The Heron-Allen Society

Newsletter no. 23

Autumn 2013

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: Edward Heron-Allen and his Collections

Edward Heron-Allen at Large Acres, 1923

The great pleasure of a Heron-Allen Symposium is that you can never anticipate exactly what you will see or hear. This year's Symposium in the Sackler Rooms at the British Library on June 29th was no exception, though I doubt that any present expected to be treated to such a fine variety of papers, illustrations - and exhibits. The Society, probably much to its surprise, seems now to be able to maintain a delightful balance between technological offerings and the more homespun, while ensuring that all present have a chance to participate. Technological assistance by British Museum staff, to whom great thanks are due, assured our success with the former.

A fine start was made with John and Barbara Mahoney's exploration of Doctor Christopher Blayre's scientific and literary accomplishments, outlining not only the maze of publications and editions involved but also the machinations which lay behind them. These were accompanied by diverting excursions into the exchange of fluids and blood, fertility, animal magnetism, angel fish and diving.

We then moved to the discovery of the Selsey "mammoth" in 1909 and those involved, including Heron-Allen himself. Photographic records of those present at the time, including the mammoth or – at least – its bones, were fascinating, but our astonishment was completed by the production at the meeting of some of the bones themselves.

With the British Museum as our venue, accounts of Heron-Allen's donations to the Museum could not be missed. Thomas Huckenhull from the BM's Coins and Medals department kindly gave up his Saturday to give us an overview of Heron-Allen's donations of First World War French bank notes, though how Heron-Allen came by them may need further exploration. Pam Thompson, enabled wholly by the British Museum website, outlined other, mainly archaeological items donated by the Heron-Allen family. David Thompson, until recently Curator of Horology at the BM, gave an account of the workings and background to Heron-Allen's pocket watch, a feat outshone at the meeting by the presence there of the watch and its current owner.

The Society's AGM was then undertaken with some speed to enable many participants to go on to a highly enjoyable lunch at Il Castelletto in Bury Place, where we were joined by other Heron-Allen supporters, including our new webmaster, Maira Canzonieri, who has rejuvenated the site and updates it with much appreciated astonishing speed.

Pamela Thompson

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY MEETING HELD IN CORSICA (MAY 19TH-26TH, 2013)

Here it is, 2.45 in the morning, driving round to pick up Alison and Tim McCann, en route to Gatwick Airport. What are we doing this for? Does the study of Edward Heron-Allen (EH-A) warrant this? We are assured by Tim that it does, although Alison and Sylvia have their doubts. Having been convinced, we proceed to Gatwick, meet Tim and Evie Collins, and board the luxury EasyJet plane for our flight to Ajaccio, where we know that we will be greeted by warmth and sun. As we leave the plane we look out at the storm clouds brewing and are pleased that we still have our coats on. After leaving the airport, we feel tired but happy knowing that we will soon be able to have a pleasant nap at the hotel. The taxi driver helps by driving us there at a speed that would have made Alonso jealous. Wrong, check in is not until 4 o'clock, so hard luck, although 'we will look after your cases for you'. The intrepid six therefore head into town, but having to shelter from the thunderstorm encountered on the way. However, a pleasant restaurant is found, along with an excellent local beer and lovely food, and suddenly life is worth living again. After a second beer, undertaken solely to make sure that we liked it, we walked around Ajaccio, which we all thought was a very pleasant town, and then headed back to the hotel, checked in and fell asleep almost immediately until dinner time.

On day two it was decided to leave the hotel without taking breakfast, proceed gently to the railway station, have breakfast there, then buy some food for lunch on the train. After about fifteen minutes, it was discovered that Gerald had left his camera back at the hotel and so back he went to collect it. The others walked on serenely to the station to find that it was a public holiday and the only train suitable was leaving in a few minutes time. After buying their tickets from a very rude and unhelpful man they waited anxiously for Gerald to arrive. However, being of a somewhat vague nature (perhaps a requisite for membership of the Society), he had missed the railway station and was lost. Eventually he realised this and made his way back. However, the others had boarded the train ready to depart, but leaving Sylvia as a forlorn figure standing on the platform with three cases to await Gerald. EH-A must have intervened, because the train broke down and everyone had to alight. By this time Gerald had arrived, was greeted with a few choice words, and they all managed to board the train, which departed very late. The journey to Bastia through the mountains, some decked in snow, was magnificent, helped by masses of flowers in the meadows. Eventually, on reaching Bastia, the intrepid travellers were met by a dead city, without a taxi in sight. Despair loomed, but an excellent lunch, fortified with the excellent beer and a newly discovered rosé wine, lifted the spirits. After lunch, taxis were found to transport us to a very fine hotel, looking out over the sea to Elba. After the necessary nap (remember the ages of the travelling party), dinner was taken at a very good local restaurant. By this time the party had been increased with the arrival of Pam and David Thompson. The return to the hotel was literally lit up by numerous fireflies, which, although somewhat spooky at first, as we were adjacent to the cemetery, excited us all.

