AUTUMN 2019

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 35

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, SELSEY, 2019

On the first Saturday of July a group of us from the Society gathered together again for the Annual Symposium, held this year at the beautifully appointed St Peter's Church Hall in Selsey, West Sussex. We renewed friendships, built on acquaintanceships, ate and drank together, and enjoyed the usual high quality Symposium presentations. We were sad that some of our long-standing members, who had been faithful attenders of our Symposia, were missing, having died during the year. We drank to them at lunch after the AGM, and you will find obituaries later in this newsletter. Our chairman made particular mention of the loss of Ivor Jones, Edward Heron-Allen's grandson, who had done such a lot to help in getting the Society under way and supporting it over the years. We were delighted that his widow Venetia and their son Sam were able to be with us for the day.

Earlier, traffic and travel problems we had anticipated from the nearby Goodwood Festival of Speed fortunately failed to materialise, and we all luckily had trouble-free journeys down to the Sussex coast in beautiful weather, giving us time for refreshments and chat before proceedings began. Meanwhile the experts had succeeded in getting the technology up and running – not without the inevitable hiccups along the way! We were grateful to the West Sussex Record Office for the loan of the necessary kit.

So pretty promptly at 11a.m. we sat down to enjoy the morning's presentations [see Figure 2].

First of all, David Bone led us through the intricacies of the provenances of the items in the Heron-Allen Fossil Collection at The Novium Museum in Chichester. He and his wife Anne had spent many hours looking at the history of what had been collected, stored, catalogued, labelled, etc., where, when, and by whom, in order to make sense of the various categories of items to be found there.

While most of the Heron-Allen Collection is at The Novium, some of it is held at the Fishbourne Discovery Centre in two boxes labelled Heron-Allen and Dixon-Hewitt. What is now at The Novium had previously been held from 1964 to 2012 in the old Museum in Little London, and before

Ivor Jones wearing his masonic regalia

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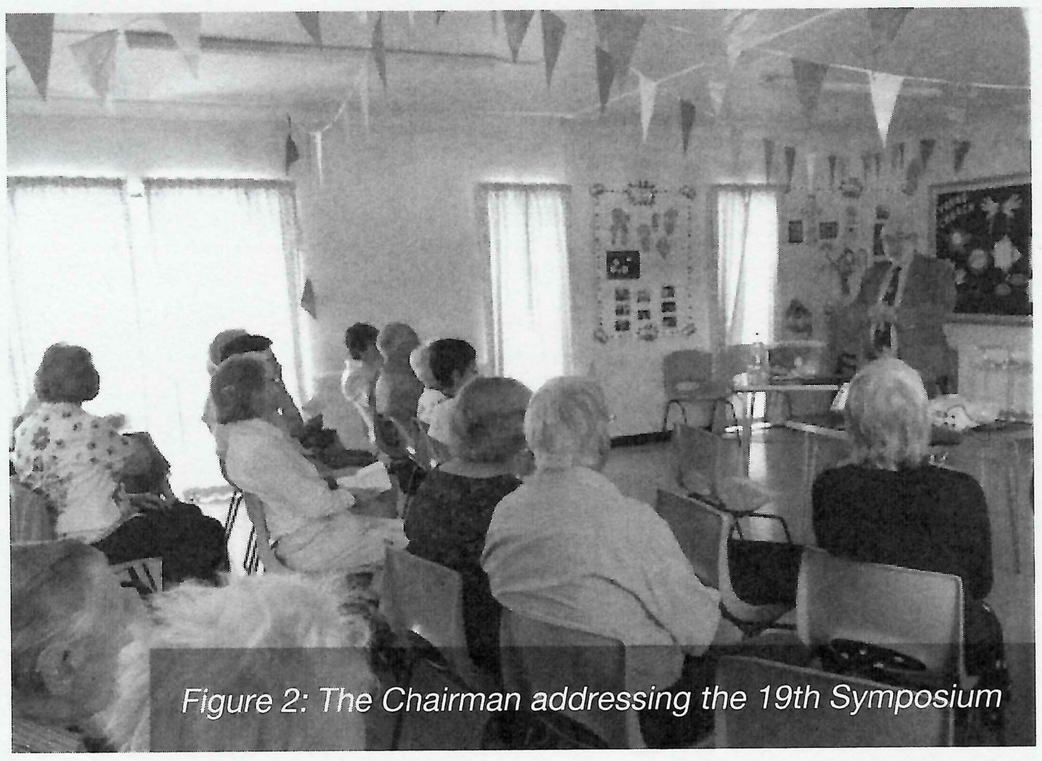

Figure 2: The Chairman addressing the 19th Symposium

that stored in the Guildhall from 1945 and exhibited there from 1949.

At The Novium there are five fossil collections; as well as Heron-Allen's there are Henry Dixon Hewitt's, the Blue Collection, donations from David Bone, and donations from members of the public. They include fossils from Selsey and Bracklesham, and from Dorking limeworks, polished flints with fossil sponges, various specimens from Bognor Museum, and a few individual specimens, and they are stored in a variety of boxes, drawers and packages, and are multiply labelled by Heron-Allen, by Dixon Hewitt and by subsequent Museum staff. There are also lists, which don't always correspond in detail with the labels that survive.

It is not always clear why some of the items are included; some may have come from Dixon Hewitt's work in Thetford, Norfolk before he moved to Chichester in 1954. It seems that he added material in order to fill gaps in Heron-Allen's collection.

The material from Dorking limeworks has Heron-Allen labels, but we don't know how or why he acquired it. The material from Bognor Museum had been sent to Portsmouth, and then forwarded to Chichester as being thought to be Heron-Allen material; it is of very varied provenance. The collection of cut and polished flints has no labelling so may not be Heron-Allen's, and the association with him is now lost; it does not contain any of those illustrated in his 1911 book 'Selsey Bill'.

The collections as a whole present many problems, and pose many questions; some listed items are missing while the presence of other items is puzzling, and the varieties of storage, packaging and labelling present a huge challenge. There are more places to look for further Heron-Allen material, and some storage boxes and cabinets at The Novium whose contents require explanation. We shall definitely hear more from David and Anne Bone on their researches in this area at future Symposia.

There followed an amazing presentation by John Mahoney of the work that he and his wife Barbara, together with a friend Peter Kluzak, had done on the detail of the Heron-Allens' home at Large Acres.

It was in 1906 that the Heron-Allens decided to move from London to the seaside, as this should improve Itha's health; they wanted to buy a plot and design and build a house or bungalow. Bognor in Sussex being one of their sites of interest, they decided to research nearby Selsey on the recommendation of a friend. They met the local agent for a building plot in a field called Large Acres which was earmarked for 27 building plots. In fact they bought the whole 5 acre field and began to make plans for their new home 'Nour-Khana'.

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The Heron-Allen Newsletter was edited by Timothy J. McCann and John Whittaker and designed by Gregory Whittaker.

The contract signed, the builder was employed and a local nursery contracted to plant hedges and trees, and then the architect was engaged. Edward and Edith began work on planting the garden with lavish borders and Edith and her friend began building the sundial plinth. Photographs survive at the beginning of the Visitors Book of the architects' 3-dimensional models of the exterior plans, and work began quickly on this ambitious seaside retreat.

The family moved in in July 1907, and Heron-Allen produced postcards of the house to be sold locally, so that they would be 'accepted by the natives as not undesirable acquisitions to the neighbourhood'. Almost immediately, and over the following years he began to buy up parcels of land surrounding his property, to ensure privacy and quiet. Continuing boundary reinforcements on the north side necessitated the construction of a bridge for access and drew comment from the locals. There was also more planting of trees and garden improvements including the impressive brick pergola, the installation of Heron-Allen's Selsey Meteorological Station, and a well with a locally made wrought iron cover. And of course there were streams of guests, whose entries in the Visitors' Book praised it all as perfection, and a haven of love, peace and repose.

Yet further property acquisition ensured views towards the sea, and included Knap Cottage, which when refurbished would be rented for a time to Violet Hunt and Ford Maddox Ford.

In 1912 major restructuring was done, extending towards the west, and soon further additions were built in the grounds, including a garage and chauffeurs' cottages, and a tennis court. The 1914 war meant fewer improvements, though in 1915 the Maze made its appearance, and the property buying continued unabated. After the war there was a grand plan for major extension, but in the end only a modest one was carried out in 1924.

In 1926 Itha married and moved away, and for a few years the house continued to be a haven of peace for the family and their guests; but in July 1930 Armorel was killed and from then on the Chronicles of Nour Khana were closed and the house gradually declined up till Edward and Edith's death.

At the end of this history we were treated to a virtual reality tour of Nour Khana, both inside and out, put together from the various plans and photographs that have survived; a truly amazing and very moving experience. The presentation ended with a huge round of applause for such a tremendous achievement.

After a short break, our Chairman Tim McCann then gave an account of Heron-Allen's visit to Italy in 1885, concentrating on his time in Rome. He and a colleague were there to negotiate the loan of historical musical instruments and manuscripts for an exhibition in London, but of course they spent plenty of time sightseeing as well. Heron-Allen's usual Holiday Journal provides a detailed picture of the visit. His impressions of Rome ranged from delighted – the approach to St Peter's, which they visited on Palm Sunday – and 'disgusted' – the river Tiber, which seemed to him too uninspiring to merit being prayed to! But on the whole, as Heron-Allen said, "I wouldn't have missed seeing the things I have seen today for many years of ordinary life".

He does, however, seem to have managed to spend quite a lot more time admiring Rome, visiting everything from the Colosseum to the Villa Borghese (teeming with royalty and nobility), admiring the Arch of Constantine but disappointed with the Raphael frescoes and thinking the Sistine Chapel 'not much to see'. During his visit he also met several delightful and interesting artists, including Elihu Vedder who later illustrated the Fitzgerald translation of the Rubaiyat.

