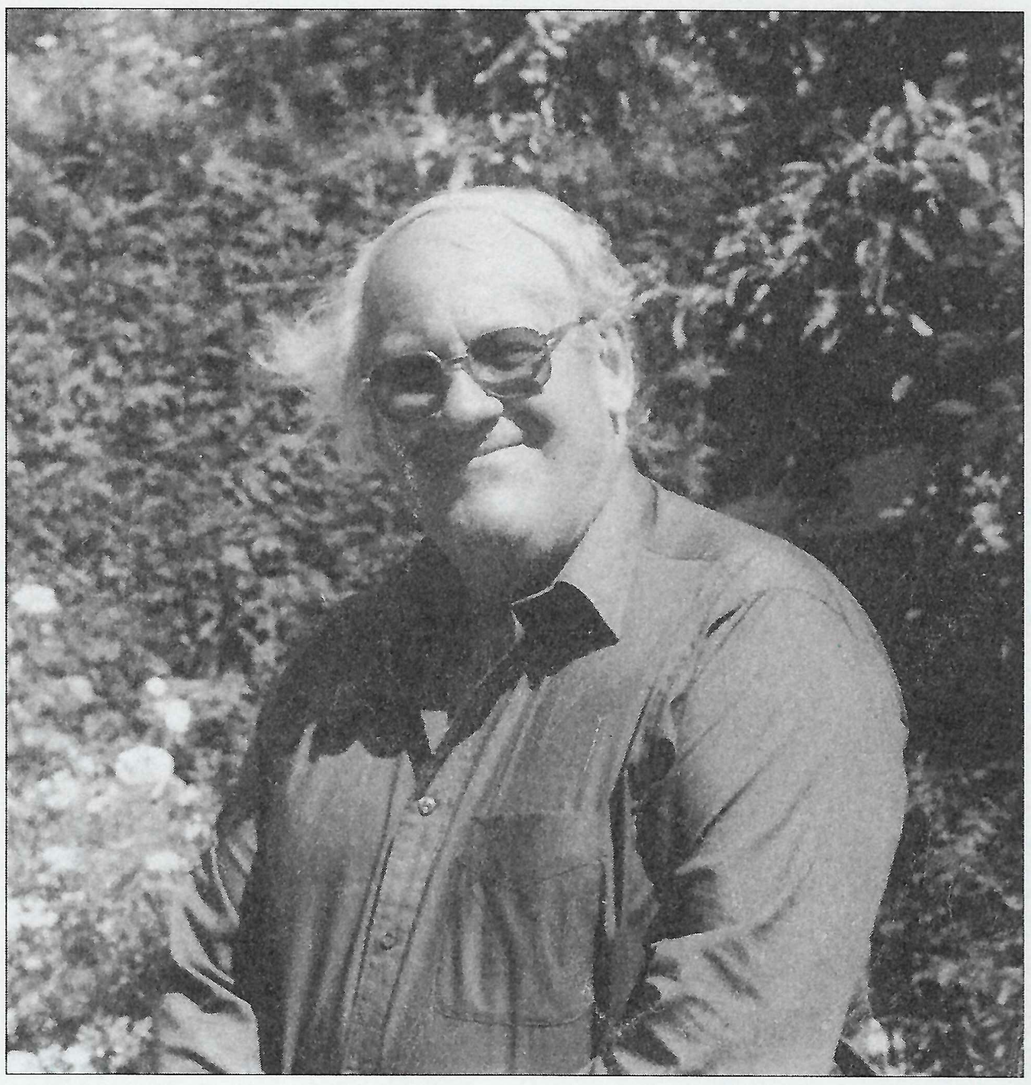
SPRING 2024

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 42

IN MEMORY OF DR JOHN E WHITTAKER (1945-2023) FOUNDER MEMBER AND MAINSTAY OF THE SOCIETY



It is my privilege to bring you this edition of the Heron-Allen Society Newsletter, which we are dedicating to the memory of our dear friend, and stalwart of the Society and its work, John Whittaker.

Once again, this edition is produced by John's son Gregory, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude for the time and expertise he has devoted to this task for this and so many of our publications.

We include the tributes to John from Society members, as well as material from our last Symposium, including Julian Munby's "Selsey Past and Present", a summary of Grahame Saxby-Soffe's "The Roman marble busts of Germanicus and the Emperor Trajan found at Bosham: Edward Heron-Allen's contribution to their discovery and preservation", and David Bone's account of the Symposium guided tour of sites around Selsey, a tour which we were in the end unable to include on the day – and which we are so grateful to him for reproducing for us here; these are accompanied by our report of this year's Heron-Allen lecture in Oxford, and "Heron-Allen and the Publisher H.S. Nichols" from Bob Forrest .

With the deaths of Tim McCann and John Whittaker we have lost two of our main experts on Heron-Allen and his circle, and we fear that in consequence this may well be the Society's last official publication. Please see the enclosed letter to members for more detail on this, and the future of the Society.

I'm sure you will find much in these pages to inform and enlighten.

Juliet Field
(Oxford, March 2024)

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John in his office at the Natural History Museum, London

EULOGIES AND TRIBUTES FOR JOHN

DR JOHN EUSTACE WHITTAKER: AN APPRECIATION OF HIS LIFE AND CAREER

A written version of the address given at his funeral on 29 August 2023 by Professor David Siveter, friend and colleague

When Christine asked me to speak today, about John and his career, it took me back to the first time I remember meeting him. It was more than 50 years ago. John was visiting Leicester to see Professor Peter Sylvester-Bradley, who was later to become his PhD examiner.

My first impression of John was that he was friendly and clever. He had an endearing, mischievous smile and hearty laugh. He suggested that we go to the pub for lunch, where we talked over pints about fossils and football. I knew immediately that we would get on – we became career-long family friends.

We mourn his passing, but we have so much to celebrate in his contributions and legacy. He was a distinguished scientist, with an understated enthusiasm for all that he tackled; a wonderful mentor of students and colleagues; and a staunch supporter of palaeontology. Much more than that, he was a warm-hearted friend and colleague with a lovely sense of humour. Put simply, John was one of the very best.

HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Please note that we will not be collecting subscriptions in 2024

The Heron-Allen Newsletter was edited by Juliet Field and designed by Gregory Whittaker

John had a down-to-earth character, one that reflected his background. His father was a farmer and he grew up in a rural backwater of East Lancashire. John acknowledged that, in addition to his Roman Catholic school Marist Priests, three "amazing mentors" had a huge influence on his education and career path: Ken James, a charismatic geography and geology teacher at 'Blackburn Grammar'; Robin Whatley, John's Aberystwyth University PhD mentor who "rescued this bloody geographer"; and, in John's words, the "late, great" Geoff Adams, his senior colleague at the Natural History Museum, London.

Having graduated from Aberystwyth University with a degree in Geography and Geology (1967) John then stayed on to undertake doctoral studies on the ostracod crustaceans of the Fleet lagoon, Dorset (1972). It was an outstanding piece of research and I well remember thinking that I hoped that my ongoing PhD would be half as good.

To the good fortune of the Natural History Museum, London, John was appointed to its staff in 1971. After 35 years distinguished service he retired in 2005 as Head of Micropalaeontology. The museum collections and its Heron-Allen Library were a constant source of inspiration to him.

John made a sustained scientific contribution throughout his career. He was a renowned authority on the systematics, ecology and environmental significance of Recent and Cenozoic ostracods and foraminifera. He authored or co-authored over 200 papers, including several monographs and books, such as the lauded *Marine and Brackish Water Ostracods*, in the Linnean Society's *Synopses of the British Fauna* series, which he co-authored with career-long collaborators and friends John Athersuch and Dave Horne. He wrote countless reports on fossil biotas world-wide, for national geological surveys and commercial companies. In the latter part of his career he was at the forefront of demonstrating the utility of microfossils in the palaeoenvironmental analysis of archaeological sites, especially key early human localities such as Boxgrove in Sussex. Such research opened a new world and friendships for John.

John was never one to push his own self-interests or importance, but his skills and integrity were recognized and sought-after. He was Head of Micropalaeontology at the Natural History Museum for fourteen years. He served as Editor of learned journals and held positions on the Councils of many societies. He was elected Vice-President of The Palaeontographical Society, Chair of Fleet Study Group, and President of The Micropalaeontological Society. His claim to be an "old Stager" of the latter Society was certainly true: he was a founder member (1970) and served 'TMS' in many roles over decades.

For his achievements and contributions John received Honorary Membership of The Micropalaeontological Society and The Cushman Award of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

John conveyed his enthusiasm for palaeontology, always grounded in the specimens themselves, to others. Generations of students in institutes in Wales, Southampton, London, Oxford and Leicester benefited from his teaching, supervision, support and examiners eye. He had a guiding influence on the careers of many, some of whom are here today.

Yet, it is perhaps John the man that will endure in the memory, with his easy-going, convivial personality. Socialising or collaborating with John was always nothing less than "fun". Things and banter were always "fun": an eclectic mix of science, sport, jokes and stories – so many tales! A never-ending roll of amusing, personality-filled anecdotes. One is reminded of....

- His promotion of the 'Rent-a-Wreck' award, for the most decrepit vehicle on Micropalaeontological Society field trips (invariably awarded to Dr Tom Kileni).
- His use of nicknames as a play on the names of friends and colleagues: "Hat"; "Boyd the Bucket"; "JA"; "Hodge-Podge"; and the unforgettable "Monsoon Disaster".
- His "dial a microfossil identification" service for instant over-the phone help.

John's hobbies and interests were legion - almost as numerous as size of his family!

"Up the Clarets" was his cry, as an ardent supporter of Burnley FC. He spent much energy in organizing football and cricket teams for his sons. Yet, he still found time for his treasured collections of Dinky and Corgi toys and stamps; his roses and vegetable garden; and his passion for train sets and railway literature. From a small boy he was hooked on steam trains – "real stuff" (as opposed to the day job), as he would often quip.

John often remarked that he had "never grown up" – but that was a mark of his widespread interests and his charm!

John was a much-loved friend and colleague to many. He left us with an enduring scientific and educational legacy. We offer Christine and his six "Boys" our deepest condolences.

The last time I saw John I am pleased to recall that he still had that engaging wit and that lovely mischievous smile.

Professor David Siveter

* * * * *

John Whittaker

I am so grateful that by joining the committee of the Heron-Allen Society I was able to meet and get to know John. A life-affirming experience, in spite of his often gloomy and even despairing outlook! I was aware from the start that he was a most distinguished scientist, much in demand by his colleagues and fellow-scientists, and I soon realised that he was also a kind, friendly and entertaining person, and devoted to, and ever available to, his family. He was always there for anyone who needed him.

David Siveter's "[he had] an understated enthusiasm for all that he tackled", and Jeremy's "[he] was a big part of everything he was interested in, and he had a lot of interests" really do describe John so well. As one of the first members of the Heron-Allen Society, he took an active interest, not only in topics relating to his own area of expertise, but in all the other many aspects of EH-A's life. He was also very active in helping to arrange our annual Symposia and AGMs, finding venues and speakers, and of course he and Tim always found lovely restaurants for our prolonged post-AGM lunches.

His love of food and wine ensured that 'our' table for our committee meetings at Pierino's in South Kensington was referred to when I booked it as 'John Whittaker's table', and if liver and bacon was on the menu they knew that was his order. I would usually arrive to find John installed with the first of the bottles of red of the meal, ready to welcome us all with genuine pleasure and affection and kindness.

He was not only generous with his time and attention and skills and expertise, he was I'm sure one of the several generous anonymous donors of extra cash to the Society to subsidise particular projects, and he always paid for guests to our meetings and meals. During and after Covid, I got to know John in his telephone persona, and to discover the depth of his commitment to the excellence of our publications. The rather gloomy voice would come on the line, always with an apology (totally unnecessary as I was always pleased to hear him) and always full of concern for our publication schedule and the amount and quality of the material. Together with 'my boy Gregory' he would labour over each edition to make sure it was as good as it could be – spending time I'm sure neither of them could well afford dealing with the idiosyncrasies of the various contributors. Indeed his ability to persuade Gregory to take on this work contributed greatly to the excellence of our output.