Heron-Allen Society members in front of the hotel where Heron-Allen stayed in 1921, now the Corsican Parliament building.

Day three was taken up with a quiet walk around Bastia, a picturesque town, dominated by its citadel. Considerable thought was given, however, to tomorrow, when the Third International Heron-Allen Symposium would start. After about two minutes of serious deliberation, the honourable members retired to the restaurant, the return journey from which was again graced by fireflies.

Francis Beretti and his wife Madeleine, our generous hosts, with Tim and Alison McCann in Bastia

On day four, the illustrious party, and the others, split into three groups until the evening. Alison and Sylvia walked into Bastia for a quick look at the town and an even quicker paddle in the sea before returning to the hotel for a quiet laze around the pool and the occasional swim. Tim and Evie went for a stroll around the neighbourhood before coming back to the hotel to relax. Meanwhile, David and Pam had taken Tim and Gerald for a drive around the north of the island, which was delightful for the passengers, but poor David saw very little because of the continuously winding road, but he regularly heard cries of 'oo ah, I am sorry David, I promise I won't make another sound.' A few hundred yards further on, and at the next hairpin bend, this was repeated, and again a mile further on. In between times, Genoese fortified towers and very attractive villages were admired, as well as spectacular scenery.

The evening of day four was spent with Professor Francis Beretti and his wife Madeleine. Francis, now retired, has published widely on the influence of the UK on Corsica, including the visit of James Boswell to the island, and how his writings influenced the attitude of the British to Corsica at the time. Francis translated into French EH-A's diary written when he visited Corsica in 1921, which was published last year. Francis and Madeleine very kindly hosted an evening meal at a lovely restaurant in Bastia overlooking the marina. It was a splendid function and we are all extremely grateful to them for their kindness, hospitality and providing us with valuable insights into Corsican life and culture.

The next day was the return to Ajaccio by train; this time Gerald was on time as he was fearful for his life. On the way we stopped at Corte, which is a small, old-world town, dominated by its citadel (citadels are a feature of many Corsican towns). After a lunch of wild boar, Corsican sausage and the like, and having to deal with the formidable restaurant owner's wife, 'Wild Myrtle', but fortified by the occasional bottle of beer and a glass of red wine, an ascent to the citadel was made. After a leisurely tour of the town, it was back to the station (Gerald got lost again, but then so did Sylvia, Tim and Evie) for the onward journey to Ajaccio, arriving in time for a leisurely drink and a toast to EH-A.

Friday was spent by six of the eight touring the main sights of Ajaccio, including places noted by EH-A. The former Grand Hotel, where he stayed, is no longer a hotel, but the Parliament building. However, it still looked very grand and had a lovely garden with roses in full bloom. The art collection amassed by Cardinal Fesch, Napoleon's uncle, was assessed by the very knowledgeable visiting party, although its knowledge had nothing to do with art. The general opinion was that EH-A's view was approximately correct, although we all enjoyed what we saw, unlike EH-A. Other sights, such as the cathedral, with its Delacroix, and the monument to Napoleon were visited before returning to the hotel for the Symposium cocktail reception hosted by Pam and David. Along with local delicacies, such as a bag of crisps, a packet of pistachio nuts and cornichon, wine of various sorts was quaffed in plastic beakers, much as EH-A would have done.

On Saturday, the two Tims, Alison and Evie set out to find the foraminifera collection sites of EH-A on the Isles de Sanguinaire route. The plan was to take the boat to the islands, but bad weather made this impossible. So, the next plan was to take a bus trip to a spot from which the islands could be viewed. The bus was then cancelled and so the determined group went on the toy train to the viewing station. Samples were taken in the hope that they would be full of exciting foraminifera, but there is also the chance that they will

be comprised of sand, gravel and mud. However, we live in hope, and the samples will be sent to international experts for examination. On the return, the collection party visited the house where Napoleon had been born. In the evening, after another reception at which the leftovers from the previous evening were devoured, the farewell dinner was held.

On Sunday six of the travelling party returned home, while Pam and David stayed on knowing that they could now relax as the others had gone.

The Symposium was a very enjoyable and interesting experience and all who went had a great time. Thanks must go to EH-A, who, by visiting Corsica, inspired our very enjoyable visit.

Gerald Blunden

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN, MAGDA HEINEMANN AND THE HEINEMANN DIVORCE CASE

In January 2013 the official records of almost 70,000 divorce cases were put on line by Ancestry. The collection at the National Archives dates from 1858 when the Matrimonial Cases Act made divorce a civil issue no longer under church jurisdiction. Before the act a full divorce required the intervention of Parliament. In one of these cases, Edward Heron-Allen was cited as correspondent in the divorce case brought by William Heinemann against his wife Magda.