Getting down to business, he arranged meetings with several influential people in Rome, in the British Embassy, and in the Vatican, and he was shown books and manuscripts in the Academy of St Cecilia.

He was inadvertently rather disrespectful to a top Roman official, and later had a difficult meeting with a stout cardinal, who not only spoke in a strange mixture of French and Italian, but every now and then sneezed explosively, necessitating enormous efforts not to laugh out loud. He then gained an introduction to the Custodian of the Vatican, and was shown some of the amazing treasures in the sculpture gallery and the Octagon.

And of course only Heron-Allen could bump into the Pope during his visit; his pass permitted him to walk in the Papal Gardens and while doing so he saw Pope Leo XIII, the Pope whose encyclical *Rerum Novarum* outlined workers' rights to safe and fair employment and to unionise, as well as the rights of property owning and free enterprise. Heron-Allen describes him as 'a quiet and thin old gentleman' whose voice and manner seemed to be apologising for being so very superior; he was 'very sweet' and 'trusted that my stay in Rome would benefit my mind'.

We haven't found out whether the visit resulted in the loan of any items to the London exhibition, but it was certainly an enriching time for Heron-Allen himself.

And lastly, after a brief look at the history of sundials from the 13th century BC up to the emergence of garden sundials in the later 17th century AD, David Thompson went on to explain the mechanics of Heron-Allen's sundial from Large Acres. We had hoped that the sundial itself could have made an appearance but sadly that was not to be. Luckily David had some splendid and very detailed slides to show us, so that we could admire the workmanship and understand the complex design.

We learned that in fact a basic sundial is only exactly accurate twice a day because of the shape of the earth's orbit, and that most sundials are little more than ornamental. Heron-Allen's, of course, was an accurate timepiece, made for the latitude of Large Acres, and marked up to show exactly how many minutes slow or fast the shadow of the gnomon would be on any day. There is an official tabulation of these variations, entitled 'A table of the equation of days'.

The Large Acres dial was made in 1907, the plinth being constructed first, with the involvement of Edith and her friend Maud Gippe, using stones from the rockery of the garden in London. The dial itself has no maker's signature; the design consists of an inner circle showing the points of the compass, and the circles outside it showing respectively the months of the year, the dates on which the dial will be fast or slow - and by how much, quarter hours, hours and half hours, and minutes, together with a Latin inscription translated as 'I only count the bright hours'.

The meeting was followed by the AGM at which the committee was re-elected, with the addition of Sam Jones, and the accounts presented, and then most of ~us adjourned to The Seal in Selsey for a splendid meal [see Figure 3].

Figure 3: Members of the Heron-Allen Society dining at the Seal Hotel, Selsey

Figure 4: Members of the Heron-Allen Society viewing the Heron-Allen graves at Church Norton

After the meal several of us went on to the nearby village of Church Norton to see the family graves and to visit the church, which made a perfect end to a most enjoyable and instructive day [see Figure 4].

Juliet Field

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN, JOHN SAMPSON AND WILLIAM ABBOTT HERDMAN

Both the British Library and Liverpool University Library own copies of a curious pamphlet, actually a spoof prospectus for *The Life and Times of William Abbott Herdman*, by E.H-A and J.S., supposedly published in Astreada in 1915. The authors were actually Edward Heron-Allen and John Sampson, and though the 1915 was genuine enough, Astreada was a fictional imprint, apparently taking its name from that of an obscure literary Utopia, *Antiquity Reviv'd*, published in London in 1693. As we shall see, Astreada was actually EHA's idea – JS had originally proposed Benares, the fictional imprint adopted by a number of publications of, shall we say, a dubious nature.

The reasons for, and background of, this spoof might have remained shrouded in mystery had not the first draft, a proof copy, and a copy of the final printed version, plus assorted letters and associated ephemera, all formerly in the possession of EHA, turned up in a UK bookshop. These were bought by a private collector, thanks to whom we can now throw considerable light on the genesis of the spoof prospectus.

From the letters in the collection, we know that JS set the ball rolling in March 1915 by writing the first draft and sending it to EHA to make any amendments or additions as he saw fit. Their respective handwritings on this version, and remarks made in the associated letters, make it clear who suggested what – hence the comment on Astreada and Benares above. The final version seems to have been ready to go to press by the end of April 1915.

By way of some background, W.A. Herdman (1858-1924) was appointed the Professor of Natural History at the University of Liverpool in 1881, his post later becoming Professor of Zoology, and finally, Professor of Oceanography. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1892. WAH was almost certainly known initially to EHA via their respective studies of marine zoology, and of foraminifera in particular. Precisely how they came to know each other is not known at present, but it seems likely that it was via the Linnean Society, of which both were members. Herdman retired in 1921 as Professor Emeritus, but had a continued association with the University until his death. He was knighted in 1922 for his services to Science, and to Zoology in particular.

Most of his published works are reports on investigations into commercial fisheries and such like, and technical papers aimed at specialists in the field of marine zoology, but on a more popular front he also wrote *Founders of Oceanography and their Work* (London, 1923).

John Sampson (1862-1931) was officially the Librarian at the University of Liverpool, having been appointed to the post in 1892, but he was actually far more than that. A self-educated man (he left school aged 14), he became a recognised expert in Romany, the language of the Gypsies. His magnum opus was *The Dialect of the Gypsies of Wales* published by Oxford University Press in 1926, the fruit of 30 years study. He was also something of a poet, and *Romane Gilia*, his book of Romany poems, with English translations, was published by Oxford University Press in 1931. (His association with Oxford dated back to 1909, when he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University) (1a).

In an entry in his War Diary for 1st February 1915 EHA wrote,"On the 22nd January I went up to Liverpool to lecture before the University Biological Society, staying with Prof. Herdman…" There is no mention of JS in the diary, but we know that they first met at that lecture, for in a letter to his wife. Margaret, written the day after the lecture (preserved in the John Sampson Archive at the University of Liverpool), JS wrote of the previous evening:

> I found I was let in for a lecture on Foraminifera (minute creatures found in mud). It was a meeting of the Biological Society….Heron-Allen the lecturer is a very interesting and charming person, wealthy apparently, and before he took to microscopy (on which he is a great authority) a barrister. Also an oriental scholar. He promised to send me one of his works on Omar….

The two seem to have developed a literary friendship very quickly. Not only did they share an interest in *The Rubaiyat*, with EHA promising to send JS one of his books on Omar, and (perhaps) JS returning the favour by sending EHA a copy of his Welsh Romany Rubaiyat (2), but they also rapidly found they had a common sense of humour: the spoof prospectus, remember, was begun and completed within a couple of months of their first meeting.

But to turn to the prospectus itself, it was actually a humorous afterthought to something else entirely, first suggested by EHA – a 1915 celebratory presentation to W.A. Herdman of a photogravure portrait of himself [see Figure 5], reproduced from an oil painting done by his brother, Robert Duddingstone Herdman, in 1905. The project was to be funded by his friends and university colleagues, each of whom would receive a mounted copy of the print (signed by WAH himself, once he had been made aware of the scheme) and a copy of the spoof prospectus to go with it. What is not clear is exactly what the presentation was supposed to celebrate, for 1915 seems to correspond to no particular event of note in either Herdman's life, or in his career. Nevertheless, the celebratory presentation of portrait and spoof seems to have been a success, much appreciated by the Professor, who found the spoof greatly amusing.

The Prospectus for *The Life and Times of William Abbott Herdman* was a pamphlet of 8 pages, its front page being the title-page, followed by four specimen pages of the text (pp. 34, 162, 430, 724), followed by p. 781 (specimens from the Glossary of Hard, Foreign & Technical Terms; specimens of the Errata; Addenda & Corrigenda), followed by p. 791 (a specimen page from the Index), and finally, the back page, Opinions of the Press. The title-page of the Prospectus [see Figure 6] lists Herdman as "Ex-President Linen Society" and "some time Suffragette Bishop of Patagonia", the Errata on p. 781 of the Prospectus saying "for Linen Society read Linnean Society" and "for Suffragette read Suffragan". Herdman is listed as the author of *An Expensive Study of Marine Plankton, Lobsters in Captivity* (this in the Home Pets Series) and *Manx Iniquities*. The first two are obviously humorous references to Herdman's works on marine biology, the third – less obviously – to Herdman's interest in Manx antiquities, work he did with Manx archaeologist P.C. Kermode, who is here named as having taken "flash-light photos on the spot" for the work. In fact, the two collaborated on *Illustrated Notes on Manx Antiquities* (Liverpool, 1904), this being re-published in 1914. As to the authors of this prospective biography of Herdman, their identities are patently clear from their initials and the works attributed to them. E.H.-A. is the author of *Omar Unmasked and Secret History of the Foraminifera*, reflecting two of Heron-Allen's main interests. J.S., likewise, is listed as Editor of Blake's "*Songs of Idiocy and of Insanity*" and Plagiarist of *Gypsying for Pleasure and Profit* by Miss Berners. John Sampson compiled the first definitive edition of William Blake's poems, *The Poetical Works of William Blake &c* (Oxford, 1905) and his