I want to go back to the earlier mention of his understated enthusiasm; although such a hugely important part of the Society, he was not the high-profile character that Tim McCann always was. He was always there but in the background, probably worrying that something would go wrong, and there to help if it did, but reluctant to take the centre stage unless to deliver one of his well-researched and entertaining papers. I think that's why few members of the Society have felt that they really knew him well – or at least well enough to add a longer tribute, while all felt a deep affection for him and so much appreciated his huge contribution to our work and play. Thank you John for being such a significant part of it all.

Juliet Field

* * * * *

Email reactions from Members of the Society

Here are some of the comments from people's replies to the news of John's death:

From colleagues:

John was a big part of everything he was interested in, and he had a lot of interests.

The Heron-Allen Society was very important to him.

Jeremy

* * * * *

I was saddened to hear about the passing of our friend John Whittaker. We lost a great enthusiast.

Michael

* * * * *

From Society members:

I remember walking with him on the way to lunch at Pierino's during an EH-A symposium.

He asked about my violin making and we chatted about violins in general. What a genuinely nice person he was. He will be greatly missed.

Kevin

* * * * *

I shall always have fond memories of him for his enthusiasm about the Heron-Allen Society, his knowledge and friendliness.

Maira

I have fond memories of John.

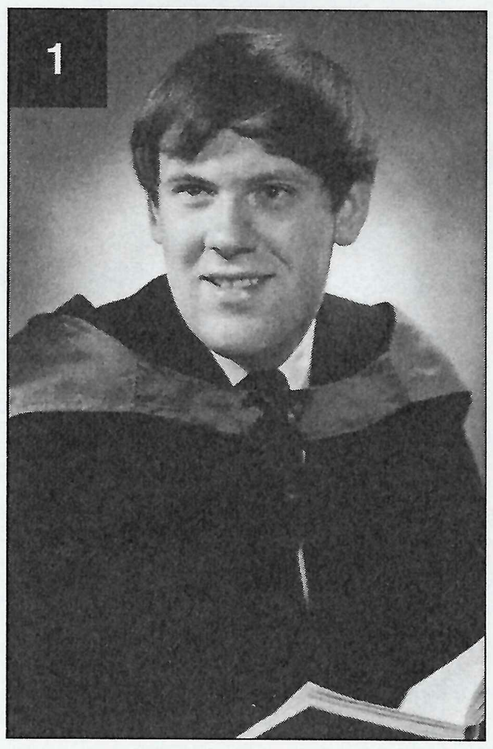
David

* * * * *

What a shock. Thankyou for letting me know. I will write to "my boy Greg" as John always called him. Can the EHA Society survive this latest loss?

Alison

Picture references:
1. John as a student at the Univeristy of Aberystwyth
2. John at a dig on Chesil Beach
3. John and his wife Christine on Southwold beach
4. John riding a steam engine in Majorca
5. John and his son Dominic in Cornwall
6. John with Christine and his 6 boys (St. Albans)
7. John with Christine and his 6 boys (Dorset)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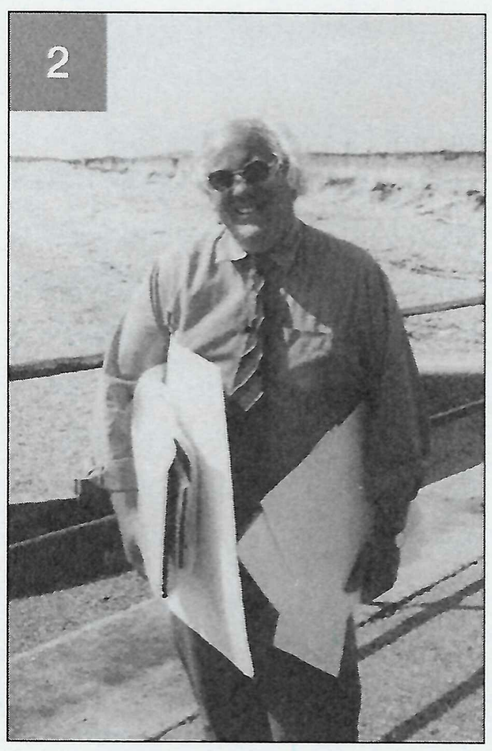
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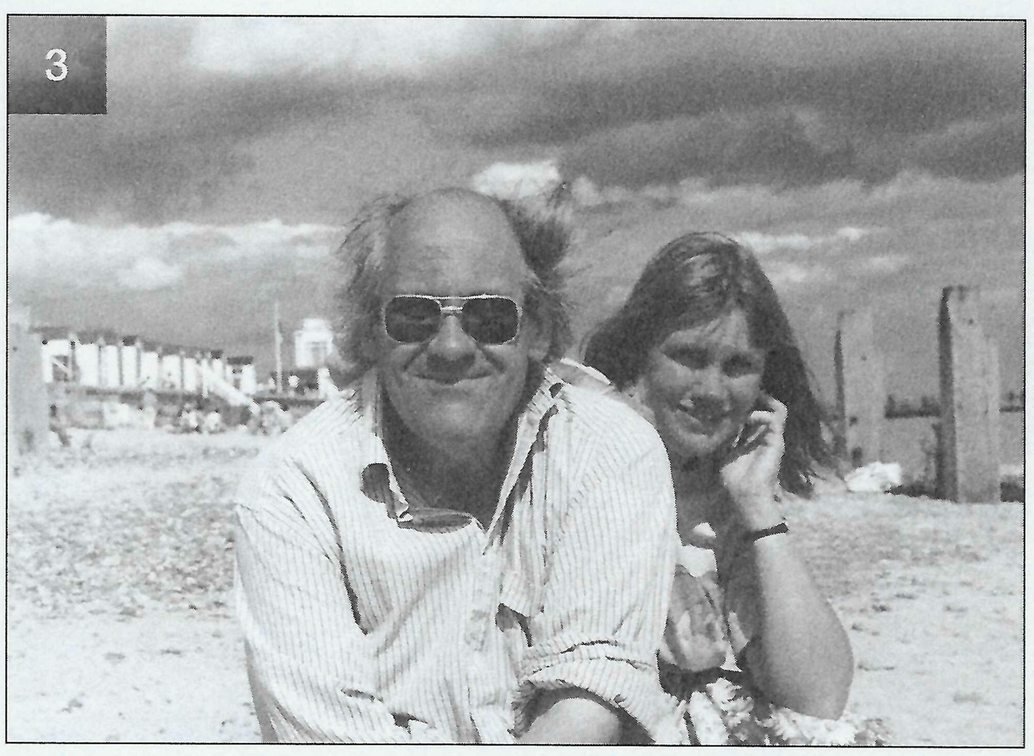
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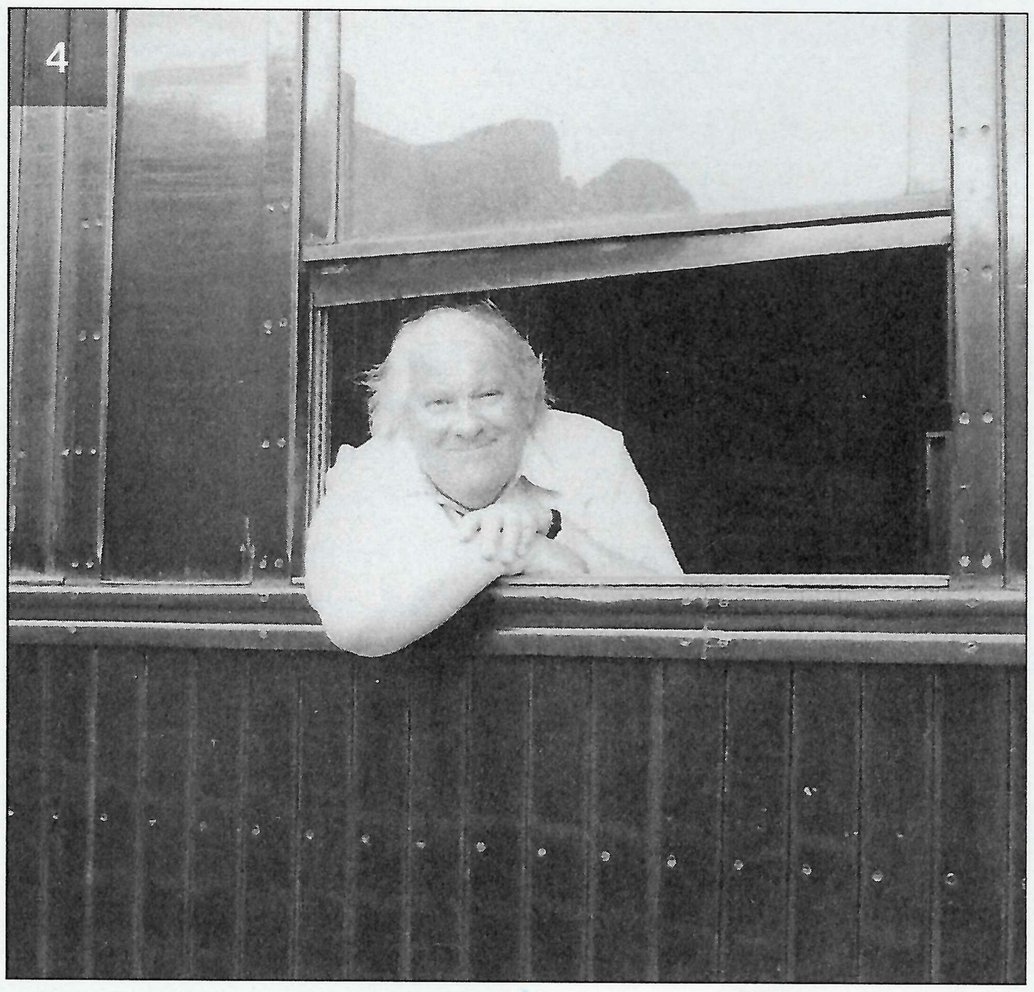
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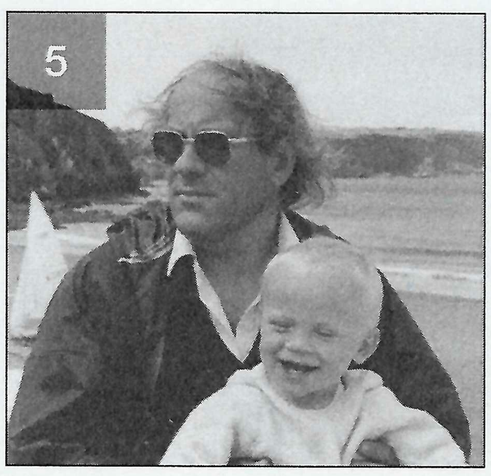
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THE 2022 AGM OF THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

This year's AGM took place on Saturday 9 July 2022 at the Church Hall of St Peter's Church Selsey, in the absence of our guiding light and chairman Tim McCann. We had hoped to be sending our good wishes to him in hospital, but instead were meeting in the shadow of his death on 26 June. Thus it was a brief and sombre occasion, without his usual encouraging address and ideas for the future.

As usual, it took place in the context of our annual Symposium, and was prefaced by a short organ recital given by Dr Kate Adcock on the organ Edward Heron-Allen gave to the church, and continued with papers by Dr Julian Munby and Grahame Saxby-Soffe, and a lunch at The Seal Hotel in Selsey. A planned guided walk by David Bone was in the end postponed to a another opportunity, as the proceedings had unfortunately run too late to include it.

The following annual report was given by the Hon. Sec., and the accounts were then presented by the Treasurer. The remnant of the Committee was re-elected unanimously, with the role of Chairman remaining unfilled.