Magda Heinemann was born Magda Stuart Sindici in Gaserta in Italy. Her father was the Cavalieri Augusto B Sindici. 1836-1921, of Porte d'Anzio, a poet, who wrote books on Roman dialect and was best known for his *Fourteen Legends of the Roman Countryside*, which was published in 1902 with a letter preface by Gabriele d'Annunzio, and as a writer on sport and an Italian patriot. Her mother Francesca, was a member of the Scottish Stuart family, and a painter of some reputation. The family lived at the Villa Sindici in Porto d'Anzio, near Rome. Magda was a precocious girl, and, while still in her teens wrote a novel of Italian life entitled *Via Lucis*, under the pseudonym Kassandra Vivaria.

William Heinemann was born in Surbiton in 1863. Interested in a career in music publishing, he joined the firm of Nicholas Trubner, but when Trubner died he established his own firm in 1890 specialising in literature and translations. The firm was an immediate success, and is one of the oldest literary imprints still publishing today. It is now part of the Random House Group.

Magda Sindici called on William Heinemann with the manuscript of her novel, *Via Lucis*, which he published in 1898 with great success, and despite the dozen or more years age gap between them, their acquaintance soon ripened into romance and the couple were married in the Church of San Antonio at Porto d'Anzio on 22 February 1899.

Among the witnesses to the wedding was Heinemann's close friend and sometime lodger James Abbott McNeil Whistler, who described her as 'the most fair and dainty Donna'. In some reports, Whistler was named as best man at the wedding. Certainly he had stayed in Heinemann's flat in London from the death of his own wife, until Heinemann's marriage, and was a frequent guest thereafter. Whistler's correspondence includes a number of letters from Magda. Around 1898 he designed a monogram for William Heinemann and later one for Magda. In 1898/9 William Heinemann commissioned a portrait of his wife from Whistler. The portrait was begun in Paris in 1900 and there were frequent sittings over the next two years, which occasioned much of Whistler's correspondence with Magda, but the painting was never finished.

Peter Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the Zoological Society and founder of Whipsnade Zoo, another close friend of William Heinemann, recalled in some reminiscences published in Frederick Whyte's *William Heinemann. A Memoir* in 1928, that he 'met Magda Sindici first at a dinner of some dozen intimates to whom Willie [Heinemann] wished to introduce her. She was then obviously under twenty years old, slender and brilliantly pretty and brilliantly rather than well dressed. I cannot say that I was impressed with more than her charm and appearance then, but the marriage soon followed, and in a few weeks I was their guest at a house they had taken in Wimbledon for the summer. There, almost at once I "fell for" Magda. She was radiantly happy, certainly very fond of her husband, and making him also contented and happy. She was a delightful hostess, affectionate to those she liked, clever, amusing, and completely natural. I thought for a long time that the marriage was going to be a permanent success and that, so far as I was concerned, I was to have two friends in place of one'

But alas, the marriage was not to last. Chalmers Mitchell felt that some of Heinemann's Jewish friends did not feel that Magda would be able to live up to their conception of married life; she was financial irresponsible and soon ran up large debts, and crucially, she soon began to outshine Heinemann socially. Chalmers Mitchell reported that the young

Magda Heinemann in 1902

couple were welcomed at staid dinner-parties, and wrote that 'Magda tried to be good, but wasn't. She was bored, which Willie thought intolerant, and rude, which offended him, as he was the soul of good manners and had been accustomed to grace such tables with a princely affability. But, worst of all, she made him laugh at them afterwards and infected him with her own distastes, a difficult position, as with some of them he continued to have professional relations. And so socially, the couple almost ceased dining out and entertained largely and informally at home. Their luncheons and dinners, dances and suppers were the gayest and best-served in London, and no one was invited except to the taste of Willie or of Magda or of both. There was an unexpected result. Willie had always been the leader at his own parties. But Magda was even more of an international, a better linguist, with a wider knowledge of European art and letters, of music and of food, she had a quick wit, and where the company pleased her an even more charming manner. She was young, alluring, and now beautifully dressed. She beat Willie at his own game, sometimes made him seem one of the duller guests in his own house, in short, not to put a fine point on it, offended his vanity'.