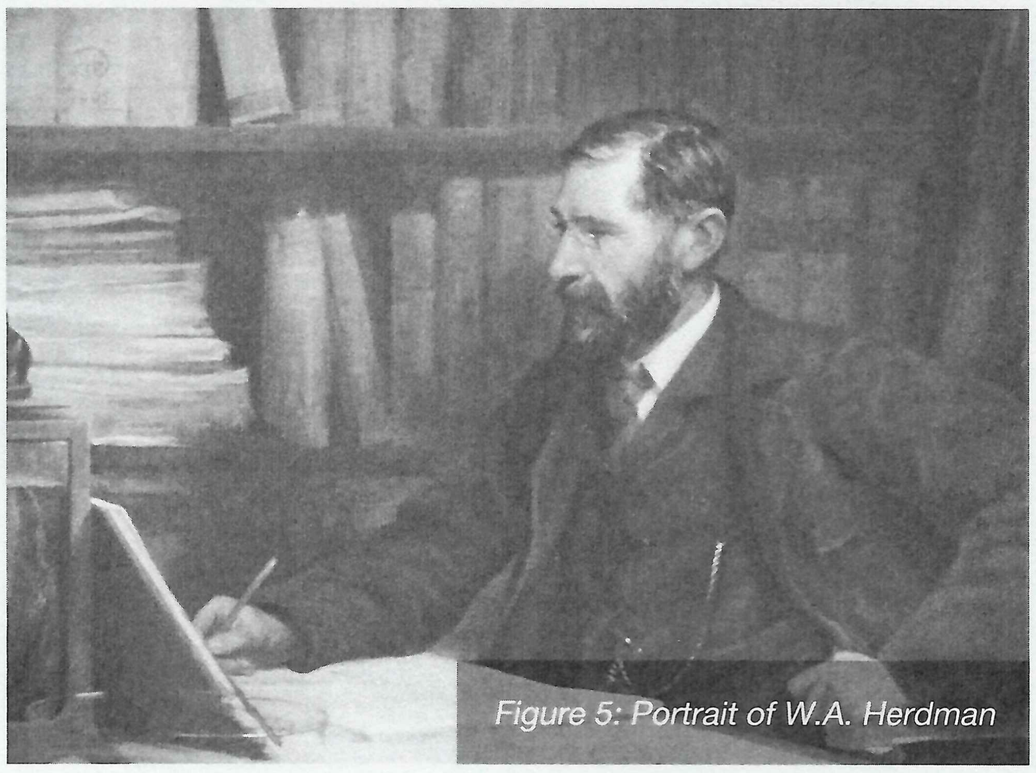

Figure 5: Portrait of W.A. Herdman

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THE
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Ex-President Linen Society; Past Grand Master I.O.G.T.; Corresp. Mem. G.P.O.; Hon. Foreign Mem. S.P.Q.R. (Rome); some time Suffragette Bishop of Patagonia.

AUTHOR
OF
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"MANX INIQUITIES"
(with flash-light photos, taken on the spot, by *P.C. Kermode*).
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COMPILED FROM HIGHLY ORIGINAL SOURCES
BY
E. H-A.
Author of "OMAR UNMASKED," "SECRET HISTORY OF THE FORAMINIFERA," "THE REAL PROTOZOA,"
and
J. S.
Editor of BLAKE'S "SONGS OF IDIOCY AND OF INSANITY."
Plagiarist of "GYPSYING FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT," by *Miss Berners.*

"Nothing extenuate, nor aught set down in malice."—*Shakes.*

PRIVATELY PRINTED
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ICHTYOMANTIC SOCIETY.
MSTREADA, 1915.

Figure 6: Title page of the Prospectus

SPECIMEN PAGE.

162 SCHOOL DAYS AND STUDENT LIFE.

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* His views at this time on the fundamental principles of instruction were doubtful, and probably underwent subsequent modification.

† The Professor's mind was ever a fertile field, but it is believed that his use of the word "Plough" in this letter was neither astronomical nor agricultural. He re-entered into possession, however, in the course of his missionary labours among the Strét-Arab tribes of the Ek-Záminés.

§ He quoted on this occasion the Latin Omarus (not the Greek Astacus as some would have it).
Carmina sub rama strato dilecto poeta
Stet mihi, sit panis quidlibet, adde merum
Teque mihi comitem per inhospita tesqua canentem, etc., etc.

¶ The *locus classicus* of his quotation is unknown to the authors, but (from memory) it ran, "Let not your left girl know what the right one is doing."

†† Both these volumes of Juvenilia—*Lays and Rondelays* and *A Soul (? Sole) on Tenterhooks*—are now out of print, and impossible to obtain, all known copies having been bought in, and destroyed, by the Author's well-wishers.

¶¶ Referring to this deplorable fracas, his old friend Mr. Dobb, the post-printer, remarks in his *Autobiography*: "A turning-point in the youth's career, but Willie was not so much to blame as might be supposed; indeed, had the future Suffragan Bishop expressed himself less censoriously the result might have been very different for all concerned."

Figure 7: p.162 of the Specimen with jokes

magnum opus, *The Dialect of the Gypsies of Wales* has already been mentioned. The handwritten title page of the first draft shows that mostly it was JS's work with a few additions suggested by EHA.

As for the specimen pages of text, well, there is no actual text there at all, merely the footnotes at the bottom of each page! In effect, the reader has to try to work out what the missing text was, working only from the footnotes, which is actually a rather ingenious way of producing mirth. Some of these are 'in jokes' lost on us today, but probably readily appreciated by the Professor's friends and colleagues back in 1915. Specimen p.162 [see Figure 7] is a good example. Of the six footnotes, the first and sixth are obscure; the fifth is obscure, but "A Soul (? Sole) on Tenterhooks" is clearly a punning reference to fishing; in the third, the Latin "Omarus" clearly relates to Omar Khayyam, a common interest of EHA & JS; and the fourth reads, "The *locus classicus* of this quotation is unknown to the authors, but, from memory, it ran, 'Let not your left girl know what the right one is doing.'" EHA, of course, was very much a ladies' man, as was JS, and there is much evidence that amongst the academic staff at Liverpool University back then, there was very much a nudge-nudge-wink-wink attitude to philandering and extra-marital affairs, the exchange of bawdy verses being something of a pastime (1b). Perhaps relevant to this is the second footnote on p.162 which is obscure, but potentially enlightening. The use of the word "plough" in neither an agricultural nor an astronomical sense may well carry some sexual innuendo, when we recall, for example, that Shakespeare said of Caesar and Cleopatra that "he plough'd her, and she cropp'd" (*Antony & Cleopatra*, 2.2.236.). If this is what is intended, then "re-entered into possession in the course of his missionary labours" might well continue the innuendo, leaving one wondering what on earth the reference to the Strét-Arab (Street Arab ?) tribes of Ek-Záminés (Examinees ?) is all about! (Incidentally, we know from the annotated first draft of the spoof prospectus that EHA was responsible for the first four of the footnotes on p.162, and JS for the last two. However, I am aware of no evidence that WAH indulged in bawdy verses, ploughed any furrows in any untoward

Shakespearean sense, or played fast and loose with the ladies. The footnotes may, after all, be nothing more than 'naughty' jokes, having no basis in fact.

As for p. 781, the following give a good idea of the general contents: in the Glossary, we read that "Flounder and Dab" is rhyming slang for Hansom Cab, and we are told that, "For Royal Society" see "Buckingham Palace." In the Errata we are told, "For Cross References read Kind References"; and in the Corrigendum, we are instructed to "Delete everything between pp.iii and 790." Some of these are almost Monty Pythonish in their humour, and, incidentally, all of the ones quoted here are in JS's handwriting in the first draft.

On p.791, in the specimen page of the Index, under "Mackerel" we find "Scotch Clan" and under "Mersey" we find "Shakespeare's remarks on the unstrained quality of, quoted, 82." Again, under "Macrocosm" we find "See Microcosm" and under "Microcosm" we find "See Macrocosm." (All of these are in JS's handwriting in the first draft, "Mackerel" there being written "MacKerel"). As for the Opinions of the Press on the back page (which are in EHA's handwriting in the first draft), *The Times* is quoted as saying, "We have never read anything quite like it", whilst *New Free Woman* condemns it as, "Blasphemous and indecent".

In short, the spoof is much more interesting than the engraved portrait to which it was supposed to be an adjunct, and it is a pity that we don't have EHA's letters to JS to throw more light on it, and on their subsequent dealings.

JS certainly had a fondness for parody and spoof – his parody of Blake, *Songs of Idiocy and of Insanity* (1903), has already been mentioned - and we know that he sent another spoof to EHA, as a copy of it is amongst the ephemera that turned up alongside the Herdman prospectus.

It is *Jannik's Rommany Chels' and Poachers' Pocket Kalendar for the Bissextile Year 1908*, supposedly published by the Rommany Press [see Figure 8]. Jannik, incidentally, is a gypsy form of the name John, and Buko-Pani-Gav a gypsy form of Liverpool. It is inscribed "J.S. to E.H-A.". Many of the allusions in it are obscure to anyone not well versed in gypsy lore and language, but as examples of the more readily understandable contents, the 9th of January is marked by, "Clothes-pegs introduced into England 1487" and the 3rd of May is marked by "Cocoa-nuts discovered by Columbus 1492" (The first is a clear reference to the former practice of the door-to-door sale of wooden clothes pegs as a source of income for gypsies; the latter is presumably a reference to the coconut shy of the gypsy fairground.) The 16th of July is marked "Close season for hedgehogs" and the 2nd November marked by "Hedgehogging begins." (On one occasion JS is known to have feasted on hedgehogs with his gypsy friends – that is, until the police arrived to break up a fight) (1c). The 25th August is marked "Birth of Stradivarius 1649" (the violin was the chosen instrument of many of JS's gypsy friends) and December 12th marked by "Aylwin reached 4000th edition" (a caustic reference to the popularity of Theodore Watts-Dunton's hack gypsy novel, *Aylwin*, first published in 1898, and very popular in its day despite JS's disapproval). Again, the 2nd September is marked by "Pheasant poaching begins" and December 18th by "Salmon poaching begins", neither of which needs any explanation. (On at least one occasion JS is known to have gone poaching at dawn with his gypsy friends) (1d). Finally, after December, the Kalendar has the month of "NEVUARY (Extra Month) A Surprise for Our Readers". This seems to be a month in which the events recorded would never happen: the 5th Nevuary, for example, is marked by "Profits of J.G.L.S. shared among members." The JGLS was the Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society, and judging by its publication history, there were never any profits to share out.