We were not in a position to discuss future publications (see the Notes to the Accounts), or our 2023 meeting. Once we can convene a committee meeting we will look at these. Our webmaster was not able to be present, so did not give a report, but we would like to thank her very warmly for her very prompt editing of the pages – including our recent sad news - and for dealing with queries and other issues as they arise.

9 members of the Society and 2 guests attended, with 12 sending their apologies.

REPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 2019 – 2022

We are sadly unable to hear a report on the past few years from the person who would have been most able and most qualified to deliver it.

I will present what I know of what has been achieved since our July 2019 meeting here, but this is very much the tip of an iceberg of research and investigation, conversation and communication, that has been undertaken, largely by him.

As Pam's accounts have shown, electronic communication and clever software has enabled the continuing payment of subscriptions, and we're grateful to everyone for keeping, or bringing, their subs up to date, though some of us still prefer to pay cash on the day! This has enabled the Society to continue with our important printing and publishing programme and to keep the bank figures in the black; our thanks to Pam for keeping this all on track.

The publication of Opuscula and Newsletters in the face of Covid restrictions, illness, and other impediments has been little short of heroic. We are so grateful to John and Gregory Whittaker for their time and effort in producing splendid Newsletters, beautifully printed by Selsey Press. But of course it has been Tim who has worked so devotedly to gather papers and articles, pursue and write up his own researches, and generally keep the whole show on the road.

Since July 2019 we have produced Newsletters 35 to 40, and Opusculum XXVII, a huge achievement, and we hope that our proceedings today can morph into a future Opusculum.

The international visit to Biarritz and Pau duly happened in September 2019, as reported in Newsletter 36, while 2021 saw a more limited but very enjoyable visit to Cornwall, reported in Newsletter 40. And we were so pleased that an already ailing Tim was able to come with Alison to join us at the Annual Heron-Allen lecture this March at Lady Margaret Hall – also written up in Newsletter 40. We had an excellent meal that evening at Tim's choice of our favourite Chinese Restaurant in Summertown, good memories all round!

For Covid and other health and technical reasons, the Committee has not met in person since 2019, cancelling our March 2020 meeting just as lockdown hit. We have corresponded extensively by email, and did manage one committee meeting by Zoom in September 2022.

On behalf of the Society and the committee, I would like to thank Grahame, Kate and Julian for 'rescuing' today's programme so successfully, and I look forward to David's presentation this afternoon.

As Peter has remarked, with no disrespect to the contributions of others, 'to me Tim WAS the Society'. It's now up to the rest of us to try together to produce the energy and momentum to make up for one Tim McCann – can we do it?

Juliet Field (Hon. Sec.), July 2022

HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 2021-2022

Receipts	**£**	**Payments**	**£**
Balance at bank 31.5.21	2443.70	Opusculum	0.00
Balance in Paypal	49.46	Newsletters 38 & 39	372.00
Subscriptions 2021-22	851.59	Postage & packing	311.95
Subscriptions 2022-23	175.00	Website security (2 years)	172.51
Back issues	0.00	Bank charges	25.40
Donations	0.00	Balance in Paypal	135.22
		Balance at bank 31.5.22	2502.67
TOTAL	**3519.75**		**3519.75**

(For comparison:

ACCOUNTS 2020-2021

Receipts	**£**	**Payments**	**£**
Balance at bank 31.5.20	1865.07	Opusculum	0.00
Balance at Paypal	56.34	Newsletters 36 & 37	374.00
Subscriptions 2020-21	635.32	Postage & packing	102.77
Back issues	42.95	Balance in Paypal	49.46
Donations	370.03	Balance at bank 31.5.21	2443.70
TOTAL	**2969.93**		**2969.93)**

Notes to the accounts 2021-2022

1. Subscription receipts for 2021-22 continue to be affected by the pandemic so are somewhat distorted by the fact that a number of members paid dues which were in arrears - much appreciated.
2. The accounts for the year also show that some members' payments for the coming year 2022-2023 were paid in good time.
3. These two factors make the overall membership receipts appear rather healthier than they are, when, as we know all too well, our membership is declining as elderly members are no longer with us. At present we have about £2600 for the coming year, though some subscriptions are still due. Very soon, we shall have to pay about £300 in website costs. As things are, it does seem vital that our website functions properly.
4. Newsletters have appeared regularly and almost magically, due to the enormous efforts of Tim McCann and John Whittaker against tremendous odds. The fact that Symposia have been impossible for the past two years has meant that material for Opuscula has not been available. There are currently plans for an Opusculum in the coming year, for which we hope funds will be sufficient.
5. Costs will almost certainly continue to rise, for production and for postage, though that will depend on the size and quantity of publications.
6. Since last autumn, our bank has been charging £5.00 per month for the account and £0.40 for each cheque issued. This is now common for almost all society bank accounts, including those for charities, which could be viewed as scandalous. It does mean that in the next full year charges will be higher than this year. We will obviously consider a move to another bank, but this may not prove worthwhile, not least when local branches continue to close. The charges could in part be reduced if we could make more payments by bank transfer and we will seek to do that. It may well involve a move to online banking, which would help the treasurer greatly, but cannot be achieved until several issues are clarified with the bank.
7. Overall, it is going to be difficult to balance the

books in the coming year. The current balance will be improved by the subscriptions which are still to come, and how Newsletters and Opuscula are to be produced without Tim McCann's input will depend on how the committee and members are able to achieve at least some of what he did.

8. I am reluctant to suggest an increase in subscription rates immediately, as much remains uncertain and we certainly do not wish to lose members. We may hope for donations to assist us, and should probably make that appeal to members, but that is not at all guaranteed. There are at present so many imponderable factors that we should continue to review what is possible and desirable over the coming year for decisions to be made at the next AGM.

Pam Thompson, 6 July 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA 9 JULY 2022

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of Meeting on 6 July 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Officers and Committee
5. Chairman's Report
6. Presentation of Accounts by the Treasurer
7. Reports:
   - Website
   - Newsletter and Future Opuscula
   - 2023 Symposium
8. Any Other Business [notified in advance to the Secretary]

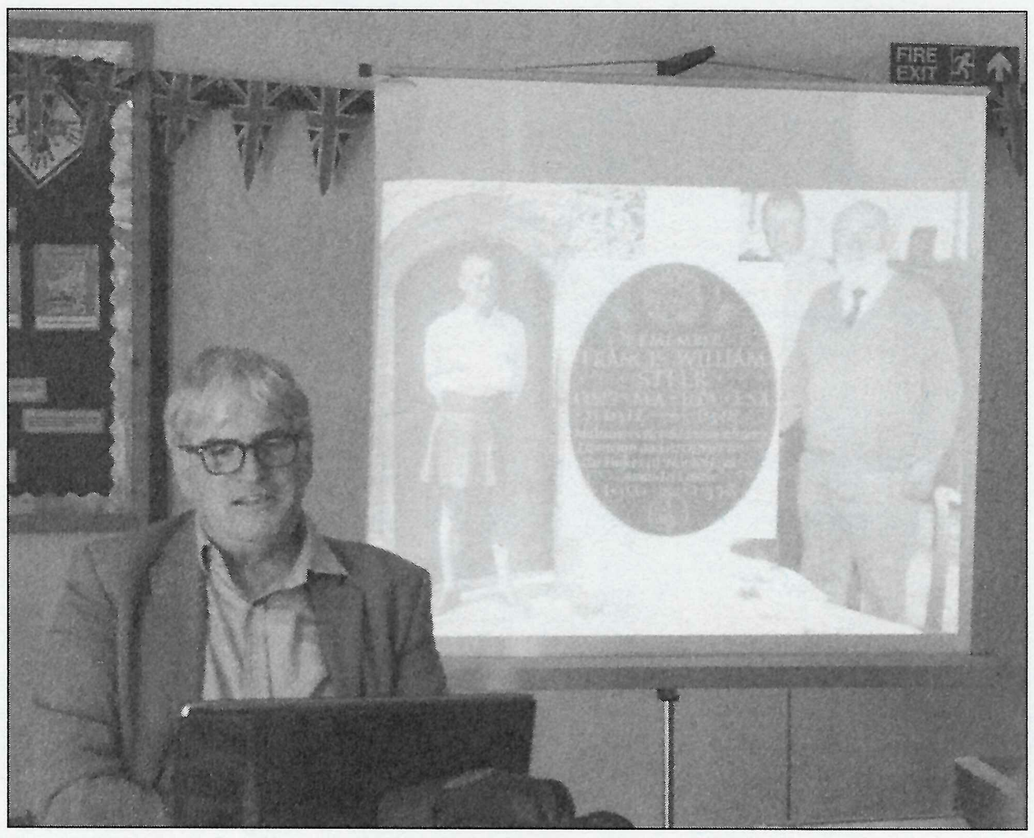
CHICHESTER AND SELSEY LANDSCAPES

Heron Allen Society, Selsey 9th July 2022

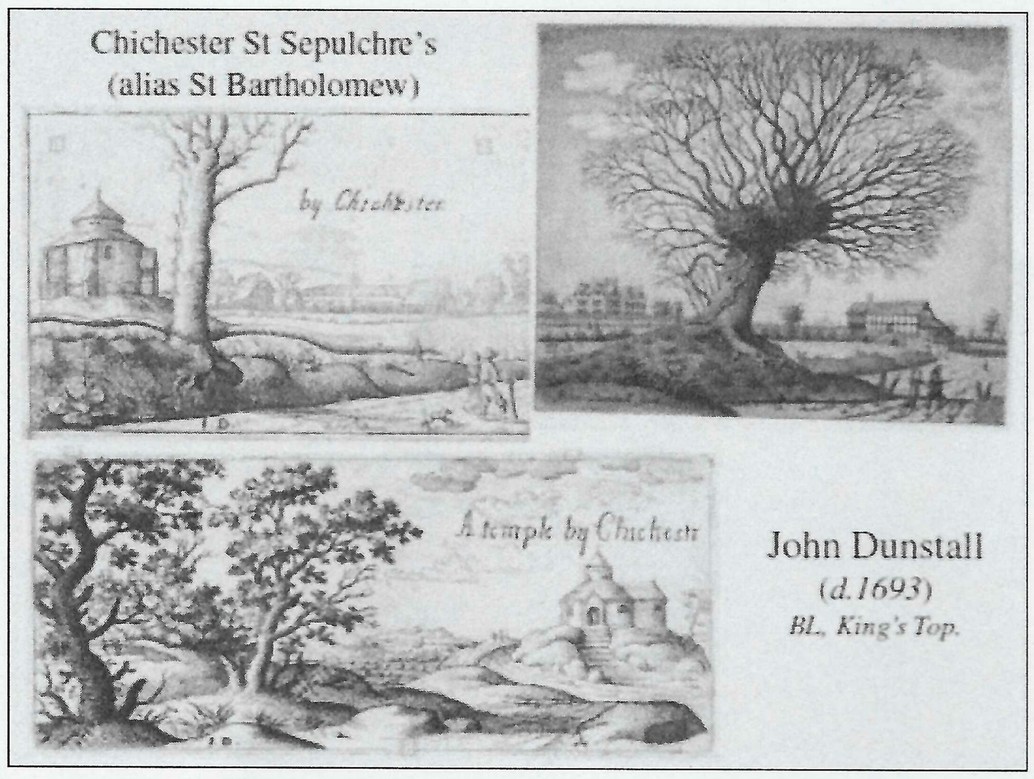
This talk was a celebration of the archival sources for the landscape history of Chichester and Selsey in the West Sussex Record Office, where Tim McCann was for years one of the principal archivists and benign presence, and who I first met in 1975 when I began working at Bishop Otter College.

The location of Selsey and Chichester on the coastal plain below the downs is well illustrated by the large scale Yeakell and Gardner maps of 1778 that show the land-use of every field, woods and commons, and the extent of the alluvial river valleys at a scale of 2 inches to a mile. By overlaying the parish boundaries you can see the land use in each settlement, the villages with open fields and those that had been enclosed or never had open fields. At that date Chichester still had its open 'Portfield', and extensive rough pasture in the Broyle to the north of the town.