Magda continued with her literary career and in 1900 published her translation of Gabriele D'Annunzio's novel *Il Fuoco (The Flame of Life)* in English. But Magda's debts soon brought matters to a head, and Heinemann accepted the advice of his friend Sir George Lewis to leave his house and begin divorce proceedings against his wife and what Chalmers Mitchell termed 'a row of co-respondents'. These included Edward Heron-Allen. The case was heard in the High Court of Justice Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division on 26 January 1903. The allegations against Heron-Allen in Heinemann's petition were detailed and specific. Paragraph 3 stated that 'The said Maria Magda Stuart Heinemann has frequently committed adultery with Edward Heron-Allen'. The fourth paragraph stated that 'during the months of July and August 1902 at Merton Abbey, Wimbledon in the County of Surrey the said Maria Magda Heinemann committed adultery with Edward Heron-Allen', and the fifth that 'during the months of December 1902 and January 1903 at 6 Norfolk Street in the County of London the said Maria Magda Stuart Heinemann has frequently committed adultery with Edward Heron-Allen'. Merton Abbey and 6 Norfolk Street were both homes of the Heinemanns.

Magda Heinemann was exactly the sort of woman who would have appealed to Heron-Allen. She was intelligent, beautiful, foreign and exotic and had literary ambitions. Perhaps not surprisingly, I have been unable to find any mention of either William or Magda Heiniemann in the surviving papers of Heron-Allen. Heron-Allen was a widower at the time of the allegations, his first wife, Marianna, having died in February 1902, and his *Notes upon the Literary, Scientific and Artistic Activities of Edward Heron-Allen FRS*, give no further details of his doings in 1902. We know from Volume IX of his holiday journals that Heron-Allen was travelling in Ghent, Bruges and Ypres between 26 March and 4 April 1902; in Constantinople between 12 September and 8 October 1902 and in Budapest and Vienna between 9 and 16 October 1902, but none of these dates conflict with the alleged dates in the allegations. The only relevant letter I have found is one addressed to Josephine Preston Peabody in America on 10 December 1902, in which he wrote: 'I have been frightfully overworked and very much worried ever since I returned from the East & even now I can't write intelligently – my brain, such as it is, being congested with other troubles' but there is no other information about the case..

The petition was filed on 27 January 1903 and Charles Russell & Co., appeared for EH-A. Strangely the court ordered on 11 February that the petition should be dismissed with each party paying their own costs. Astonishingly, despite the specific allegations William Heinemann gave up the case. Peter Chalmers Mitchell commented that:'it was clear that even if he had won his case, the defence could have put him in a most disagreeable position as a result of his infatuated weakness. The case was not proceeded with, but some kind of arrangement was made, as a result of which Magda left London and her

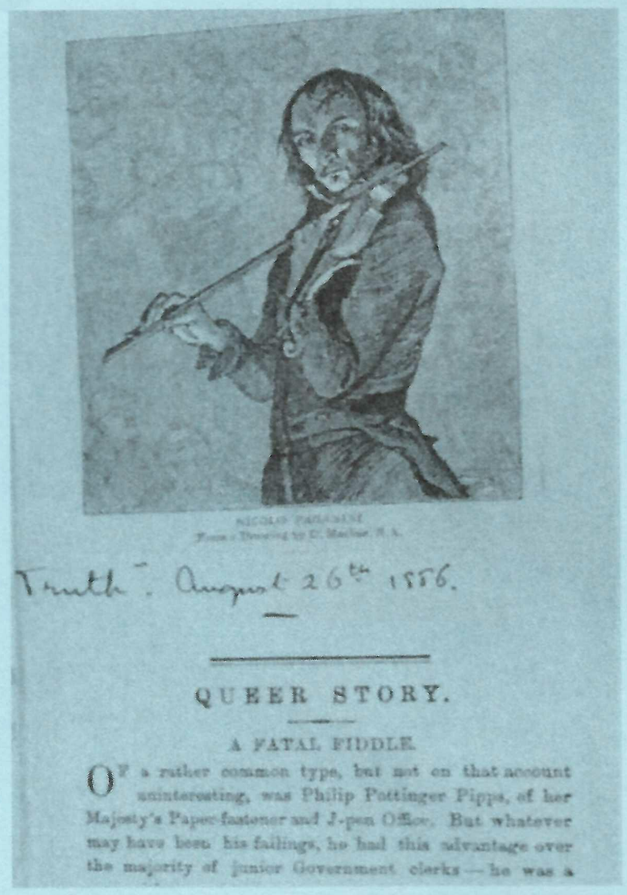
husband went to Paris. Thanks to his legal connections, Heron-Allen no doubt had access to the very best legal advice. Two days after the case ended he left for Egypt accompanied by his brother in law Barry Paine, and, as he wrote: 'during a three months tour of Egypt he met Miss Edith Pepler who he married in the following November'...