Earlier, in 1901, JS had produced a spoof prospectus for the publications of the fictitious Romani University

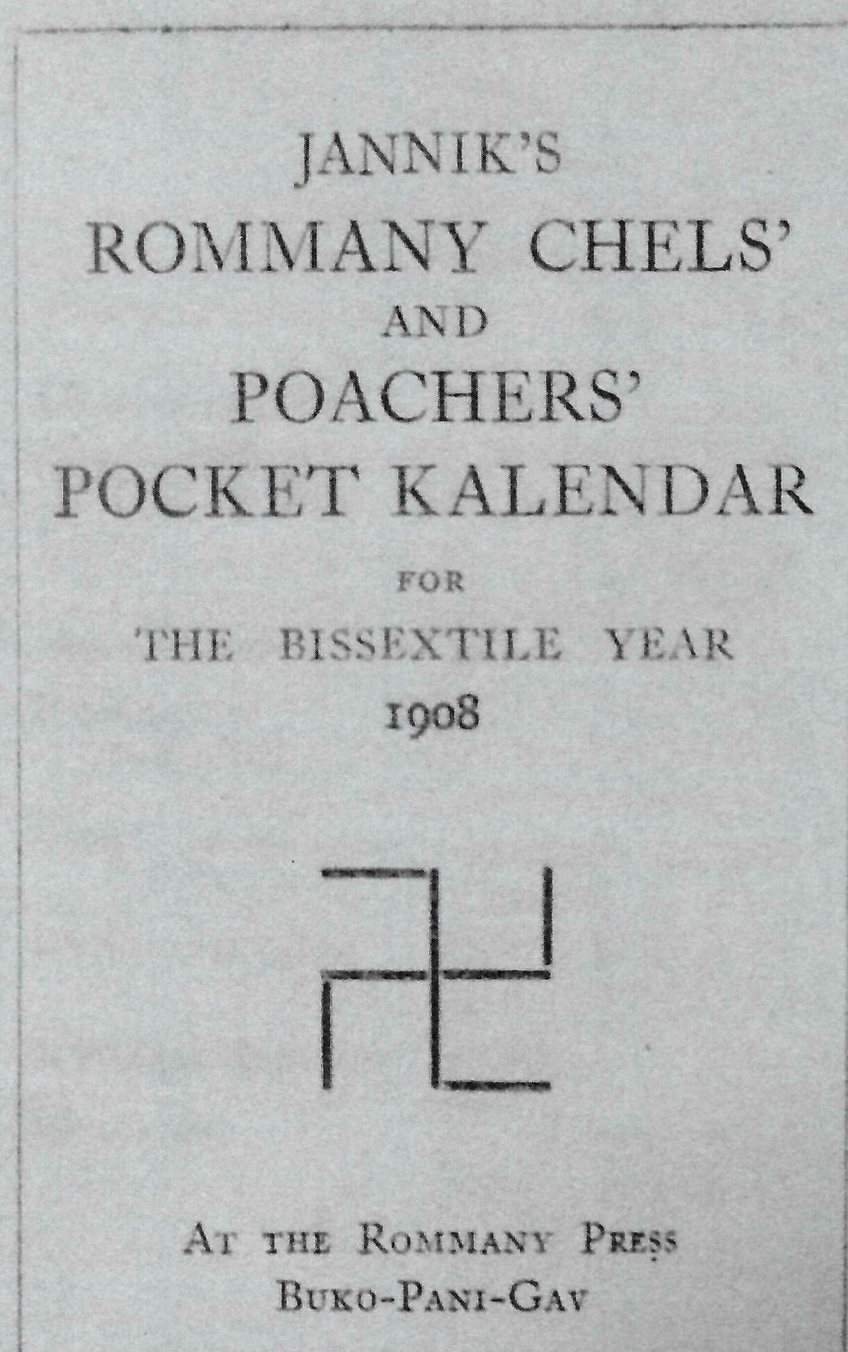

Figure 8: Jannik's Rommany Chels' and Poachers' Pocket Kalendar for the Bissextile Year 1908

Press, due to be issued in the Autumn of that year. The prospectus is printed in Gothic script for, as JS tells us in his statement of the Aims of the Press, he is following in the steps of William Morris who "first produced books so beautiful it is almost impossible to read them". He also wrote a number of spoof letters containing birthday greetings supposed to have been sent to him by various people, each in a suitably addressed envelope. The one from King George V was 'postmarked' OHMS, of course, and the one from God was addressed to "My Faithful Servant, John Sampson, Somewhere on the Earth" and 'postmarked' "By Special Angel Messenger". These are all in the John Sampson Archive at Liverpool.

EHA, likewise had his quirky side, though most published examples seem to post-date the spoof prospectus.
To begin with, he was not above impishly mingling science fact with science fiction, for in the July 28th 1921 issue of the prestigious journal *Nature* (p. 677-8), a letter appeared from the Professor of Biology at Cosmopoli University complaining about Dr Blayre's publication of a story based on his researches. (The journal had noted *The Purple Sapphire* in its "Books Received" column in the issue of July 9th 1921, p. 479 – ironically featuring it alongside *The Scientific Papers of the Hon. Henry Cavendish F.R.S.*)! This appears not to have raised any eyebrows, despite the fact that the 'Professor' came from a non-existent university, and The Purple Sapphire was clearly a work of fiction which no-one of the staff of *Nature* seems to have actually read.

Another example of EHA's quirky literary interests featured in *The Sunday Times* of 16th December 1923. Under the title "A Phantom Bibliography", is the following letter signed by EHA:

> In 1918 you published several articles giving the titles of books announced as being in course of production but never published. Has any attempt ever been made to construct a phantom bibliography of such titles? The matter has recurred to my mind on coming across Vineville's "Vie de Turenne" and Xavier de Maistre's "Prisonniere de Piquerel", neither of which, I think, ever saw the light.

Whether anything ever came of this 'project', I do not know. As for the two titles which EHA came across, I have found no mention of either of them anywhere – perhaps not surprisingly, given that neither was ever published. But after Dr Blayre's appearance in *Nature*, mentioned above, one cannot help but wonder if EHA was playing some sort of literary game here, and seeing if someone would rise to the bait.

Again, Merlin Holland still has a book given to his father, Vyvyan, by EHA: *Brave Old Britain and Other Verse* by L. Blaber, published in 1926. In it is an inscription in EHA's handwriting: "'I have no hesitation in saying that, in the verdict of posterity, this volume will rank with the works of John Litart and Amanda M. Ros' Ephraim Pugsbook in the 'The Shlushton Athenaeum.'" The inscription is clearly a spoof book review designed to amuse Vyvyan. John Litart was the author of two volumes of long-forgotten verse, published in about 1890, but the mention of him alongside the better remembered Amanda M[cKittrick]. Ros is the clue to what is going on here, for Amanda was one of those truly awful poets who thought that she was truly wonderful. EHA clearly thought that L. Blaber's excursions into verse were on a par with those of Amanda, and he thought that Vyvyan would share his 'enthusiasm'.

NOTES

1a. An interesting and very readable account of JS can be found in Anthony Sampson's book *The Scholar Gypsy* (1997). The author was the grandson of JS. For JS's honorary doctorate see p. 74.

1b. On bawdy rhymes exchanged between JS & Kuno Mayer, and - more surprisingly – between JS & his research assistant, Dora Yates, with whom he had an affair, see *The Scholar Gypsy* p.106 & p.110-2.

1c. *The Scholar Gypsy* p.76.

1d. *The Scholar Gypsy* p.30.

2. *Omar Khayyam – bish ta dui gilia chide are volshitika Romani chib John Sampsonestar dikimangriasa Augustus Johnestar* = "Twenty-Two Quatrains of Omar Khayyam, translated into Welsh Romani by John Sampson, with a photogravure Frontispiece by Augustus John". It was published by David Nutt in London in 1902 in a limited edition of 250 copies. There is a copy in the Heron-Allen Collection at the London Library.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to the private collector for giving access to his collection of material surrounding the spoof prospectus; to Robyn Orr and Caitlin Fleming in the Special Collections & Archives Department at the University of Liverpool, in relation to the John Sampson Archive; to Amanda Draper, Curator of Art & Exhibitions at the Victoria Gallery & Museum, Liverpool, for arranging access to the Herdman Print of Fig.5; and last but not least to Tim McCann and Ivor & Venetia Jones for their help 'behind the scenes'.

Bob Forrest

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE HERON-ALLEN COLLECTION AT CHICHESTER

The Heron-Allen Papers are now deposited in the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester in West Sussex. The collection includes the papers preserved by the Jones family, those collected by the Heron-Allen Society and miscellaneous accessions kindly deposited by individuals. The collection is now fully catalogued and available for consultation in Chichester and can be searched through the Record Office search online facility. The collection is not closed but continues to be added to on a regular basis, and this report highlights some of the more interesting of the recent accessions.

In December 2018 the Society were approached by the Quekett Microscopical Club, of which Heron-Allen was a long-standing member, having first joined in 1879. They were looking for illustrations for a publication on members of their Club who had served in the Great War, and requested permission to include a photograph of Heron-Allen in military uniform. In return, Steve Gill the Librarian of the Club, kindly sent us copies of all Heron-Allen's publications in the pages of the *Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*, and these copies have now been added to the collection in Chichester.

The first of these articles was by Edward Heron-Allen and Arthur Earland, 'On a new Species of *Technitella* from the North Sea, with some Observations upon selective power as exercised by certain species of arenaceous Foraminifera' in the *Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*, ser.2, vol. 10, April 1909, pp. 403-412. Of the more than 70 publications that Heron-Allen and Arthur Earland wrote in collaboration, this was the first they devoted to material outside the Selsey peninsula. In their paper, read to the Club on 2 April 1909, and handsomely illustrated by S.C. Akehurst, the co-authors first describe the remarkably rare new species dredged from the North Sea and then go on to discuss its selective power in the choice of material for building its shell.