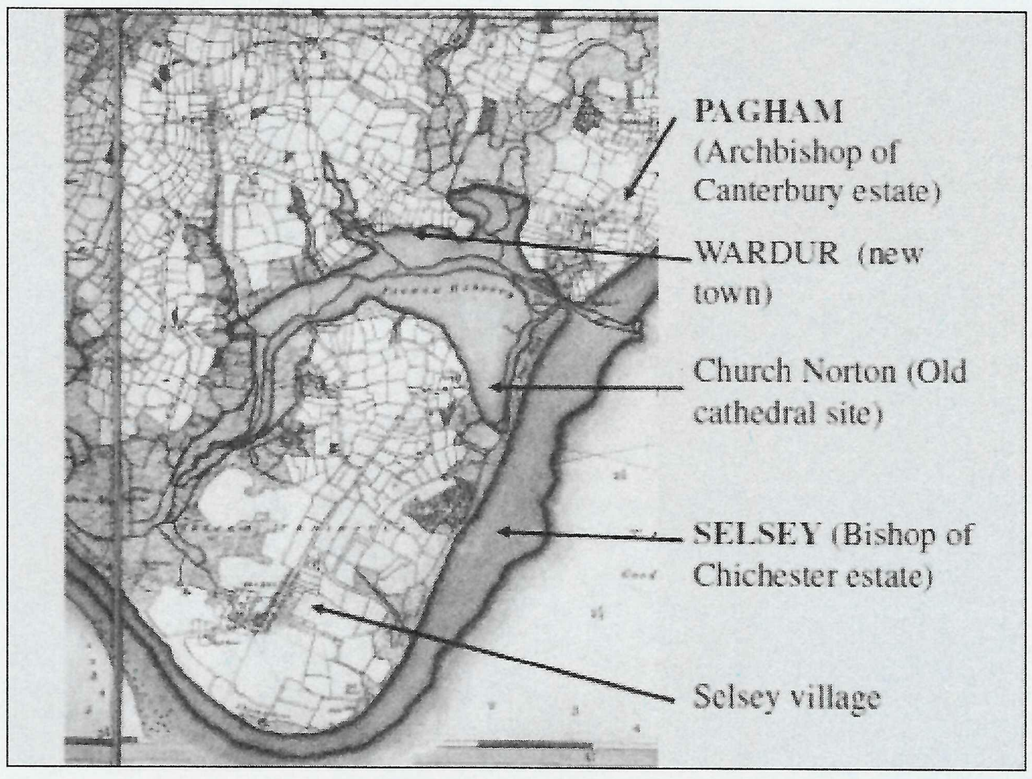
The appearance of the town is shown in a number of early views, while of course many Georgian buildings in Chichester contain older elements behind their brick fronts. Some remarkable 17th century engraved views by John Dunstall depict a 'temple by Chichester', the lost round church of St Sepulchre (later St Bartholomew's); and a recently discovered drawing by Charles Wild is a rare view of Chichester Cross showing the vanished row of houses on the north side of the cathedral.

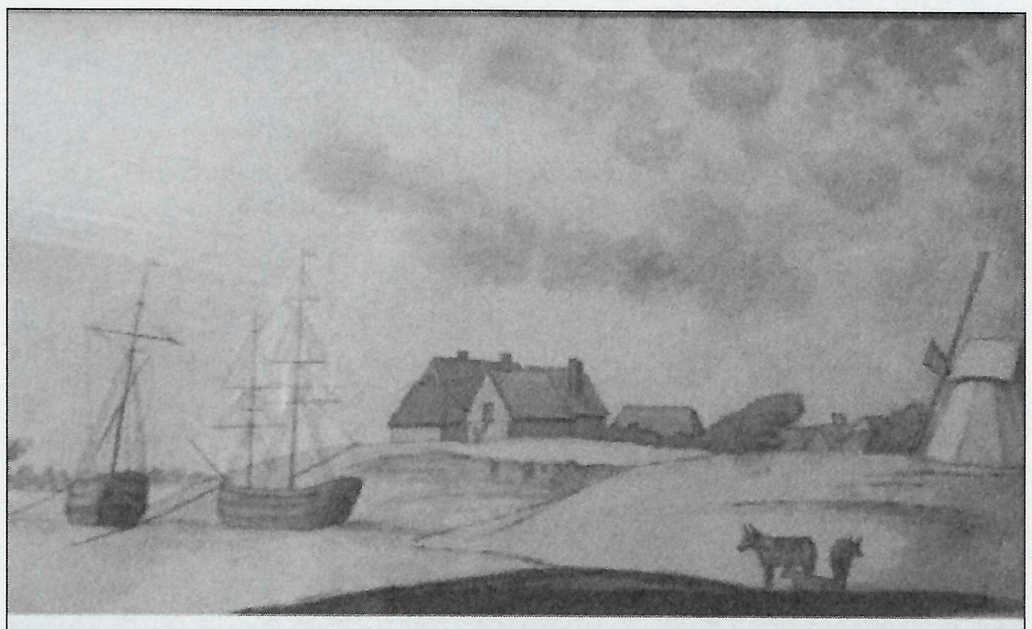


Dr Julian Munby delivering his powerpoint presentation
Photo Grahame Saxby-Soffe



John Dunstall
(d.1693)
BL, King's Top.





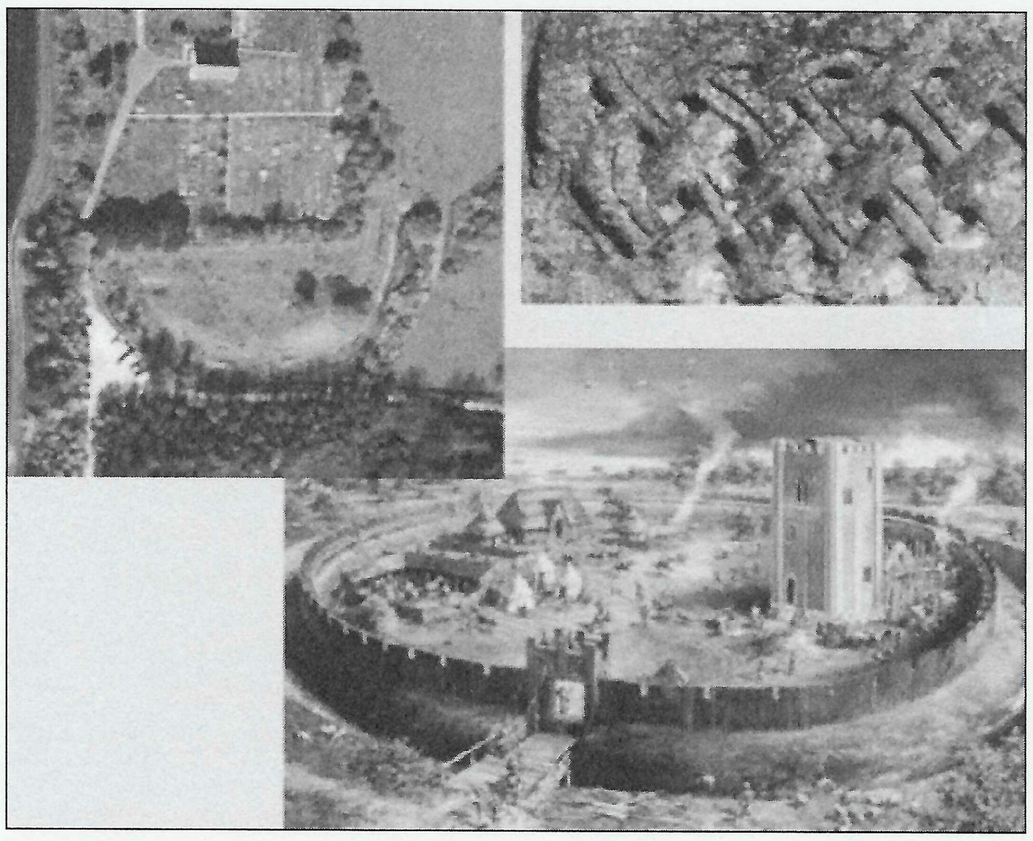
Pagham Harbour, c.1800

Chichester has a number of large Georgian houses such as Pallant House, and Edes House in West Street where the Record Office used to be, served by a succession of archivists, as W.D. Peckham, Francis Steer and both Tim and Alison McCann.

My own work in the archives arose from using Peckham's edition of the Chichester Cathedral Cartulary and trying to find the date of an undated stock list of the Bishop's estates, which led to an extended sorting out of the content and compilation history of the series of volumes produced for Bishop William Reed and his scribes in the later 14th century (and amongst other things the discovery of the identity of the scribe who copied the Saxon charters – the Bishop's secretary Walter Roberts).

Looking at the landscape of the Bishop's estate at Selsey, and the wider environs of Pagham Harbour, it was remarkable to discover just how much activity was centred on the harbour from Saxon times through the medieval period. There is evidence for the Bishop's new town at Sidlesham called 'New Haven', founded on the north side of the harbour in the late 13th century, with its foundation charter and rentals appearing in Reed's cartularies, while the name of the long-abandoned town survived long enough to appear on the 1755 estate map of Sidlesham.

On the east side of the harbour is Pagham, a large and ancient parish of the Archbishops of Canterbury, whose boundary preserves the extent described in the Anglo-Saxon charter bounds, and seems to have survived as a large parish of small settlements. As the last of a series of Canterbury manors spread across Kent and Sussex about a day's journey apart, it raises the question of whether this link to Selsey itself was important, or chiefly as an embarkation port for Normandy. I was asked by a colleague to look at the history of Bowley Farm, in one of the ancient Pagham hamlets, and found in the Record Office (thanks to their splendid cartographic map index) a remarkable 17th-century map of the farm that included a plotting of the tree species each hedgerow (differentiated both by species and whether or not they were pollards); I was just in time before a great storm to be able to see the last surviving pollarded elm tree before it fell.



Pagham also had a medieval new town on the harbour, known as the port of Withering, and despite its later history of draining and enclosure, it did for long function as a navigable harbour, as demonstrated by a view of Pagham Harbour in a sketchbook of *c.*1800 showing two-masted ships in the harbour near to the windmill.

Selsey itself is almost an island, with its village and the rebuilt parish church towards the south end, while the historic site of the cathedral was at the north end facing onto Pagham Harbour, at Church Norton. The pre-conquest cathedral was not of course lost under the sea, but is right underneath the present parish church, as was recognised by Bishop William Reed in the 14th century, who wished to be buried before its high altar 'once the cathedral of my diocese'. There is considerable archaeological potential at Church Norton, with its earthwork and lost tower, and the surviving fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculpture. So Pagham Harbour with its cathedral and two medieval planned towns needs to be given greater consideration as a significant place from earliest times, and was not just a remote corner discovered by Saint Wilfrid for his mission.

My more recent work has been looking at later records of Bishop Robert Sherbourne, who provided multiple copies of books listing his works (preserved in Chichester, Winchester and Oxford) so as to provide the institutional memory of his donations and foundations. One distant foundation was a grammar school in the place of his birth at Rolleston in Staffordshire, where there is an unusual monument in renaissance style rather dissimilar from his gothic tomb in the cathedral. He is leaning sideways, his effigy divided in two by a decorative panel, as it were keeping a watchful - or threatening - eye on the school boys on his foundation. Sherbourne's best known monument is the set of huge painted panels in the Cathedral, where he places himself with Henry VIII opposite King Caedwalla and St Wilfrid, while tucked away in the corner of the picture is a view of the buildings at Church Norton.

