraph. Reprinted in *The New York Times*, December 1886.

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

THE SOCIETY'S WEB-SITE

The Heron-Allen Society has a website at: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/heronallen/ The webmaster, Dr. Andrew S. Henderson, can be contacted through the website or directly by e-mail at: andy.henderson@fugro-robertson.com. Andy updates our web-site on a regular basis, and members are encouraged to keep in touch by making use of it. There is an opportunity on the site for members to make comments and suggestions and to post queries.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PAYPAL

Members are reminded that their annual subscriptions become due on 1 July. The Society can now accept payment for subscriptions or purchases by Paypal, which is a very safe way to transfer money. We hope that this will help our overseas members in particular. If you do not have a Paypal account, it is very easy to open one. Just go to www.paypal.com or www.paypal.co.uk and follow the instructions. When you send money via Paypal, the e-mail address you need to quote is: heronallensoc@aol.com. Please ensure that you add details of the purpose of the payment. If you have any queries about such payments, please contact Pam Thompson (pthomp1059@aol.com) who is administering the Paypal account.

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The Heron-Allen Newsletter was edited by Timothy J. McCann and designed by Caroline Adams.

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

Agenda for the twelfth Annual General Meeting to be held at the Allen Room, Soho, London, on Saturday 30 June 2012

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25 June 2011
3. Matters arising
4. Amendment to the Constitution
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Chairman's Report
7. Presentation of the Accounts
8. Reports:
    a. Website
    b. Newsletter and Future Opuscula
    c. 2013 Symposium
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of next meeting [Saturday 29 June 2013]

The Heron-Allen Society

Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting, held in the Library of the Royal College of Music, London, on 25 June 2011

1. ***Apologies for Absence***
Apologies had been received from Andy Henderson and Dr and Mrs Chris and Liza Wood.
The meeting was attended by 21 members and four guests.

2. ***Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting on 3 July 2010***
The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, on a show of hands.

3. ***Matters arising***
There were no matters arising.

4. ***Election of Officers and Committee***
The officers (Chairman: Timothy McCann; Treasurer: Ivor Jones; Secretary: Juliet Field) and other committee members (Peter Horton, Pam Thompson, and John Whittaker) were all re-elected unopposed.

5. ***Chairman's Report***
The Chairman reported that the committee had met four times during the previous year, twice in London, once at the Chairman's home in Havant, and once at Ivor Jones's home in Dorset.
The Society had published one *Opusculum* (no. XV, on EH-A and the Thames), with the next (no. XVI, papers on the archaeology and geology of Sussex from the Tenth Symposium) being with Selsey Press and about to be distributed. The next two Opuscula would be one covering John Mahoney's researches into the Sette of Odd Volumes and one being the Proceedings of this year's Symposium.
In addition, two issues of the Newsletter (nos 17 and 18) had been produced and thanks were due to Caroline Adams and Clare Snoad at the WSRO for setting the text providing the illustrations, and to Pam Thompson at the RCM Library for posting the copies. He reminded members that material for the Newsletters was always needed, and articles or short pieces could be sent to him at any time.
The Tenth Symposium, held at the West Sussex Record Office, took the theme Edward Heron-Allen on Archaeology and Local History; it had been well attended and was a very successful return to the WSRO.
He reminded us that the forthcoming trip to Clare Island is this year's special event, and there is still time to join it.
Finally, he reported that membership, at around 60, had remained steady, adding that in order to maintain our high standards of meetings and publications, we would need to look to increase membership, or at

least maintain it against losses into the coming years, and he appealed to present membership to help with recruitment.
He concluded by expressing the Society's thanks, first to Pam Thompson and Peter Horton for their hospitality at the RCM Library, and for the smooth and successful running of the Symposium, and then to John and Barbara Mahoney and to Pat Naismith for generously allowing us to hear both the EH-A violins; both of which were echoed by the enthusiastic applause of the members.