Participating in the discussion initiated by Professor Minchin, in his presidential address to the Quekett Microscopical Club and continuing at the British Association meeting in Dundee on which organisms he regarded as the simplest existing living structures and speculating on the origin of life on this planet, Edward Heron-Allen and Arthur Earland suggested that foraminifera might seem to constitute such a group. This was the subject of their wide-ranging paper, read to the Quekett Microscopical Club on 22 October 1912, 'The Foraminifera on their Role as World Builders: a Review of the foraminiferous limestones and other Rocks of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres', and published in the *Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*, vol.12, no. 72, April 1913, pp.1-16.

Having published a number of papers on their examination of the North Sea dredgings of the fishery cruisers in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the First World War in the pages of the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Club*, Edward Heron-Allen and Arthur Earland, read a paper to the Quekett Club on 25 March 1913, entitled 'On some Foraminifera from the North Sea, dredged by the Fisheries Cruiser "*Huxley*" (International North Sea Investigations – England', which was then published in the *Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*, vol. 12, (no.73), November 1913, pp.121-38. In it they discussed their findings on the material dredged in the southern area of the North Sea and also provided detailed lists of the material they had examined.

Finally, at the 608th meeting of the Club held on 8 June 1926, Heron-Allen and Earland were present to present their paper, which was reproduced as Edward Heron-Allen and Arthur Earland, 'Selective Building in the Shells of Foraminifera', in the *Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club*, vol. April, 1926, pp. 276-80. The talk was reproduced in full and should probably have been included in the Bibliography. Heron-Allen touched on his theory of "intelligence" that was discussed by Mike Kaminski in Opusculum VII of the Heron-Allen Society in 2005, and Earland added his support in a further contribution.

In April the Society was approached by Lillias Bendell from Sheffield who was downsizing a family book collection. She contacted the Society because her collection included four volumes bearing the bookplate of Edward Heron-Allen and his wife Edith dated 1904. She had apparently acquired the four volumes in the 1970s from her great aunt Lillias Boussie who, in 1935, had married Arthur Serle Rolfe. At the time of writing it has not been discovered how or why they acquired the volumes. They are not listed in the catalogue of the sale of Heron-Allen's Library at Sothebys in 1944 or in the smaller sale in Chichester on the following day, so it is assumed that the volumes left the collection at Large Acres at some date prior to Heron-Allen's death in 1943.

The books concerned are Rev. George Tugwell, *Tugwell's Manual of Sea Anemones* (John Van Voorst, 1856); George Murray, *Introduction to the Study of Seaweeds* (MacMillan & Co., 1895); Sir Ray Lankester, *Secrets of Earth & Sea* (Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1920); and Sir Ray Lankester, *Great & Small Things* (Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1923). As I mentioned, all four volumes bear Heron-Allen's bookplate - the 1904 one of Edward Heron-Allen and Edith, his wife, but alas none of them has inscriptions or any marginal notes. This is perhaps surprising as Ray Lankester was a close personal friend and a regular guest at Large Acres. Nevertheless, the volumes are a very exciting addition to the collection.

Communication with the Earland family has been very intermittent since the foundation of the Society, and so it

was a special pleasure to be contacted by Alan Ramsey, Arthur Earland's grandson in May. Like Lillias Bendell he was also downsizing his library and he very kindly offered us an association treasure. It is the *Ruba'iyyat of Umar Khayyam* by E Heron Allen bearing the inscription "To Arthur Earland from the author and editor, Edward Heron-Allen March 1909' [see Figure 9]. This is a copy of the second edition, published in London by Duckworth & Co in 1908. Heron-Allen and Earland published their first joint paper in 1911 and for the next twenty years, until their estrangement, they continued to work and publish together, so it is very appropriate for the collection to hold this association copy. The family have recently sold Earland's collection of slides and correspondence and they were acquired by the Natural History Museum in London with the financial support of the Quekett Microscopical Club, where they join the Heron-Allen Library there.

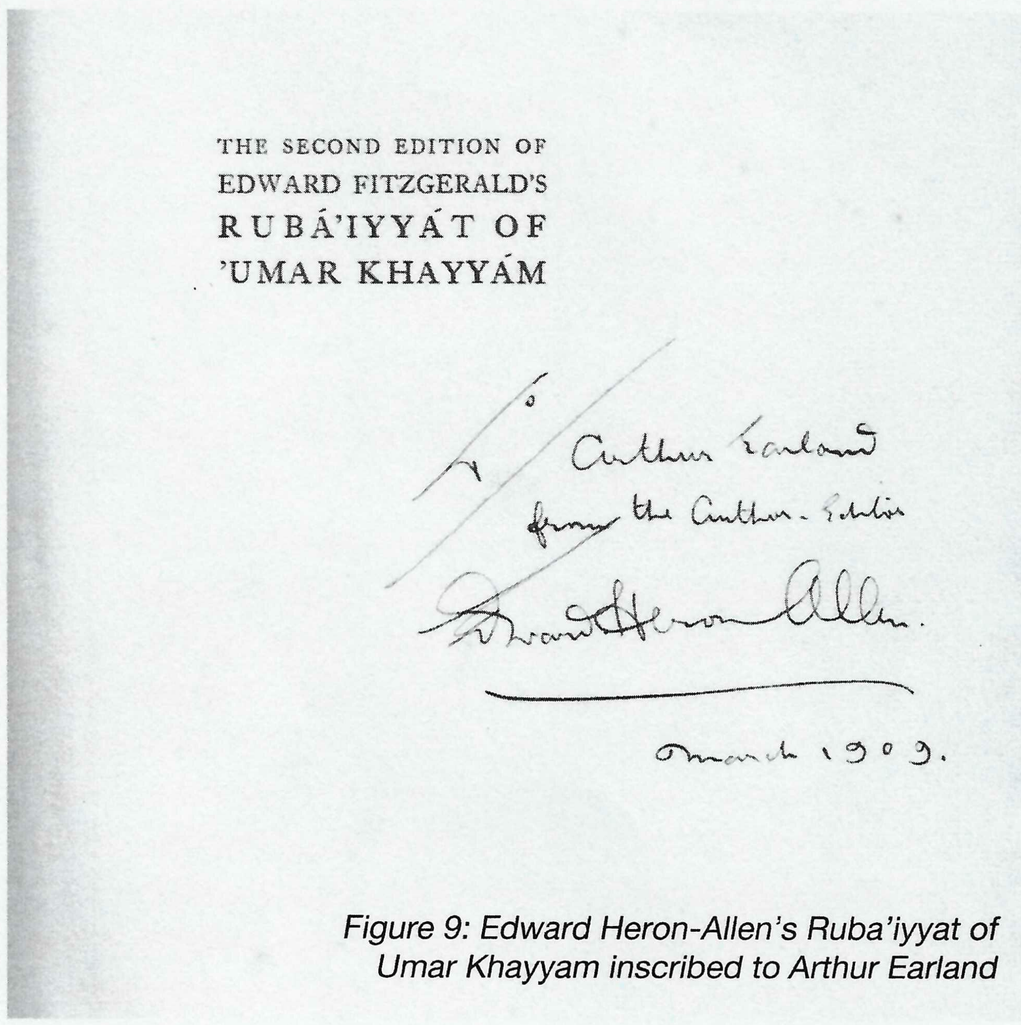
THE SECOND EDITION OF
EDWARD FITZGERALD'S
RUBÁ'IYYÁT OF
'UMAR KHAYYÁM

Figure 9: Edward Heron-Allen's Ruba'iyyat of Umar Khayyam inscribed to Arthur Earland

These three accessions demonstrate that the Heron-Allen Collection in Chichester is very much a live one and contribute to making the collection an active research centre for the study of the life and achievements of Edward Heron-Allen.

Timothy J. McCann

IVOR EDWARD JONES, 18 February 1930 – 9 March 2019

Ivor Edward Jones was born 18 February 1930 and passed peacefully on 7 March 2019.

I suppose these 15 words might encapsulate the life of anyone: forename, middle name, surname, born when, died then…but Ivor, my father, was just not anyone – at least not to me, and I presume also not to members of this society.

Ivor was of course one of the few people in regular connection with the society who knew the man on which the society is based. With his passing, so passes some of the last living insight into the man behind the letters, the foraminiferal slides, the silver collections and all the associated ephemera associated with EHA that is still being unearthed.

It is a loss I am sure the society will mourn, just as I do, and the family he left behind does. However, Ivor was more than a link to EHA's life and past. To think of him in such simple terms, would place my father in his grandfather's shadow, which would be neither fair nor true.

EHA's unique outlook and way of engaging with the world, surely shaped the boy Ivor was. But in the man he became, Ivor tended his garden of life just as he looked after his own vegetable patch: diligently, patiently (mostly) and with his own unique insight and humour that always produced surprising (and often delightful) results.

For me, as I learn more of my EHA, it is clear Daddy took his own route out of the shadow, and rather stood tall on the shoulder of a giant (metaphorically speaking of course – we're not a tall family!) leading a no less fulfilling life, if just different.

Perhaps it might come as a surprise that my great-grandfather - his life, achievements and works – did not feature so far as I recall throughout much of my childhood.

EHA only entered my awareness when my sister, Fiona, over one cold Christmas diligently transcribed his war journals. I recall this vividly, as her presence by the inglenook fireplace was not normal and disrupted my usual reading place.

Who was this strange ancestor that recorded his shopping trips to Fortnum & Masons? I didn't know and still some 20 years later I'm eagerly finding out more.

As a great grandson of EHA I am a veritable stranger to him. It has always surprised me that there is a group of learned individuals who are far more intimate with my great-grandfather than I am, and take more interest than the family in learning more. Ivor would be pleased and proud to see the society continuing and flourishing. While I can't help with learned discourse on EHA and his

impact on the world he lived, I can write and give a little insight into his grandson and co-founder of this society.

Unsurprisingly given who his grandfather was, Ivor was a lover of words and puzzles, and of a weekend could frequently be heard talking in tongues down the phone as he sought to solve the latest teasers to *The Times'* cryptic crosswords with friends across the country.