Julian Munby FSA

THE ROMAN MARBLE BUSTS OF GERMANICUS AND THE EMPEROR TRAJAN FOUND AT BOSHAM AND EDWARD HERON-ALLEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR DISCOVERY AND PRESERVATION

Bosham and Fishbourne are situated at the heads of channels of Chichester Harbour, which, with the harbours of Langstone and Portsmouth, west of Hayling Island, together with Southampton Water and the Solent, make up the *Magnus Portus* which played such a key role in the events of the Roman invasion of AD 43 and after. During the excavation of the Roman palace at Fishbourne in the 1960s, a damaged white marble head was found, probably of the client British king Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus as a boy aged between 10 and 13. It must therefore be significant that at Bosham two other marble sculptured heads have been found amidst another complex of Roman period buildings of great interest. Most of the structures were found in the 19th century, although excavations in 1967 and 1976 provide more reliable evidence. The main concentration of sites lies on the Bosham Stream at Broadbridge Mill and immediately south of it on either side of the main Roman coastal road from Chichester to Havant, Wickham and Winchester. Less than a mile upstream at Ratham Mill a Romano-Celtic temple has been identified and the same distance downstream, under the famous Saxon church and associated

settlement on the Bosham peninsula, other traces of Roman buildings have been found.

The first of the Bosham sculptures, another life-size marble portrait head, was found in *c.*1851 during digging foundations for a new mill-house at Broadbridge for Mr Thomas Gatehouse, the miller. Not realising its significance Mr Gatehouse placed it in his garden. His son Samuel Combes Gatehouse later gave it a coat of paint. It was eventually overgrown but in about 1906 it was unearthed by a gardener who gave it to a Miss Patterson. She showed it to the Revd Kenneth MacDermott, vicar of Bosham, who was a significant local historian, and a close friend of Edward Heron-Allen. At MacDermott's suggestion the head was sent to the British Museum where it was examined by F. H. Marshall, Assistant Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, who pronounced it to be a portrait of a young man of the Claudian family, not improbably Germanicus, and it was dated around AD 1-50. Back in Bosham a dispute had broken out about the ownership of the head. Samuel Gatehouse claimed it belonged to him and that Miss Patterson had no right to it at all. The head remained at the British Museum until 1914, when Samuel retrieved it and sold it to Edward Heron-Allen who by that time had become well-known as a leading West Sussex archaeologist. Heron Allen set about "restoring" the head, cleaning and polishing it and mounting it in a modern green marble draped bust and putting it on display in his house at Selsey. After Heron-Allen's death in 1943 it came into the possession in 1944 of Capt. A.W.F. Fuller, an enthusiastic collector of historic items relating to Sussex. In 1961 he gave it back to the British Museum through the National Arts Collection Fund. In 1965 British Museum Keeper, Kenneth Painter, described the head in the Antiquaries Journal. It is of white marble, *c.* 43 cm high, the tip of the nose had been restored and a section of the back hair had been broken off and replaced with a patch. Some pitting still remained on the cheeks despite Heron-Allen's polishing. Painter concluded at that time that the head was a genuine Roman sculpture and there was no reason to consider the head to be a Grand Tour import of the 17th to 19th century and concluded that it must have been imported to Bosham in Antiquity. Painter strangely later changed his mind and suggested that it might have been a Grand Tour import which had strayed somehow from a large country house collection such as Petworth, and was perhaps not even ancient - an Italian classicising piece of the 17th century. He was perhaps much influenced by Heron-Allen's restoration but fortunately an early photograph (*c.* 1909) of the head before it was restored helps to show, together with close scrutiny of the head itself, that it is indeed an antiquity. Unfortunately, probably due to Heron-Allen's restoration and the late Kenneth Painter's pronouncement, the head has not been on public display and has been confined to the museum stores.

A recent attribution as Germanicus's son, the emperor (Gaius) Caligula, is unlikely and on grounds of physiognomy it is almost certainly a head of Germanicus, made shortly after his early death in AD 19. Two good parallels are a statue in the Louvre and another in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen.

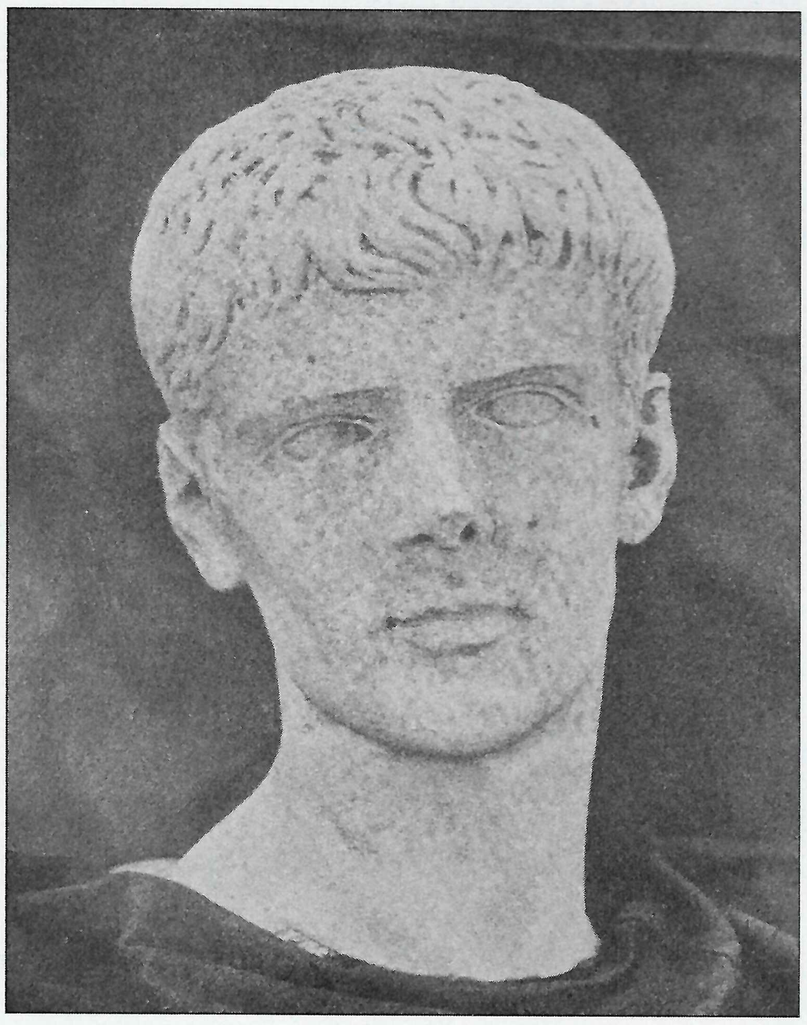


Fig. 1. *The Roman marble head of Germanicus from Bosham in its original state c.1909 before it was 'restored' by Edward Heron-Allen. Photo: D. W. Baker, published by Revd. K. MacDermott (1910).*

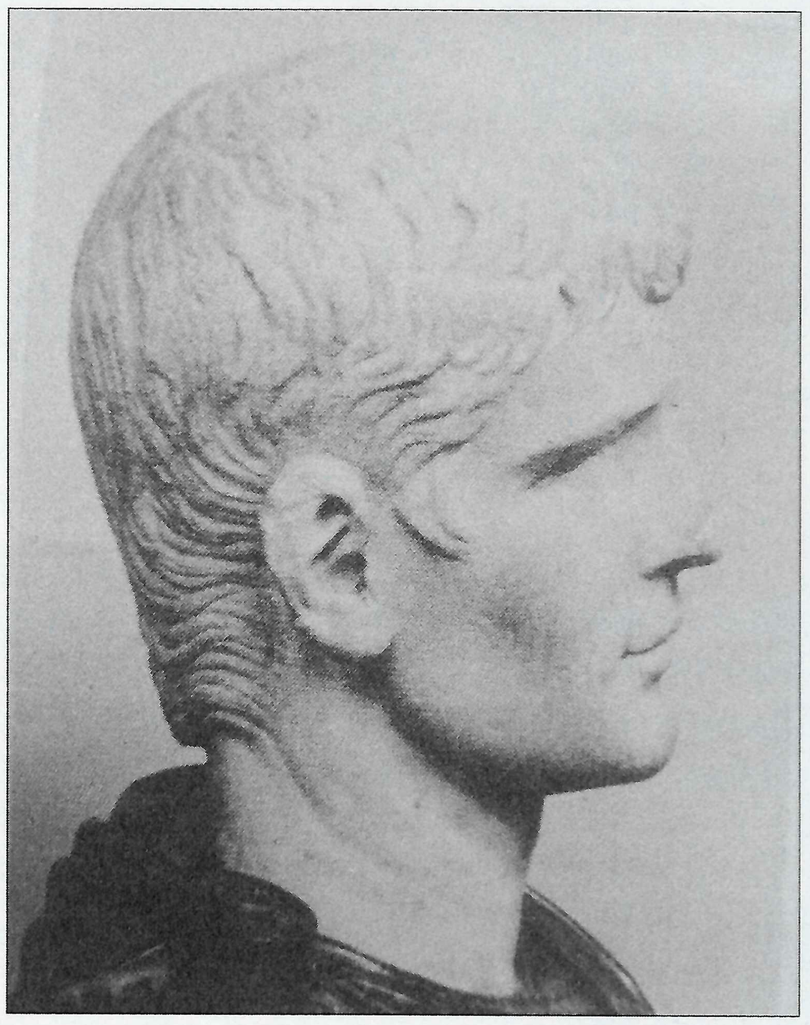


Fig. 2. *The head of Germanicus after cleaning, polishing and 'restoration' in a modern green marble draped bust by Heron-Allen. Side view. Photo after Cunliffe and Fulford 1982.*

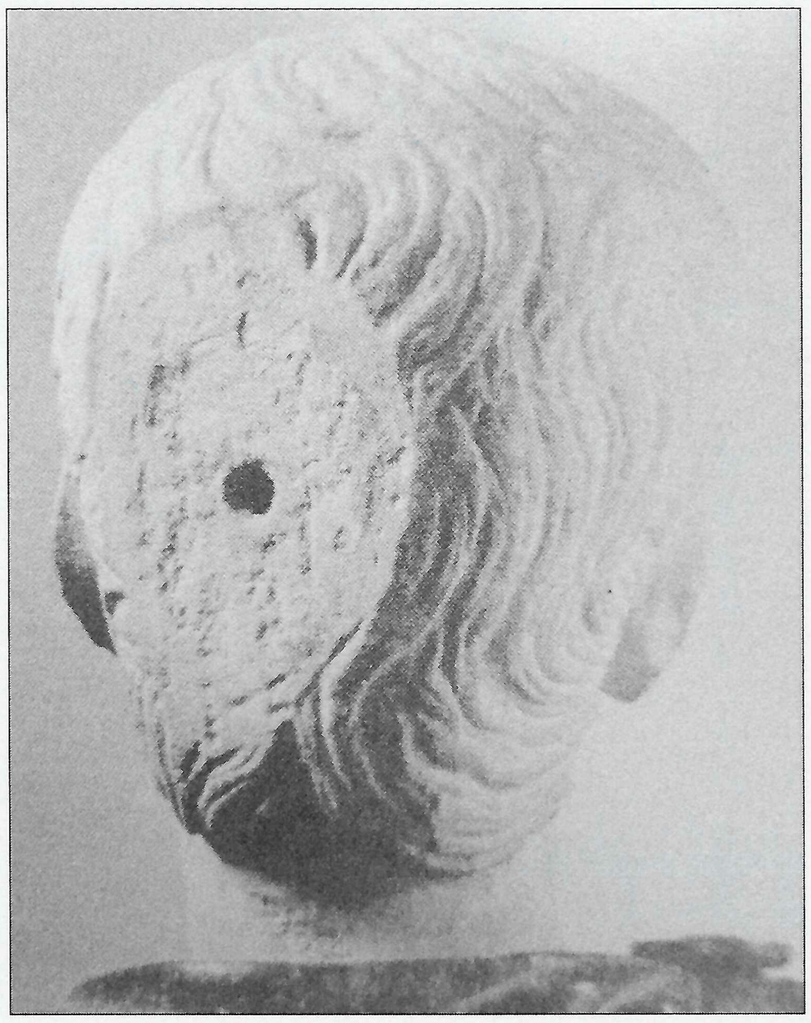


Fig. 3. *The head of Germanicus, back of the head showing the ancient 'sliced off' area and dowel hole for a patch, a not unusual feature in high status statues and busts of the 1st century AD. Photo after Cunliffe and Fulford 1982.*