The following year Heinemann again petitioned his wife for divorce this time citing Dimiter Monnser as co-respondent and this time his petition was granted. The case does not seem to have been reported in the London papers, but it may have been one of the reasons why Heron-Allen never received any honours or formal academic recognition. Peter Chalmers Mitchell worked with Heron-Allen at the War Office and signed his Royal Society fellowship application. Heron-Allen regarded him as a very close friend, but Mitchell's closer friendship with William Heinemann may help to explain his dismissive attitude to Heron-Allen in his letter to R.T. Gunter in 1938, when an academic honour was mooted. Magda Heinemann later married a young Italian engineer and is occasionally heard of in Paris and in Italy. Peter Chalmers Mitchell concluded that: 'Magda was brilliant, affectionate, kind -hearted, but entirely what is called non-moral and wholly dangerous and irresponsible in all money matters. I do not know if a stronger man would have made the marriage a success, but I do know that Willie moped for her to the end of his days'.

Timothy J. McCann

FIDDLING AROUND WITH THE HERON-ALLEN COLLECTION WITH NO FATAL CONSEQUENCES

I recently had the opportunity to visit and explore the vast Heron-Allen String Instrument book collection at the Royal College of Music in June 2012 at the invitation of Dr. Peter Horton, a fellow Heron-Allen Society member. Besides having the privilege of visualizing the entire collection housed on one compact wall, my real excitement began with the realization that many of Heron-Allen's personal papers concerning violin topics lay buried before me. Could I find answers to some of the nagging questions that were bouncing around in my cranium? A Heron-Allen Society member once queried whether I knew why Heron-Allen used the book title, *A Fatal Fiddle*. (1) Knowing that the title was a play on words, I surmised that the title could easily have been a metaphor for a disastrous manoeuver. Since this short story centered on the calamitous loss of a Guarnerius Violin, the final title seemed artistic and appropriate. This report represents Part I of my delicious journey into the inner sanctum of the distinguished RCM Library. In one of Heron-Allen's "Miscellaneous" bound books at the library, I was fortunate to find his anonymous original eight page 1886 article as printed in *Truth Magazine* (Fig. 1) titled, *Queer Story - A Fatal Fiddle.*(2)


Truth. August 26th 1886.

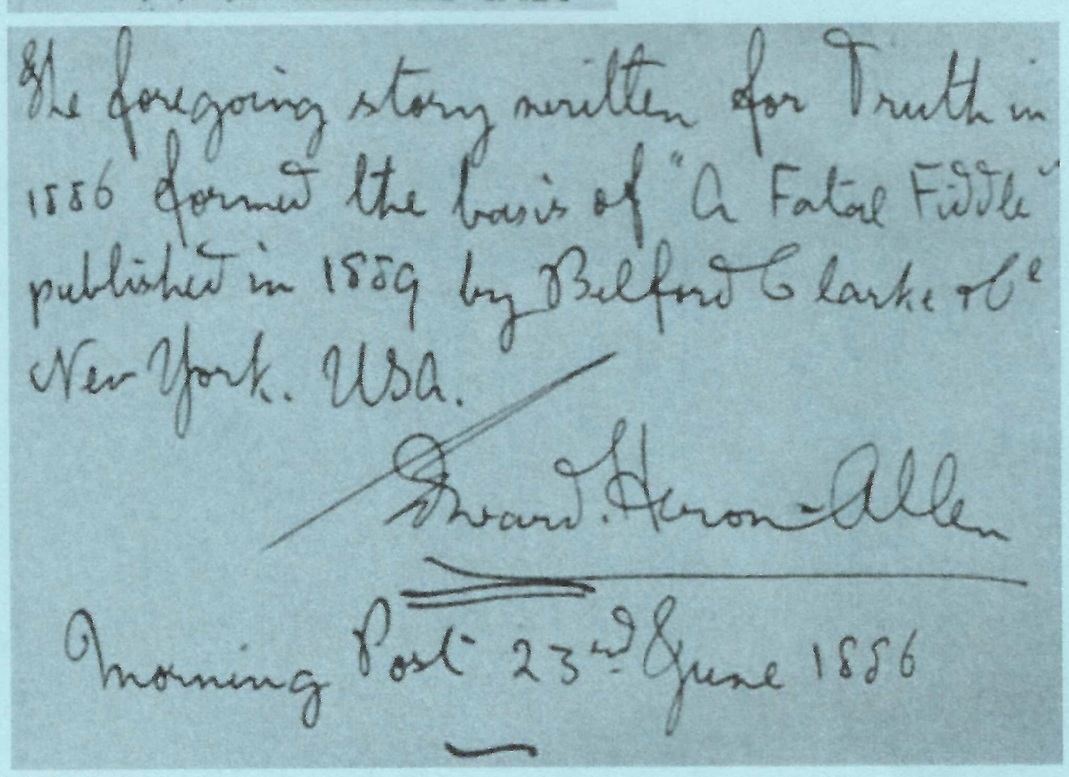
QUEER STORY.

A FATAL FIDDLE.