However, unlike my father, I will not speak cryptically but instead simply.

Ivor was dedicated to the communities he lived in. As a Church Warden and Lay Leader for this parish, his service to the church extended well beyond his amusing and thoughtful homilies, as he took an active role in the fundraising activities so necessary to help preserve village life.

Chief among those was the village fete in Stour Row, Dorset. For more than a decade he worked behind the scenes to help with the running of this annual event. While his efforts might have gone unknown, the fruits of his labour would have been tasted, as his blackcurrant jam was always in demand at the tea table.

For close to a decade he said each batch would be his last…and when Ivor finally hung up his jam kettle in retirement, nobody realised the village fete's future was so dependent on the attendees' love for a fine jam. There was no jam tomorrow, and the fete only lasted another year.

Jam and chutney making were clear passions of my father's. In a way, it's funny to see this homely activity, which would seize control of the kitchen for days at a time with chopping, measuring, stewing, boiling, jarring and repeat, is now a hipster activity and seen as "cool".

As a child it was a curiosity that soon grew boring, unless there was sampling to be done through the "crinkle test". For those unfamiliar with jam or marmalade making, this test was essential for being able to tell when to take the conserve off the hob. It would involve a dollop being placed on a saucer, and then gently pushed by a finger to see if the liquid would resist and crinkle. As a child, I paid no attention to the crinkling, and would just wait for the opportunity to try the sugary goodness!

While I didn't pay attention as a child, fortunately my father was alive to oversee my marmalade making when his last batch ran out and I somehow found myself volunteered into production. I think I've got the knack now – but sincerely wish he could be there for the next session of marmalade making, and not just for the crinkle test.

Where I failed in the observation lessons required for the art of jam making, as I entered my middle teenage years, I became a far more conscientious student for the other annual important concoction: the family punch.

Brewed on 17 December for many years (and later on 18 February, Ivor's birthday), this amber liquor was used for medicinal purposes, social purposes, digestive purposes, celebratory purposes and more. Each year, the recipe written in a strange cursive hand, and found in a black leather-bound book would be brought out and followed to the letter.

It was of course an EHA recipe, but was always just known as "the family punch". Three bottles of French brandy, one bottle of medium rum (Trinidadian or Barbadian), sugar loaf, lemons and water go into this fabulous concoction.

The making of it was always a social occasion when I was young and as my siblings and I left home, an opportunity for the family to gather together. It's a curious thought for me, writing this now, to think how in some small way EHA was responsible for those family gatherings.

Ivor's success in the fields of conserves, chutneys and the family punch, must have had their roots in a youthful interest in chemistry.

A tale I delighted in was of his exploits at King William's College on the Isle of Man, when he packed a particular chemical around a sundial position in a courtyard. Knowing that this chemical had a fantastic reaction when it came into contact with water, he waited until the weather forecast promised rain before carrying out his operation.

The rain came down, and so too did (sorry about this David!) the sundial in a pile of melted slag. The courts filled with a purple poisonous gas and as it did, Ivor's schooling came to an abrupt conclusion as his headmaster suggested the Royal Navy would be a more suitable place for him to begin his career.

His service began on *HMS Belfast*, and saw him travel the world. At one point in his 20 year career, he worked for Naval Intelligence. For a long time, having grown up watching Sean Connery and Roger Moore as James Bond, I struggled with this image of my father as a spy (though he did assure me he had a fancy car at one point – an MG Midget), until I discovered John Le Carré's George Smiley. A largely sedentary crossword loving spy suddenly made sense.

Life in Intelligence wasn't all desk guarding and pen pushing - it did take some dramatic turns. At one point, a bomb was planted under his chair in a Cypriot bar, and his bottom was blown-up.

In his amusing recounting of the incident, Daddy would tell how he was driven at high speed to the nearest hospital, his posterior sticking out of the Land Rover window. At reception the nurse asked him to kindly sit down, but for obvious reasons he couldn't.

In the end, the only space found for him was in Maternity, which surprised the doctor on their rounds no-end when he called out "Whose next?" and Ivor behind the curtain lying on his front replied "Me!"

Getting blown up and still finding humour in the situation is a rare trait, but as is the lack of rancour at the person behind the bombing. He never mentioned it to me, and in fact throughout his life, rarely had a bad word to say of someone unless he was able to express his views in person.

His naval career eventually led to the aircraft carrier *HMS Victorious* and his fateful voyage to Australia, where he met his wife-to-be Venetia. There must have been something about this learned Englishman apart from looking dapper in a RN uniform, as of course in this story she followed her heart and sailed around the world to take up life with him in England.

From operating spies to maintaining an aircraft carrier's supplies, it's clear Ivor's place was in the thick of things, and in this his time in the Navy was clearly just a warm up for civilian life [see Figure 10].

His ability to take whatever life came at him in his stride (Kipling's "If" – a favoured poem of his – could have been written about the man he was), would stand him in good stead throughout all of life's trials and tribulations. An example would be his invaluable role at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show – an annual agriculture show in Dorset – where working from the information tent he was particularly famous for dealing with the oddest of questions.

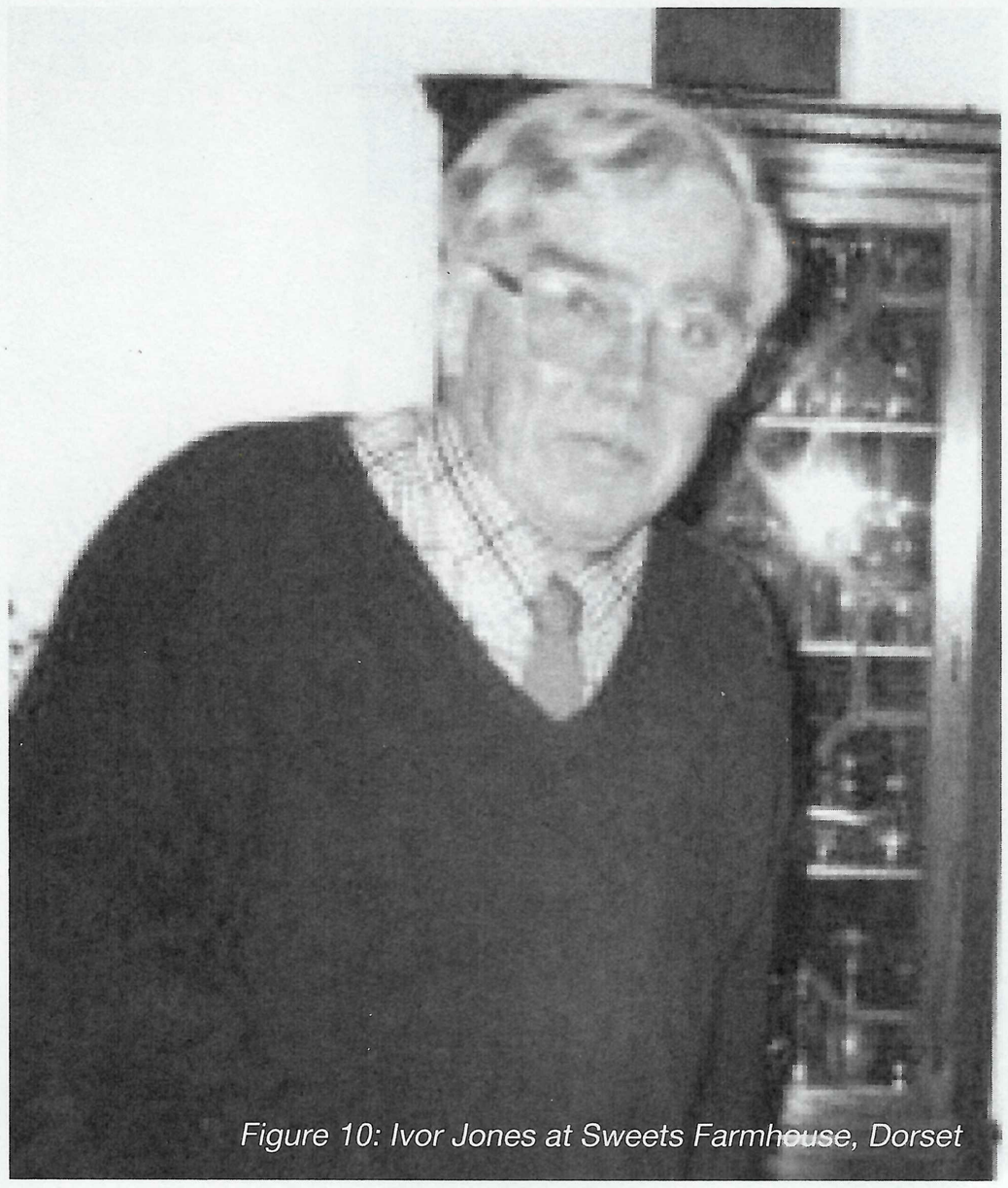

Figure 10: Ivor Jones at Sweets Farmhouse, Dorset

A letter we received from one of the patrons recalled how Ivor's forte was dealing with the ladies (like grandfather like grandson?), usually of a horsey type (his words!), when they came to complain in the secretary's tent about judges and unwon trophies – a task he was imminently suitable for, as he turned aside their concerns with a quip and a smile.

The letter ended with a fond recollection of his other tradition of concluding a hard day's work of dealing with lost children, by procuring a bottle of chilled white wine and then serving his colleagues from goblets – an image easily imaginable for those that knew him.

As Treasurer and more for the Stour Provost cricket club, his precise keeping of the books extended to the scoring, which he managed even as his eyesight deteriorated. The cricket pitch – just a stone's throw from where his funeral was held – would echo each Sunday with regular bellows of "Bowler's name", and there would always be a chuckle when from the fielders the reply would come back "Your son!"

Ivor was a great man, and he possessed all the best qualities from another generation. He was not perfect and would never have made that claim himself. However he always strived to be good and do right by others, and especially for his family.