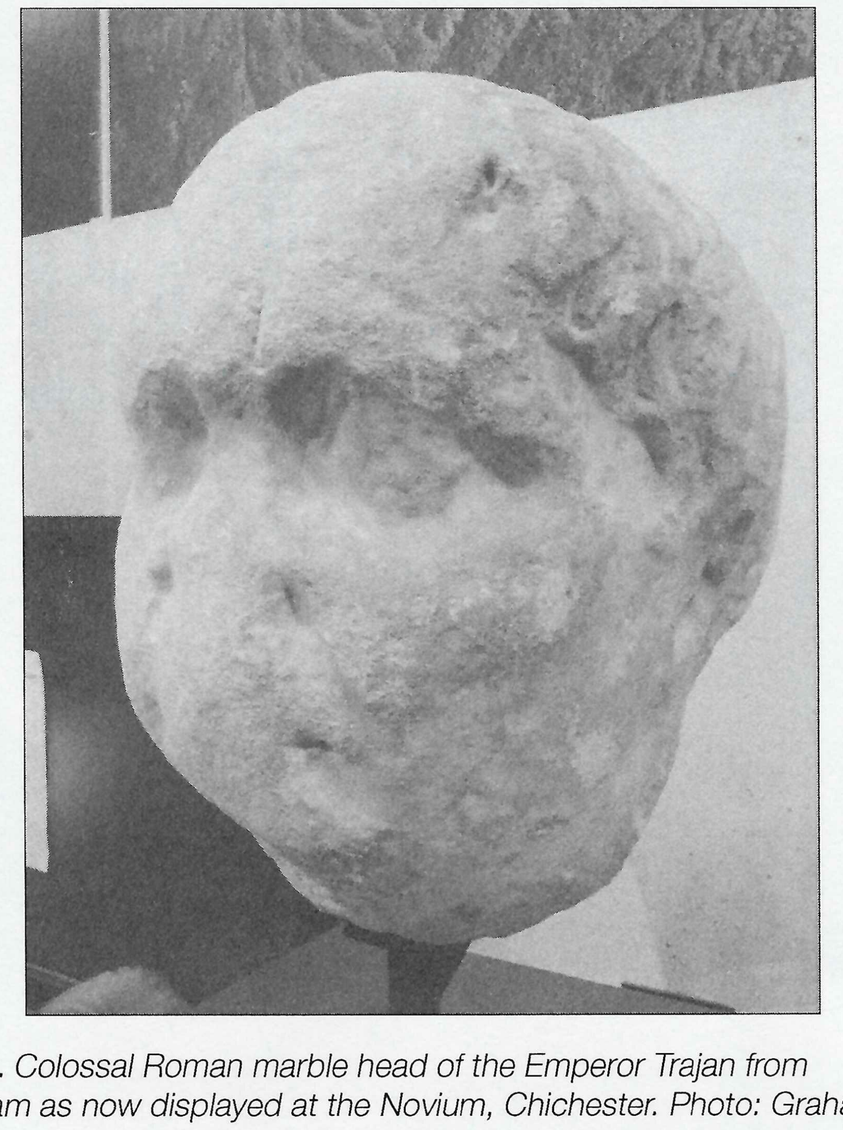


Fig. 4. *Colossal Roman marble head of the Emperor Trajan from Bosham as now displayed at the Novium, Chichester. Photo: Grahame Soffe.*

The latter has, like our Bosham example, a portion of the back of the head which appears sliced off with the surface roughly picked and a round dowel hole in the middle to support a stucco patch. In fact, examples of this technique are not unknown in high status statues of the 1st century and it also occurs on the Fishbourne head. It probably indicates little more than a shortage

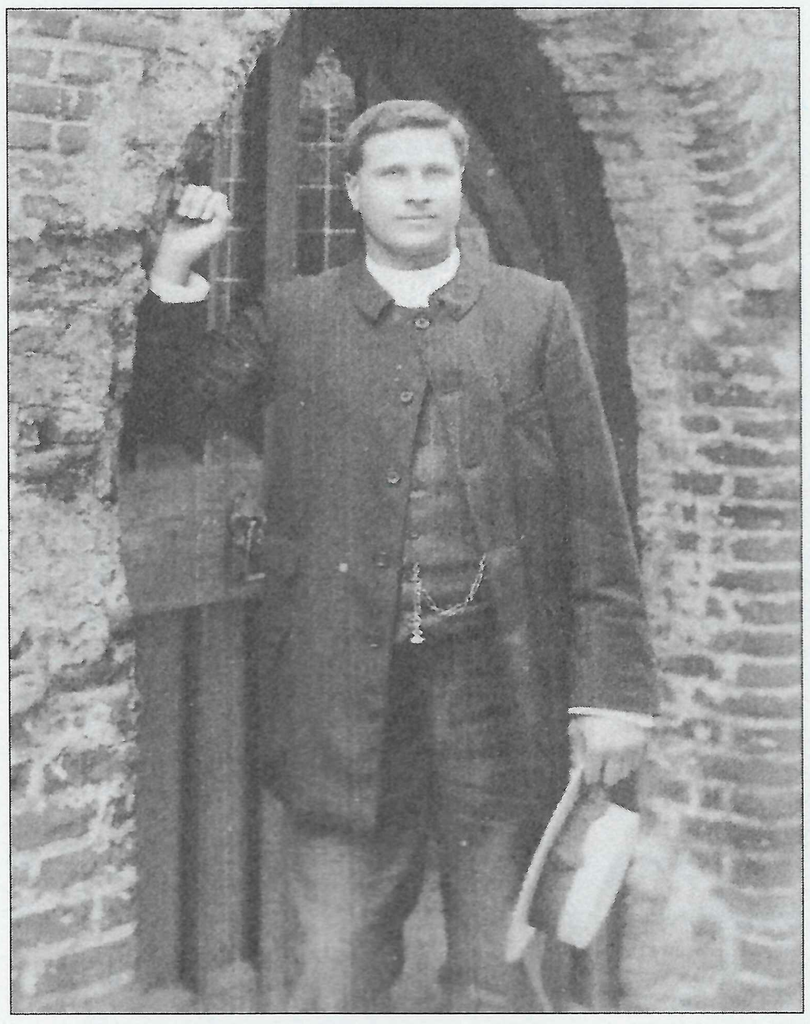


Fig. 5. *The Revd Canon Kenneth H. MacDermott, LTh., ARCM., Vicar of Bosham, and later Rector of Selsey, historian and friend of Edward Heron-Allen, at the porch of Bosham Church, c. 1911. Photo: Bosham Church Archives.*

of suitable marble. It seems likely that this statue, made before AD 43, was brought into Togidubnus's kingdom not long after that date. The memory of Germanicus was venerated throughout the 1st century and the emperor Claudius (who was Germanicus's younger brother) eventually married his daughter Agrippina the Younger in AD 49.

The other Roman sculptured head is now on display at the Novium, the new Chichester Museum, where it was installed in 2013. Compared with the Germanicus sculpture, this head is colossal and as Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University has said, having recently taken a close interest in it, "the piece is nothing less than one of the most important archaeological discoveries yet made in the Roman province of Britain". One cannot help but agree, it is about the largest head from a Roman bust or statue to be found in Britain. Before moving to the Novium the head was set in a concrete base on the floor in the old Chichester District Museum, but after that museum closed it was moved to the conservation laboratory at Fishbourne Roman Palace, extracted from the base, cleaned and set on a new plinth. During that period Miles Russell and his colleague Harry Manley laser-scanned the head and although they at first suggested it was of the emperor Nero, they eventually came to agree with Prof. Martin Henig's and my original interpretation in 1999 that this was a head of the emperor Trajan.

The head was dug up some time before 1762 in Bosham churchyard and found its way to the adjacent vicarage garden just south of the church, within metres of the sea coast on the north shore of the harbour. After discovery it suffered a very chequered history, which may partially account for its much eroded features. This led to an unlikely suggestion by Jocelyn Toynbee that the head had arrived as ballast in an ancient cargo. The earliest depiction of it is a watercolour in the British Library by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm, dated 1782. Compared with its present appearance this record shows evidence for a mouth, chin and prominent forehead, none of which survive, and is probably somewhat fanciful. Alexander Hay in 1804 gives the first written description. He recorded that the head in the vicarage garden was called Beavois's head, but that was wrong as it is of "German manufacture" and "appears to have been Thor - the Jupiter of the antient pagan Saxons". Hay's description shows it was very weathered over 200 years ago, but the identification is again fantastic. James Rouse in his *Beauties and Antiquities of Sussex* supposed it to be the head of Woden and provided a lithograph showing the head positioned in the vicarage garden on the south side of the vicarage house, a medieval building incorporating part of the priory or college of Bosham. The house was demolished in *c.*1840 soon after Richard Dally recorded the head again in 1831. By the time the local historian Charles Longcroft referred to it in 1867, it had been moved to the Bishop's Palace garden in Chichester. Longcroft and the Revd Kenneth MacDermott said that the head "was supposed by some to be the head of Trajan, but by others to be that of the Saxon god Woden, or of St Christopher, the patron saint of sailors".

At the beginning of the last century the head also came to the attention of our man, the great polymath and local archaeologist Edward Heron-Allen. The bishop invited him to examine it in the episcopal garden. Heron-Allen concluded that although its features had been much obliterated "by ill-usage and exposure to the weather...enough remains to suggest very strongly that it formed part of a colossal statue of the Emperor Vespasian...". He was encouraged in this view through his discussions with Dr Talfourd Ely who had recently been excavating the major Roman site on nearby Hayling Island. Ely was a great exponent of the idea that the Roman invasion army of AD 43, under the command of the future Emperor Vespasian, landed in the Chichester Harbour area (rather than at Richborough in Kent), a view argued for again today by many archaeologists and historians. Heron-Allen also mentioned a site at Bosham called Stone Wall, where remains of thick stone walls and earthworks had led to the tradition that this was the site of Vespasian's 'camp' and 'palace'. The possible identification with Vespasian was again mentioned by the archaeologist Samuel Winbolt in the *Victoria County History* in 1935. MacDermott examined the site and found no Roman evidence but probable medieval features. The Bosham head remained in Chichester until Bishop George Bell lent it to the British Museum in 1949, from where it was transferred to the old Chichester District Museum in 1966.

Although today the head may seem rather unprepossessing, we now have a great corpus of portrait sculpture from the Roman empire to draw comparisons from. As Martin Henig and I pointed out in 1999, it clearly belonged to a colossal statue of the emperor Trajan, the head being 50 cm high, over twice life-size, and carved from very hard white crystalline Italian marble. it was doubtless sculpted in Italy and imported during the Roman period, the statue being set up, presumably at or very near Bosham, perhaps on or near the site of the present church. We recognised that it is closely similar to a head of Trajan from Ostia, the port of Rome, regarded as one of the finest of all imperial portraits and the same size as the Bosham head. Like the example at Ostia, the Bosham head was probably a posthumous work set up early in the reign of Hadrian, Trajan's successor, who came to Britain in AD 122 and may have landed at the *Magnus Portus* (Ptolemy, *Geography II*, 3, 3). Perhaps both statues were set up at the entrances to harbours - Chichester and Ostia, like the Colossus of Rhodes?