Of a rather common type, but not on that account uninteresting, was Philip Pottinger Pipps, of her Majesty's Paper-fastener and J-pen Office. But whatever may have been his failings, he had this advantage over the majority of junior Government clerks—he was a

Fig. 1: Truth Magazine Article

Although Heron-Allen's hand-written manuscript was not saved, the last page had the following hand-written note: (Fig. 2)


The foregoing story written for Truth in 1886 formed the basis of "A Fatal Fiddle" published in 1889 by Belford Clarke & Co New York. USA.

Edward Heron-Allen

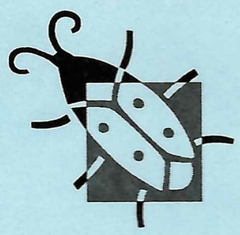
Morning Post 23rd June 1886

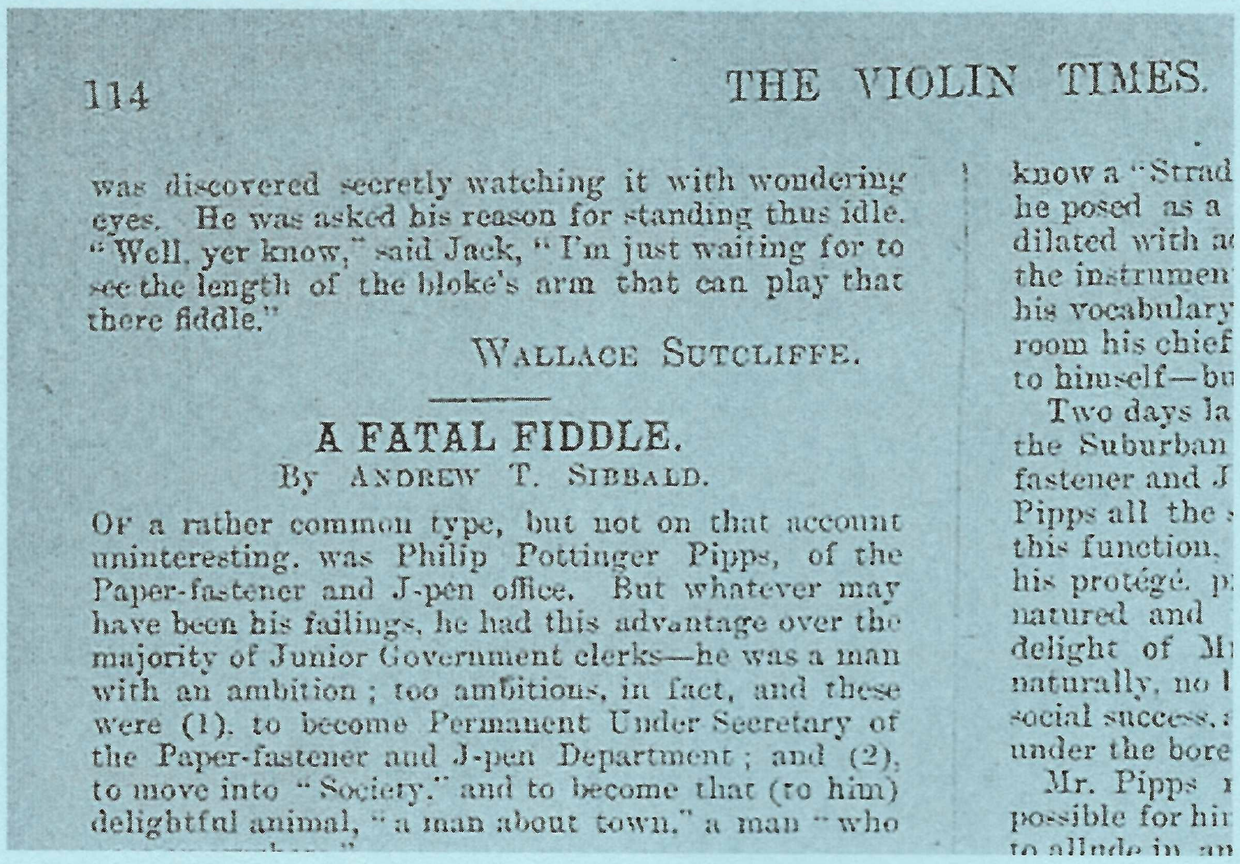
Fig. 2: Heron-Allen Note on 1886 Article

"The foregoing story written for Truth in 1886 formed the basis of 'A Fatal Fiddle' published in 1889 by Belford Clarke & Co., New York, USA.
Edward Heron-Allen
Morning Post 23rd June, 1886"

In *The North-Eastern Daily Gazette* for Middlesbrough, Wednesday, 15th September, 1886, the *Truth* magazine article was reprinted without author attribution(3).