6. ***Presentation of Accounts by the Treasurer***

The Treasurer reiterated that the costs of printing and particularly of postage were rising, but that he felt this should not compromise the quality of the Society's work, and that all our publications should maintain their high standard. He stated that although it would be possible to send the Newsletter by email, this was a step to be avoided if possible. These views were supported by the members present.
In introducing the accounts, he noted that once the cost of the present Opusculum (£821.00) was added to the Liabilities, the balance in the account would be about £300. Even with some further subscriptions to come, this was not a very satisfactory position. He therefore proposed that subscriptions should increase next year to £20 and £25 respectively, and that this would still represent very good value to members. This was agreed on a show of hands.
It was proposed by David Thompson and seconded by Sue Bullivant that the accounts be approved, which was passed *nem con*.

7. ***Reports***

A. *Website*

This had been partially been brought up to date by Andy Henderson who has offered to continue as webmaster. He needs to be firmly reminded when the website gets out of date.

B. *Newsletter and future Opuscula*

This was dealt with in the Chairman's Report (see section 5).

C. *2012 Symposium*

There were various suggestions for a possible theme and venue, but no final decision was reached .
Suggested themes included Horticulture (auriculas, asparagus), and EH-A and women; it was not essential to have a theme but it provided interest and continuity.
Some previous venues would no longer be possible (WSRO, Lady Margaret Hall)
New suggestions included Wisley or Kew (horticulture), and places with EH-A collections - e.g. London Library, the new Chichester Museum. There would need to be a contact within the venue administration to facilitate arrangements. Various Learned Societies in London might also be worth investigating.

8. ***Any other business***

1. Ivor Jones reminded members to make sure their subscriptions were up to date.
2. It was suggested that we might try to produce a CD featuring the two violins. The works played would need to be out of copyright. It was agreed that the committee would investigate.

9. ***Date of next meeting:***

It was agreed to hold the AGM on the last Saturday of June - 30 June 2012

Appendix A: Attendance List

Tim McCann	Kevin Chanot	Barbara Mahoney
Garry Garrard	Chris Willcox	Joan Navarre
Juliet Field	Sue Bullivant	Rohinten Mazda
Pam Thompson	Bill Coleby	Benjamin Norris
David Thompson	Helen Coleby	Clive Jones
Peter Horton	Brian Harvey	Francis Dinely
Ivor Jones	Carol Harvey	
John Whittaker	John Mahoney	

Appendix B: Guest List

Peter Linnitt
Pat Naismith
David Mandell
Dr Armorel Wood

All these guests wished to become members, and either joined at the meeting or will join shortly.

Appendix C: Information concerning the performance on the two EH-A violins

Benjamin Norris, violin, and Craig Green, piano played
first, the violin sonata in E minor by Mozart
and second, four of the Twenty-four Preludes by Shostakovich,
written for piano and arranged for violin and piano by Tsyganov

These were played on the instrument owned by the Mahoneys.

The Shostakovich pieces were then also played on the instrument owned by Pat Naismith.

Proposed amendment to Heron-Allen Society Constitution:

Hon. Vice-President(s) may also be appointed at the discretion of the committee, and their name(s) reported to the AGM.

This text to be added following on after:

Officers
The Officers of the Society consist of a President, a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. Edward Heron-Allen is the permanent President of the Society.

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY
ACCOUNTS 1.7.11 – 31.5.12*

Receipts		Payments	
At bank, brought forward	1,321.14	Opusculum XVI	852.00
Subscriptions 2010/11	15.00	Opusculum XVII	682.00
Subscriptions 2011/12	340.00	Newsletters (2)	190.00
Subscriptions 2012/13	100.00	Postage (3 Opuscula**)	231.69
Opuscula – back issues	159.08	Corsica disc sale	12.40
		AGM refreshments	66.42
Donations to Opuscula	474.20	Corsica photography	150.00
Paypal verification	0.15	Balance at bank, 31.5.12	249.86
	£2421.97		£2421.97

Notes:

* Accounts are not for a full year, as June receipts are not yet fully recorded and bank statement for June not yet available.

Further subscriptions received to date in early June: £210; no expenditure.

** The cheque for postage for Opusculum XV (£67.08) was not cleared until November 2011.

Further budgetary information:

Approx. cost of 1 Opusculum	£800.00
Approx. cost of 2 Newsletters	£190.00
Estimated postage for one Opusculum	£ 90.00
	£1080.00
Estimated subs. income 2012/13	£1165.00