After its removal from its concrete base in the old Chichester Museum it was possible to view the Bosham head from all sides. It made it easier to examine and record features such as the upper lid of the left eye and note the flattened back of the head, where details of the hair were not in the original sculpture. This last feature of the head is mirrored in the other marble portraits from the local area, the Togidubnus and Germanicus heads, and may indicate that this statue was designed to be displayed in a niche or in front of a wall. One can only speculate at this time that the two Bosham sculptures must have adorned palatial buildings perhaps comparable with Fishbourne, at Broadbridge and/or the nucleus of Bosham just to the south. Only archaeological fieldwork and excavation in future will resolve this. The immediate area of Bosham church, where the Trajan head was found, has long been known for its Roman associations, with a tradition that the church's chancel stands on the site of a 4th-century Roman Christian 'basilica'. Documentary evidence shows that Bosham became the site of an extremely early monastery in the 7th century and a large and rich Anglo-Saxon minster and later royal estate, including a palatial first-floor hall, used as a Channel port in the events leading up

to the Norman Conquest of 1066, as depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry. But returning to the archaeological evidence for Roman structures, the Saxon and early medieval fabric of the church contains re-used Roman bricks and tiles and ashlar blocks of Ditrupa limestone from the Paris Basin, a stone also used for some of the columns at Fishbourne Roman Palace. Under the north wall of the church, recent excavations have also revealed fragments of Roman tiles, opus signinum and painted wall plaster. The most telling recent discoveries in the vicinity of the church must be a fragment of marble sculpture embedded in the manor house garden wall, probably part of the robed shoulder from another statue, and a life-size thumb from a Roman imperial bronze statue. The latter is a reminder of the life-size bronze forearm and hand found just east of Chichester near Stane Street, the Roman road to London.

The sculptured heads which Heron-Allen and others helped to preserve for posterity show that Bosham must have been, like Fishbourne and the temple complex on Hayling Island, an important centre for Rome and her allies in the decades following AD 43. More precise evidence, whether for a major port, headquarters or a palatial villa, must await future archaeological excavation, perhaps not even in our own lifetimes. After the death of Togidubnus, perhaps early in Trajan's reign, the royal lands of the Atrebates naturally took their place as the most Roman area of Roman Britain, local administration being in the hands of the local gentry in Chichester, Winchester and Silchester. This was very much the type of peaceful provincial society which Hadrian regarded as the ideal for the Roman Empire. It is not surprising to see the veneration of the *Domus Divina*, the divine house of the emperor, as shown by the 1st-century inscriptions from Chichester, continuing here.

Grahame Soffe

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THE SELSEY COASTLINE PAST AND PRESENT; A SHORT ITINERARY

Abstract

A significant part of 'Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric' (Heron-Allen 1911) is taken up with descriptions of the local geology and coastal change. Three easily accessible locations around Selsey allow the appreciation of these themes and changes that have happened in the last 100 years. The itinerary starts at West Street where the gravels of an ancient Ice Age raised beach are exposed in the nearby cliff and the impact of modern coastal developments can be seen. The second stop is at Grafton Road for the tip of Selsey Bill and distant views of the offshore Mixon Reef. Lastly, Lifeboat Way on the east side of Selsey, takes us down onto the site of the Selsey Mammoth discovery and views of the Lifeboat Station, where the rate of coastal erosion can be appreciated.

Introduction

The basis for this paper is the itinerary for a guided walk that was intended to be held in July 2022 for the annual meeting of the Heron-Allen Society. Delays and re-scheduling of morning talks following the death of Tim McCann resulted in cancellation of the walk. An invitation to contribute to potentially the last issue of the Proceedings of the Heron-Allen Society seemed an appropriate opportunity to record the walk in the absence of actually carrying it out.

Three easily accessible locations around Selsey, each best approached by car to avoid excessive walking, provide viewpoints for the local geology and coastal change (Figure 1). The latter is a never ending story

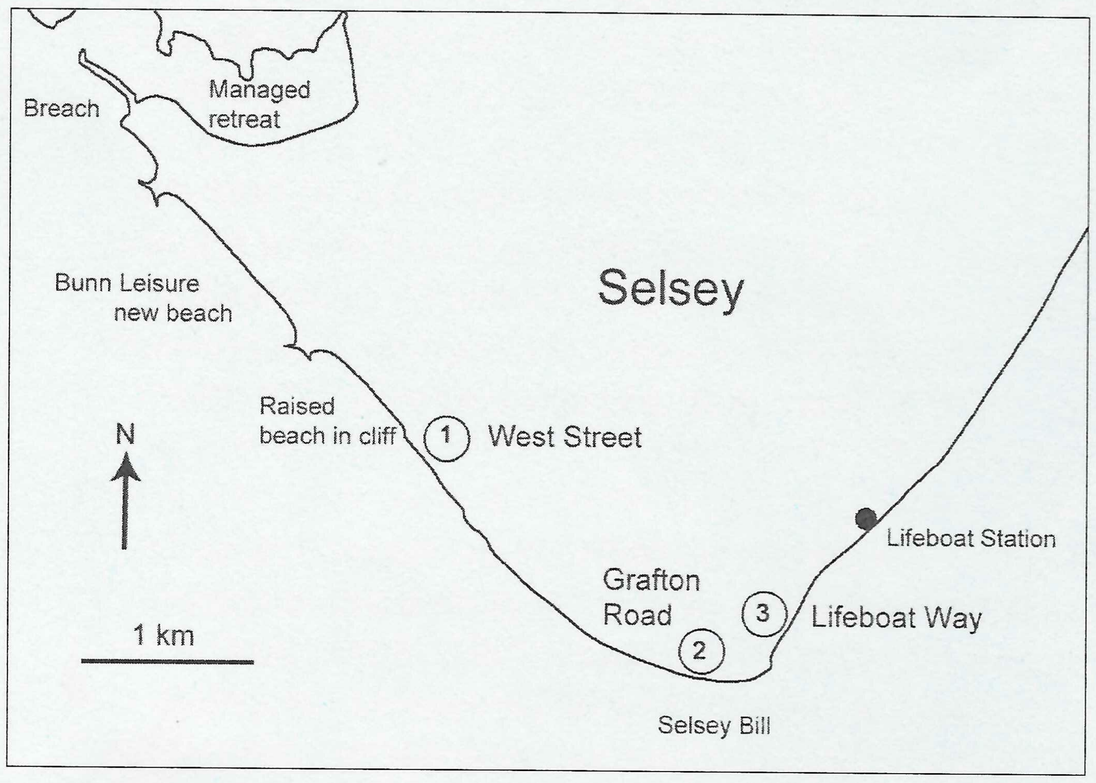

Fig. 1. *Selsey itinerary location map*

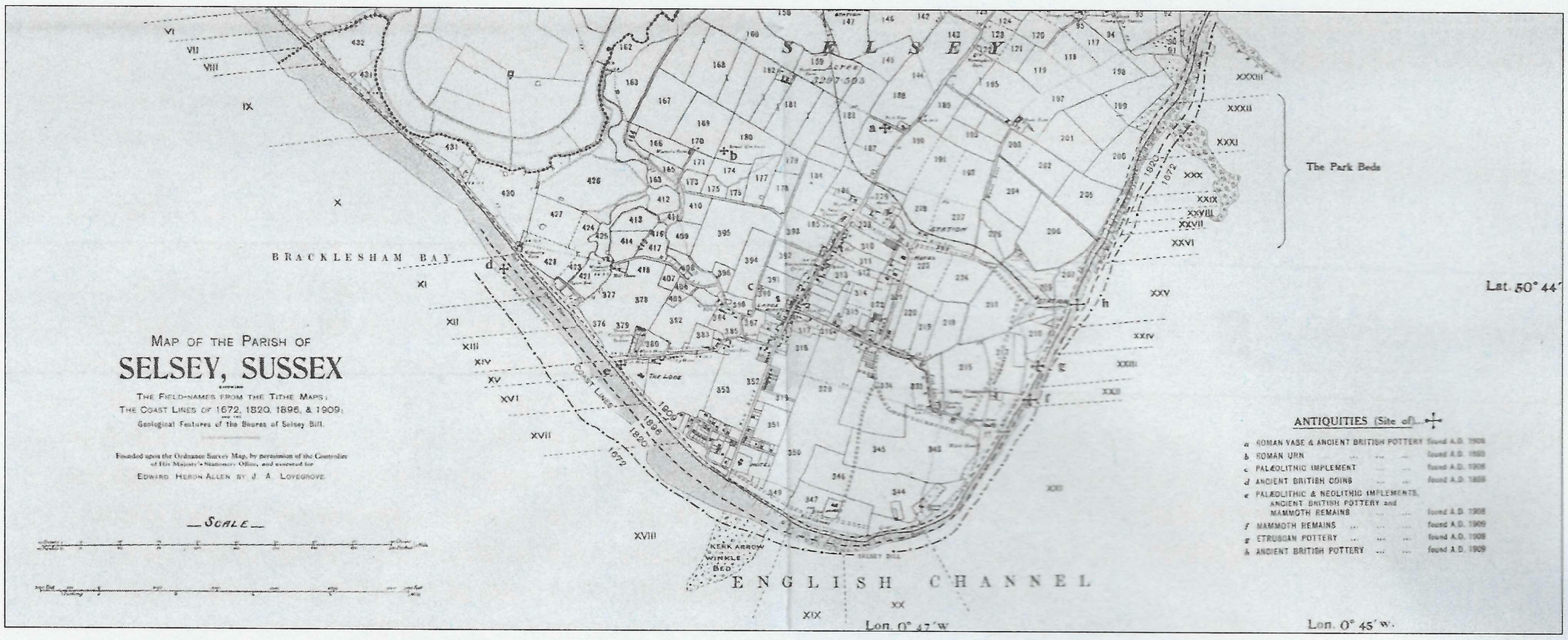

Fig. 2. *Extract from Heron-Allen (1911) Map III showing the coastlines of 1672, 1820, 1896 and 1909, and numbered geological beds outcropping on the foreshore.*

that started millennia ago, briefly captured by Heron-Allen (1911), and continuing into the future as climate change causes stormier conditions and a gradual rise in sea level. Several topics included herein have already been discussed in previous Proceedings of the Heron-Allen Society and those sources can be referred to for more details. These include Heron-Allen and geology (Bone 2010; Bates 2010), the Selsey mammoth (Parfitt 2014), the Mixon Reef (Bone 2015), enigmatic Ice Age boulders (Bone 2018), and fossil collecting (Bone 2019).

Coastal change and geology

The Manhood Peninsula, of which Selsey Bill forms the southerly tip, has a long history of active coastal erosion with records extending back to the 14th Century (Bone 1996). Heron-Allen provides both an illustration of the land lost to the sea as well as a detailed and first-hand account of erosion in the early 20th Century when erosion was around two metres per year (Figure 2; Heron-Allen 1911, 291-299; Mee 1988, 2-3). This rapid erosion results from the poorly consolidated underlying geology. This comprises soft clays and silts of Eocene age (*c.* 45 million years old) overlain by unconsolidated sand and gravel deposits of the Pagham Raised Beach (*c.* 120,000 years old), and silty brickearth (14,000 years old).

It is only the protection from south-westerly gales provided by the Isle of Wight that prevents erosion at an even greater rate. Heron-Allen (1911, 299) proposed the construction of groynes to prevent or reduce erosion, but it was not until the 1950s that solid concrete sea defences were constructed. Today, the coastline around Selsey is mainly protected by rock and timber groynes, and concrete sea walls, whilst the annual replenishment of beach gravels around Bracklesham Bay has been replaced by a managed costal retreat scheme (Bone 2020).

West Street

The first location is at the seaward end of West Street (SZ 8450 9298), near the Coastguard Station. There are a few roadside parking places here or on adjacent roads where there are no parking restrictions. The Coastguard Station is the latest of several 'Selsey' stations, now lost to the sea since their establishment in the 19th Century. Their names are somewhat confusing!