We recently reviewed a nearly identical short story titled only, *A Fatal Fiddle* by Andrew T. Sibbald (Fig. 3) published in the April and May 1897 issues of *The Violin Times*. (4). Comparing the two articles, Heron-Allen changed only the name of the owner of the violin. Heron-Allen was a prodigious author of articles published in the *Violin Times*. It is now well recognized that one of Heron-Allen's pseudonyms is Andrew T. Sibbald. (5) Why Heron-Allen choose this particular pseudonym remains unknown.





114 THE VIOLIN TIMES.

was discovered secretly watching it with wondering eyes. He was asked his reason for standing thus idle. "Well, yer know," said Jack, "I'm just waiting for to see the length of the bloke's arm that can play that there fiddle."

WALLACE SUTCLIFFE.

A FATAL FIDDLE.

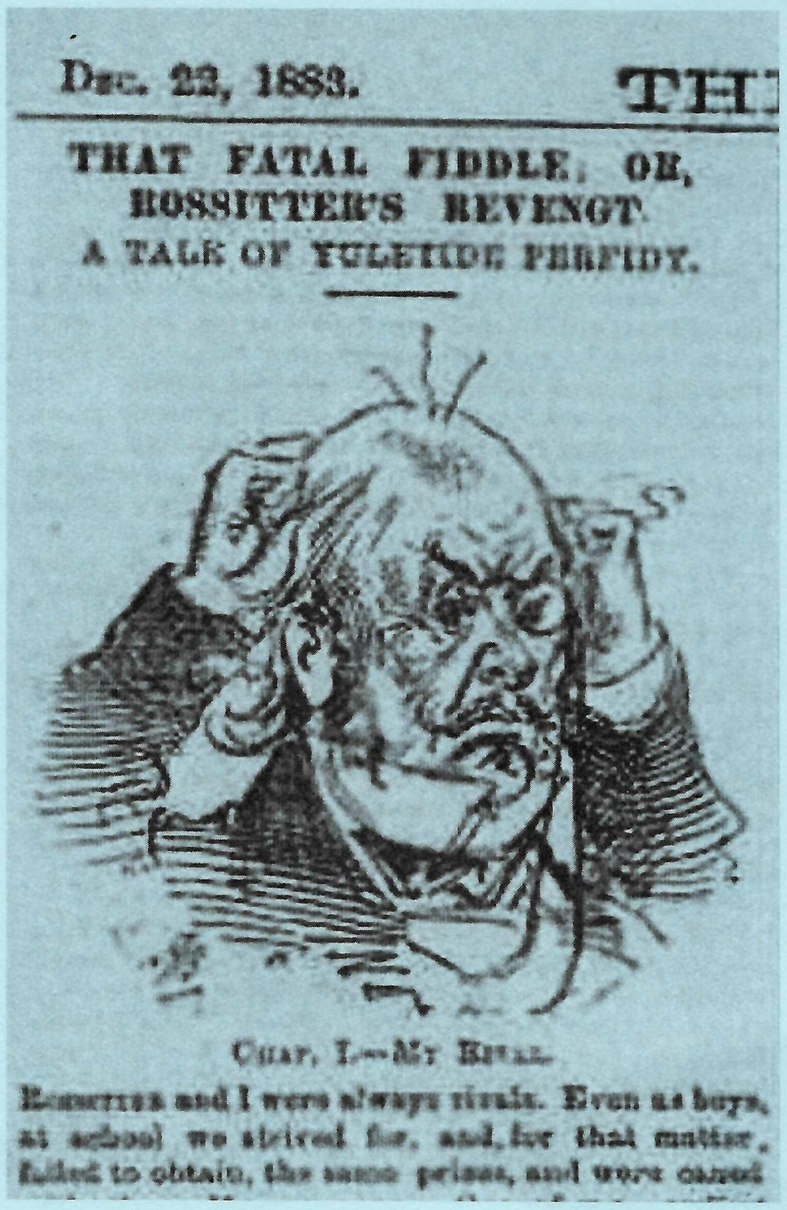
By ANDREW T. SIBBALD.

Of a rather common type, but not on that account uninteresting, was Philip Pottinger Pipps, of the Paper-fastener and J-pen office. But whatever may have been his failings, he had this advantage over the majority of Junior Government clerks—he was a man with an ambition; too ambitious, in fact, and these were (1), to become Permanent Under Secretary of the Paper-fastener and J-pen Department; and (2), to move into "Society," and to become that (to him) delightful animal, "a man about town," a man "who

Fig. 3 Andrew T. Sibbald's Article

The overall theme of these two short articles is essentially identical to the published 1889 novelette. The major differences are the obvious expansion of characters and scenes, the introduction of illustrations and finally new names for all the characters.