While not a modern father or husband as expected of today – his love was undoubted and manifested itself in different ways only apparent later in life when memories are shared.

Whether patiently teaching his sons the complexities of chess or encouraging his young daughter's success at school through the provision of a propelling pencil when all her Maths teacher could find to criticise her work was her inability to keep a sharp pencil (easily done!), Ivor was there in his own way, and would always be so.

Ivor's long journey here on Earth is done, and now he is finally at rest and peace. Generous with his time - and especially his wine - throughout his life, he gave us 89 years for which I am grateful.

Six months on since my father's passing, I keenly feel the absence of the giant on whose shoulders I must now perch. The view from here requires a shift in perspective that takes a while to adjust to, but I know one thing for sure, I will always take some small solace that through the society Ivor's legacy will continue.

Atque in perpetuum, pater, ave atque vale.

Sam Jones

IVOR EDWARD JONES - A TRIBUTE

Members of the Heron-Allen Society mourn the passing of Ivor Edward Jones (1930-2019), grandson of Edward Heron-Allen and founding member of The Society. Like his famous grandfather, Ivor was a man of many facets—generous in spirit and a shining light. He will be deeply missed.

Ivor was a keeper of the flame. He encouraged all interested in learning more about the life and times of Edward Heron-Allen to consult his private and extensive collection of family documents and manuscripts. Along with Venetia, his devoted and beloved wife, his children Miles, Fiona, Sam, and at least one friendly and well-mannered dog, Ivor welcomed numerous EH-A novices and disciples to Sweets Farmhouse in Dorset. A large table would be prepared, heaped with books, papers, and the occasional antique sterling silver spoon or fine gold box. Ivor would beam as he shared stories to accompany the turning of pages in Nour-Khana: The Large Acres Visitors' Book or the tracing of the family tree.

Having known his grandfather, Ivor offered valuable insights. He had visited Large Acres and later lived there. He remembered the library, the maze, the meteorological station, the gardens, the spider gate, the pergola, and so much more. His memories added details, depth, and color to the story of Heron- Allen, the (often mysterious) polymath.

Ivor admired his grandfather for his many contributions to a variety of subjects. He revered Heron-Allen's Herculean task of collecting, documenting, compiling, preserving, and interpreting social history. The two large volumes (typed copies) of Heron-Allen's Journal of the Great War and the numerous grangerized Travel Diaries took pride of place on his bookshelves. These volumes were celebrated and shared. Moreover, thanks to the foresight and generosity of Ivor, these volumes now reside in the West Sussex Record Office. Past, present, and future researchers are indebted to Ivor. Ivor also contributed to oral history. He encouraged the recording of his stories about Heron-Allen and his times. He also introduced researchers to family members, such as his now late uncle Saxon Jones. Only a few years ago, Ivor welcomed the opportunity to share his memories of Prince (Gabrielle Enthoven).

Ivor kept an open mind about the many mysteries surrounding Heron Alllen—for example, the "cursed" purple sapphire. He recalled the family stories regarding Heron-Allen's purple sapphire, championed explorations of the supposed curse, and welcomed the transfer of the infamous stone to The Vault, at the Natural History Museum, London, where it is now on display for visitors from around the world to see.

In addition to assuring the safe-keeping of precious Heron-Allen items, Ivor recognized and admired his grandfather's attention to minutae (for example, his creation of indexes) and valued his methodical nature (for example, keeping a daily record when traveling, saving ephemera, and including the stamps from each country he was visiting). Ivor continued Heron-Allen's tradition of indexing; he added to the indexes started by

Figure 11: Ivor Jones with the Heron-Allen Society Committee at Pierino's Restaurant, London

his grandfather. In his own distinctive handwriting, Ivor recorded visitors such as Merlin Holland, the grandson of Oscar Wilde, who visited Sweets Farmhouse when he was searching for information that might shed light on his own famous grandfather.

Ivor understood the importance of tradition, ritual, and cultivating one's garden. In keeping with Heron-Allen, he was a Mason. He held Heron-Allen's cosmic secrets in his hands (on more than one occasion, he showed and discussed Heron-Allen's meteorites). Ivor also remembered his grandfather's green thumb. Heron-Allen, he was quick to recall, grew auriculas, created an asparagus hybrid and produced bumper crops. Ivor carried on this tradition. He shared the wealth, and Venetia would turn each harvest into a daily feast: delicious and fresh-from-the-garden potatoes, runner beans, peas, carrots, purple sprouting broccoli, and more!

Ivor also continued his grandfather's tradition of making Punch. He faithfully followed Heron-Allen's recipe and delighted devotees. He celebrated Heron-Allen's birthday (17 December), poured the punch, and provided a feast for the senses.

Ivor knew and appreciated poetry; he studied and admired the Persian poet beloved by his grandfather: the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám. He often recited the astronomer-poet's quatrains, including the following:

> A Book of Verses underneath the Bough,
> A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou
> Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
> oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

Long may we remember and praise Ivor Edward Jones, son of Itha (Heron- Allen) and Jim Jones, grandson of Edith (known fondly to Ivor and other family members as Granny Mint) and Edward Heron-Allen, devoted brother, husband, and father, dedicated Mason, faithful friend, meticulous record keeper, visionary of The Heron-Allen Society, generous spirit, and keeper of the flame [see Figure 11].

Joan Navarre

RICHARD HODGKINSON

It is my sad duty to report the death of Richard Lloyd Hodgkinson at the age of 84.

He was the curator of Micropalaeontology at the Natural History Museum, London, which he had joined in 1958. He retired in 1995, but still came in one day per week to "assist", only to "re-retire" in 2012. He was a most skilful technician in the laboratory and in my opinion, a curator without peer. He was always keenly aware that he worked amongst probably the finest foraminiferal collection and library in the world, for which Edward Heron-Allen had

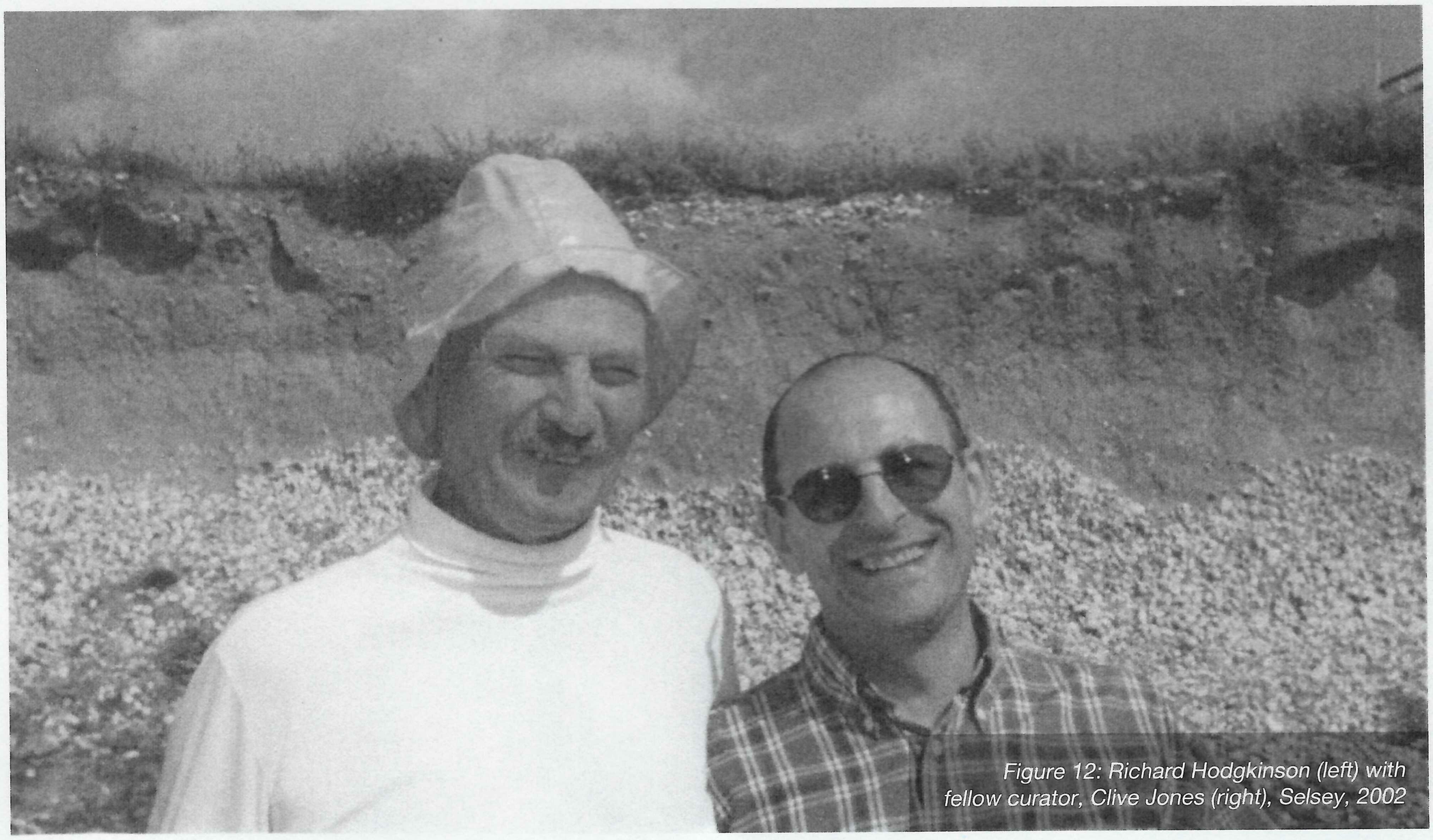

Figure 12: Richard Hodgkinson (left) with fellow curator, Clive Jones (right), Selsey, 2002

been largely responsible. Indeed, Richard could be said to be the natural successor to Heron-Allen at the Museum.