Leaving no stone unturned in the inner chambers of the Royal College of Music, I read all the bound newspaper clippings attached to his personal notes and letters. Curiosity unearthed a complexly folded article by O.P.Q. Philander Smiff, published in the Dec. 22nd, 1883 issue of the *London Figaro,* titled, *That Fatal Fiddle: or Rossitter's Revenge*. (6) Two childhood acquaintances spent a life time as not-so-friendly rivals. The finale was the grand recital of the author as the featured violin soloist and his rival's revenge as an unsuspected member of the orchestral violin section. Rossitter's fiddling had fatal consequences to the soloist's performance. (Fig. 4) There is no evidence that Heron-Allen wrote this article. He obviously valued its significance. In this early 1880s period, he was avidly collecting articles with violin themes. We surmise that this article's theme and title may have been the source for his later articles and short story. Heron-Allen recorded this article as entry no. 646 in his *De Fidiculis Bibliographia*. (7)



Dec. 22, 1883.

THAT FATAL FIDDLE; OR, ROSSITTER'S REVENGE.

A TALE OF YULETIDE PERFIDY.

CHAP. I.—MY RIVAL.

Fig. 4: London Figaro 1883 Article

John P. Mahoney
Barbara P. Mahoney
12/28/2012

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6.) Smiff, O.P.Q. Philander: That Fatal Fiddle: or Rossitter's Revenge. The London Figaro: December 22nd, 1883, Pages 3-7.
7.) Heron-Allen, Edward: Di Fidiculis Bibliographia. Griffith, Farran & Co., London, 1890-1894, Part IV Belles Lettres, Section II Short Stories, Entry No. 646 (Smiff, O.P.Q), Page 274.

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN – Music Miscellanea in the Royal College of Music Library

The extensive Heron-Allen collection of writings on string instruments which he bequeathed to the Royal College of Music contains 28 volumes entitled Miscellanea. They contain press cuttings, trade catalogues, advertisements, articles, fiction, poetry, diverse illustrations and what he honestly and accurately confessed to be "scraps". They date mainly from the 19th century, but include earlier material. With equal transparency he described their collection and subsequent binding as being "higgledy-piggledy". At the 2008 Symposium (Proceedings in Opusculum XII) I presented a fairly light-hearted description of the contents of these, trying to give some idea of their tremendous range and diversity.

The RCM Library has Heron-Allen's own typescript catalogue of the main collection, not yet, alas, available online, but the contents of the Miscellanea have until now remained obscure, something to be delved into randomly. With retirement at last offering a little free time, I decided to index them and completed the foolish but fascinating task in September this year. There are some 11,000 entries in 115 pages. The index includes all possible references to string instruments, dealers, makers, performers and performances, as well as the usual index of names and places.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of the work was to list all the instruments and their makers included in dealers' catalogues, The accuracy of the spelling of maker's names sometimes with forenames or initials, often not, provided a captivating diversion, particularly as whole families of makers with the same surnames were common. This combined with a lackadaisical approach to description and provenance not only called into question the accuracy of the item for sale, but also provided an intriguing insight into the vagaries of 19th century cataloguing. How to recover all these variant names which could not be checked without access to the instrument itself? The only option I could settle on was to list makers as given, with the one consoling result of a fair overview of endless variants.

The index is now available on the Royal College of Music Library web site and a link has been provided from the Heron-Allen Society web site.

Pamela Thompson

CELIA CLARKE

It is sad to report the death in September of Celia Clarke, a member of the Society for eight years, a frequent attender of Symposia and a generous supporter of the Society's work. Celia worked in the Royal College of Music Library from 1964 until her retirement, first as a volunteer, then from 1969 as an assistant librarian, so had known the Heron-Allen collection there longer than any other staff.

She had a distinguished archival background, having worked at the Bodleian Library and as Cecil Hopkinson's research assistant on his 1978 Verdi bibliography. The RCM gained immensely from her experience, dedication and scholarship. She was a meticulous book cataloguer, ever interested not only in the finer details of a description, but in the whole history and provenance of volumes. But she embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, not least when the RCM's new library opened in 1985, when far more contact with students, their loans and their needs became part of her work.

Her long admiration for Sir George Grove, the RCM's first Director, led her to extensive research on him, and she transcribed and annotated many Grove letters in the RCM collections. In retirement the Grove research continued, as did visits to the RCM and far beyond. Her quiet demeanour concealed an extraordinary range of interests, boundless knowledge and a great sense of adventure. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, who will not forget the kindness, selflessness and keen sense of humour that made her such good company.

Pamela Thompson

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 new website at: http://www.heronallensociety.co.uk The webmaster, Maira Canzonieri, can be contacted through the website or directly by e-mail at: maira.canzonieri@rcm.ac.uk. Maira 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.

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