He began to realise that Heron-Allen was a gifted polymath and sought to find out more about him, other than his science. Tim McCann tells me that he was the first person ever to contact him about EH-A and it was thus apt he was one of the first movers in the foundation of the Heron-Allen Society to which he contributed greatly in its early years. He attended most, if not all the Symposia at least up until 2007 and contributed papers which were published in *Opuscula* IV, VII and VIII.

Interestingly, he was also able to verify, though his contacts with former Museum colleagues going back many many years, that Heron-Allen's new room which he was given after his voluble complaints to the Director about having to work in a "slip" (post-1919), was in fact what is now known as the Gavin de Beer Room in one of the museum's towers, and very grand it must have been too, (to use Richard's own words in an article he penned in the Palaeontology Department's House Journal) .... where in "a beautifully carpeted room with a view, complete with his own chaise longue, drinks cabinet, "Hepplewhite" chairs, book and collection cases, he entertained his guests and worked all night, if he thought it necessary".

When Richard was able to publish later in his career – earlier, curators had been discouraged – he produced, among other things, two notable offerings on Heron-Allen: about his type-slide collection and a most useful annotated bibliography of his foraminiferal works with a review of his scientific career. A fine biography of EH-A's mentor, Fortescue William Millett, must also be mentioned.

In summary, I think it can be said that our knowledge of Heron-Allen. the man and his collections, has been greatly improved by Richard's dedicated and enthusiastic research.

Richard was a very good (lawn) bowls player and that gradually took over more and more of his life. Later his mobility was compromised by a none-too-successful hip operation and then a fall, so he regretfully had to let the Heron-Allen Society go. Ever a typical English gentleman, I still remember him on the beach at West Street, Selsey, during an exposition on "The Beauty and Mystery of the Foraminifera" which I gave to assembled Society members and the West Sussex County Council on the same day as the Blue Plaque unveiling (in 2002), Richard, most atypically, was wearing a sou'wester [see Figure 12]. Perhaps he was expecting a shower!

For my part, it was a pleasure to have known and worked with him.

John E. Whittaker

DR CHRISTOPHER WILLCOX (1940-2019)

Dr Christopher Willcox died on Sunday 9th June at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester, aged 78. He had been a GP in Selsey for almost 30 years. He was a wise, steady, devoted, kindly and loyal family man, friend and colleague; the most unselfish of men, he was much loved and respected by all who knew him.

He joined Drs Henderson's and Wrigley's GP practice in Selsey in 1971, then in Hillfield Rd, where Pet Doctors is now. His kindness and good humour were praised by all. At Christmas, his home would be flooded with gifts, and when he retired in 2000, he received many glowing tributes from patients:

"Among the best of his kind, and kind as the best."

"We have greatly appreciated the respect you have shown to us over the years. No matter how minor our concerns you did not show irritation or disbelief. Your examinations have always been thorough and skilful, your explanations full, and all achieved with an air of calm and good humour."

"..kind, courteous & polite – always the perfect gentleman."

Indeed, that is the way he was brought up; his father was a consultant physician in the Windsor area, and both grandfathers were eminent doctors: Sir William Willcox was a Home Office poisons expert (whose evidence helped to convict Dr Crippen); George Grey Turner, the first Professor of Surgery at the Hammersmith Hospital, London – where Chris was born during the Battle of Britain on 31st Aug 1940. He trained at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. He married Marie-Christine in 1966 and travelled with her to Borneo where he worked for two years, as the only doctor in a district hospital serving an area of 500 square miles. He worked very hard, sometimes treating snake and crocodile bites and even delivering triplets. But he did find some time to enjoy the wildlife and scenery in Sabah, and especially the exotic butterflies and birds. After he had served his term, he and Marie-Christine had an adventurous drive home which took them 6 months, crossing Malaysia, Thailand, India, Iran, Turkey, the Balkans and Europe, which were all much safer then than now.

Soon after returning to England in 1971, he settled in Selsey, where he would stay for the rest of his life [Figure 13]. His Borneo experience stood him in good stead. He once had to treat a boy bitten by an adder when cycling in West Sands! He loved telling the story of how he phoned the boy's father to break the bad news, and the father reacted, "*Pity it wasn't a cobra!*". He had a subtle sense of humour - he collected typos; one of his favourites was

when he dictated a referral letter to the infertility clinic, and the draft came back, "*Dear Dr, I would be grateful if you could see this patient in your infidelity clinic*". On reading an article in the newspaper entitled "Male pregnancy made possible", he looked down at his belly, and exclaimed, "*perhaps it's not middle-aged spread after all!*" Sometimes Chris declined to have his ears syringed, saying that the earwax was "*divine protection for the married man*"! And he frequently joked that "*only the good die young*".

Chris was always very modest about his work, but he was among the last generation of true "family doctors" before GP working patterns changed in 2004. Throughout most of his 30 years as a GP in Selsey, he regularly visited his elderly patients at home, in a way that has now become a rarity. He was also on call one in three – nights, weekends, Christmas and Easter – or one in two when a partner was away. He was a very thoughtful and efficient business man, with a remarkably sharp memory, as needed of GPs. The only things he really hated were computers. He used to joke that he carried "that Willcox virus" which was enough to crash any computer! The compulsory computerisation of medical records was part of the reason for his early retirement in 2000.

He enjoyed ten years of retirement, serving on the Parish Council of St Peter's Church (Selsey) and as lead volunteer tending the churchyard at St Wilfrid's Chapel, Church Norton. He was always a devoted Christian. Not only did he attend church virtually every Sunday, but he also acted out his faith through his work, and his great generosity to others. During a charity concert at St Peter's in 2011, he suffered a major stroke. This left him with left-side paralysis, and then he developed Parkinson's disease, leading to increasing apathy and, finally, difficulties in swallowing, which he endured without complaint. He is survived by his wife (Marie-Christine), his brother (Nicholas), his son (Merlin) and his granddaughter (Iona).

Donations can be sent to Afrinspire (Ref 31741 Willcox), http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/ChristopherWillcox. The money donated will be used to fund projects to improve healthcare and scholarships in his name for children from some of the poorest backgrounds in Africa.

Merlin Willcox

THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Heron-Allen Society's website is at: 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 website 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.

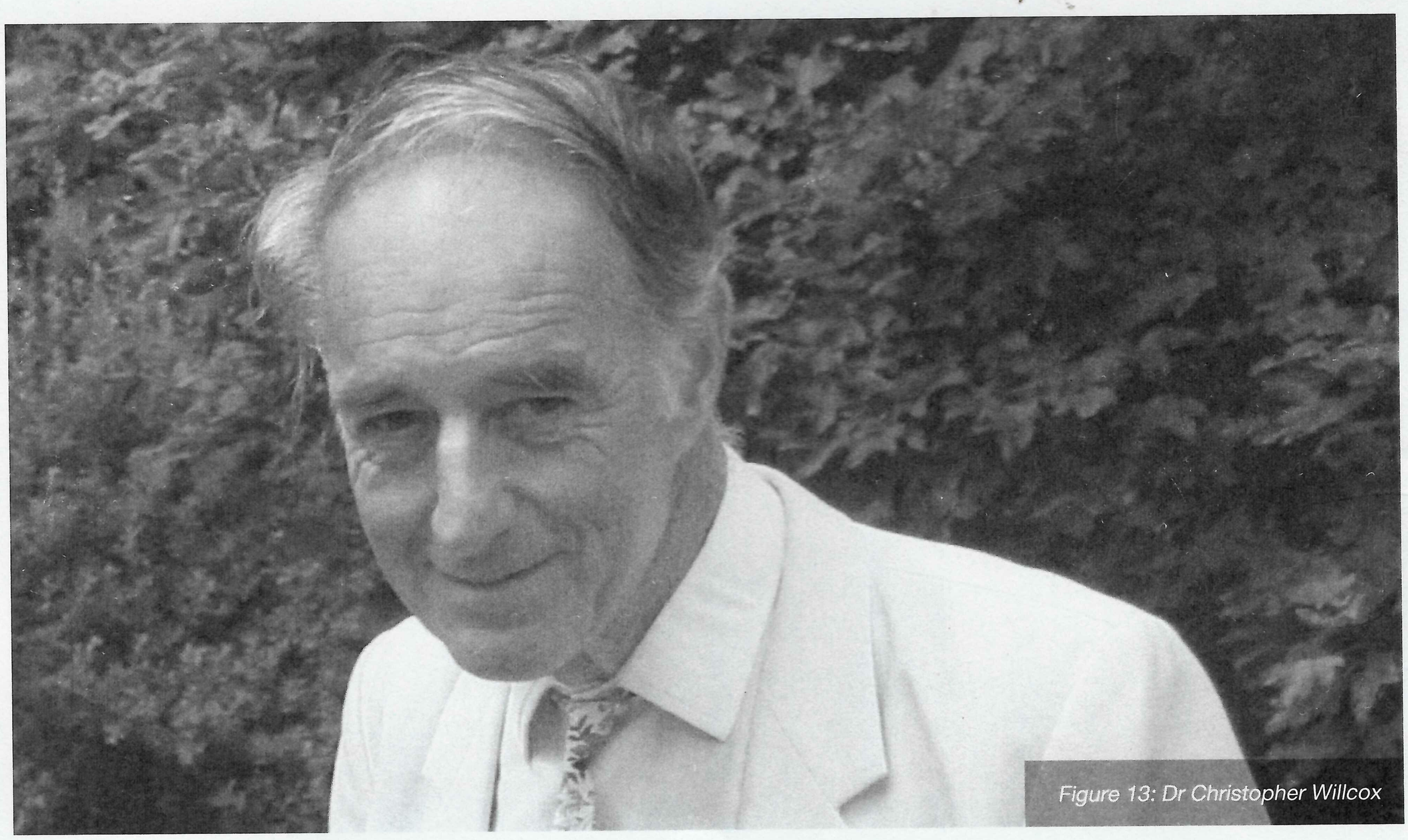

Figure 13: Dr Christopher Willcox