- Old Thorney Station (near the former Broad Rife sluices at Medmerry) – abandoned during the storm of 1863
- Danner Station (east side of West Street) – last remains washed away in 1892
- Thorney Station (west side of West Street) – replaced Danner Station
- Selsey Station (west side of West Street) – present station, constructed 1972

Proceed to the viewpoint at the top of the slipway. Further along the concrete apron to the right, there is also access to the beach. If the tide is low, the cliff to the west can be approached from the beach, and the geology inspected. Further along the shore are the rock groynes and artificial beach constructed by Bunn Leisure in 2013. The cliff is undergoing active erosion from both storm waves and rainfall on the soft sediments and now lies further inland from the concrete apron that abutted the cliff line when it was constructed. Heron-Allen recorded erosion here at

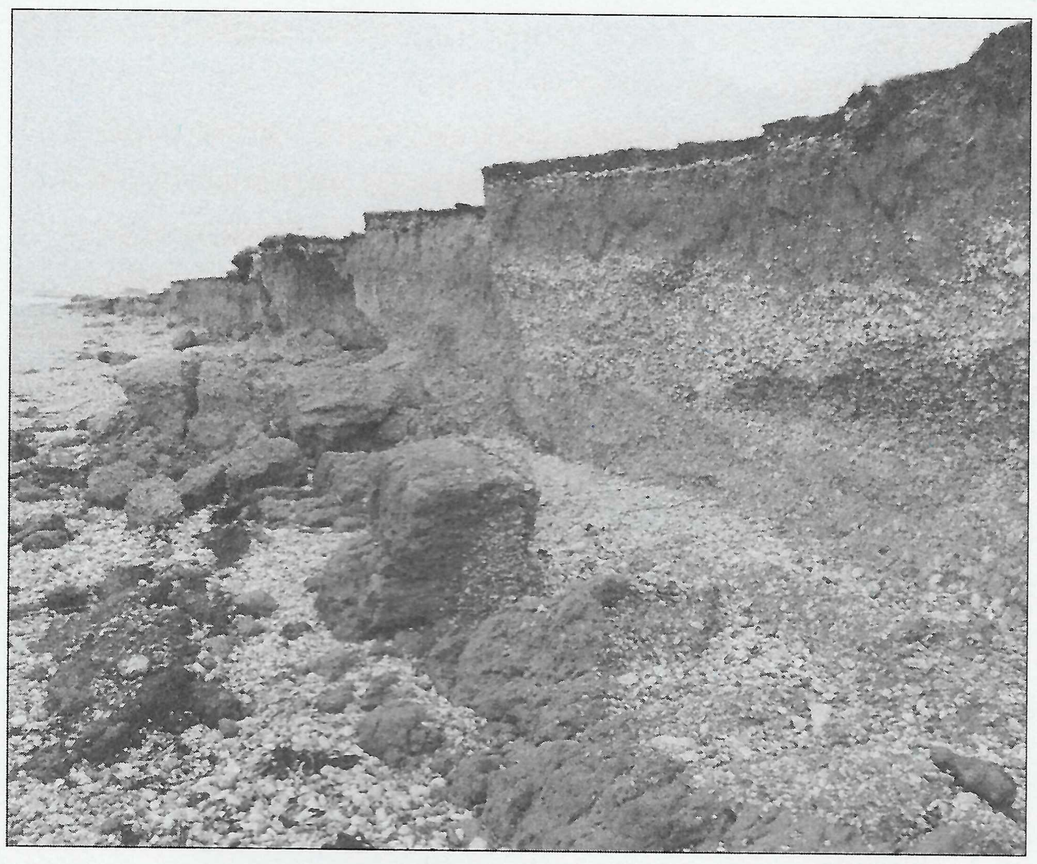

Fig. 3. *Cliff at West Street, Selsey, in 2008. Photo: David Bone.*

around 2 metres per year (Heron-Allen 1911, 291-299). Extrapolation of this figure suggests that the coastline was between 1 to 1.5 miles further out to sea at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1075 than it is now.

The cliff, if not concealed by modern beach sediments, reveals a sequence of gravels overlain by brickearth (Figure 3; Heron-Allen 1911, plate XLVI). The gravels, probably deposited as an offshore bar, form part of the Pagham Raised Beach which is dated to 110-124 thousand years ago (Bates et al. 2010). This was a period of temperate climate and relatively higher sea level when the West Sussex Coastal Plain was submerged up to the lower slopes of the South Downs. Close inspection of the gravels reveals occasional vertically-orientated pebbles. This is the result of freeze-thaw activity in the following cold period (*c.* 50,000 years ago) when periglacial conditions, as found in Siberia and Alaska today, returned to the south of England. Occasional exotic, non-flint pebbles provide small examples of the much larger multi-tonne boulders that occur all along the coast in this area. Transported by ice-rafting during glacial periods, their origin and date of emplacement is still debated (Bone 2019; 2022).

The rock groynes and artificial beach of Bunn Leisure were constructed as a consequence of major flooding in 1998/9 and 2008, the latter causing £5 million of damage to the site. The construction costs of the artificial beach and sea defences amounted to £16.8 million in 2013 and another £1.35 million in 2017 (Bone 2020). This artificial beach has had the unfortunate consequence of concealing highly fossiliferous strata that were previously exposed on the foreshore platform, despite being a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Beyond the Bunn Leisure site, the annually repaired gravel bank between Medmerry and Earnley was breached in 2013. This allowed the sea to encroach inland within a 'managed retreat' area bounded further inland by a new Environment Agency flood protection barrier (Bone 2020). In the area of the breach, erosion has proceeded at a rate of around 10 metres per year and has rapidly inundated former farmland. This now provides an intertidal habitat, which is managed by the RSPB.

Grafton Road (for Selsey Bill)

The second location on our itinerary is Selsey Bill itself. This is best approached from the seaward end of Grafton Road (SZ 8560 9220), with roadside parking where available. The beach here is backed by low sand dunes and scrub. It is one of the few unprotected lengths of shore and erosion has been significant with around 115 metres lost to the sea since Heron-Allen was writing in 1911. Beacon House, to the east, a boarding house at the time, was lost to the sea in 1927 (Mee 1988, 20).

Looking out to sea from this viewpoint, the Mixon Reef can be seen about 2 km distant at low tide. (Figure 4). At high tide, its location is marked by a warning light (the Mixon Beacon) that was first installed in 1793. The reef is formed from a distinctive pale orange coloured limestone that is seen in many of the older buildings of the area. In 1911, the reef could be reached on foot at low tide, but there was not *'… time for the return journey and the walk … must not be attempted without a boat in attendance'* (Heron-Allen 1911, 53). The reef is host to legends and stories including that of an ancient city recorded by Camden in 1586: *"The dead carcase of that ancient little city wherein those Bishops sat …. at low water evident and plain to be seen"* (Copley 1977). Heron-Allen rightly concludes that this *'was purely a figment of his own brain, founded neither upon record, nor upon local tradition*'.

Heron-Allen describes an undocumented story about the prohibition of quarrying around 1830 due to increased coastal erosion or the loss of a safe anchorage. Heron-Allen 'endeavoured in vain' to confirm this with the Board of Trade and other government departments. It is now known that Heron-Allen's enquiries were stonewalled by reactions such as 'As Mr Allen's enquiry is made merely for the purpose of writing a book, it does not seem … that the matter need be pursued any further'. Investigations of this and claims made for a Roman fort on the Mixon Reef have been published (Bone and Bone 2014). This has shown that a petition by local fishermen to request the prohibition of quarrying was first made in 1823

and was ultimately successful in 1827 after a long and protracted dispute.

Location 3 – Lifeboat Way

The third and final location is the coastal footpath at the seaward end of Lifeboat Way (SZ 8590 9245), a modern road constructed in the 1990s, leading to the east shore of Selsey Bill. Roadside parking is available. The first point of interest is the Information Board with an illustration of the landscape around 200,000 years ago. At the time, this was a low-lying area with slow-flowing streams and pools surrounded by wooded, higher land with a climate cooler than it is today, somewhat similar to Scandinavia at the present time. We know this from excavations on the shore here during 1956 and 1961 that uncovered the skeletons of woolly mammoth, elephant, and rhinoceros, as well as associated flora and fauna, from the sediments of an ancient river channel.

As elsewhere around the peninsula, coastal erosion here has been significant with Heron-Allen estimating

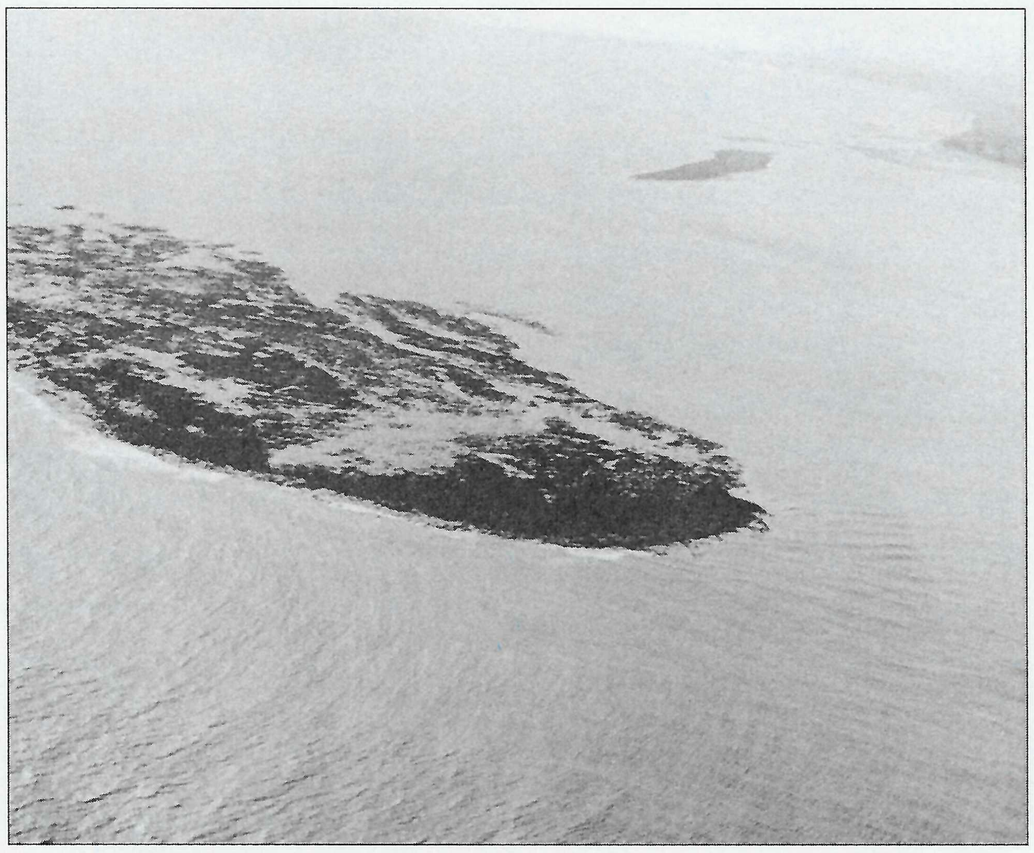

Fig. 4. *Aerial view of the Mixon Reef, off Selsey Bill, at low tide (reproduced courtesy of Chichester District Council).*

121 yards in about 100 years. Certainly, there is now no trace of the sediments from which these ancient Ice Age mammals were excavated. The similar deposits recorded by Heron-Allen north of the Lifeboat Station (Heron-Allen 1911, 54-56) have also long since disappeared, although occasional pieces of mammoth bone are found all along this shore by beach walkers after rough weather. What is now known as the Selsey Lifeboat Station Channel is dated to 180-240,000 years ago. Heron-Allen describes the discovery in 1909 of a mammoth skeleton. He records that *'an impression having got abroad that money might be obtainable for any fragment of the skeleton, the moment the bed was exposed a seething mass of inhabitants, armed with every conceivable digging implement attacked it, and the skeleton … was brought up in small fragments by anyone who could seize hold of a piece …'* (Heron-Allen 1911, 54). This has recently been identified as the first known skeleton of a steppe mammoth (Parfitt 2014).

The Lifeboat Station is a new building, completed in 2017, which replaces the previous station that was originally built in 1923 on land at the end of Albion Road. By 1955, it could only be reached by a footbridge more than 275 metres long, due to erosion averaging 8.5 metres per year (Figure 5). The loss of this significant landmark was a disappointment to many people, but its preservation was unsustainable in the long term.

Conclusions

Selsey and the peninsula have been increasingly

Fig. 5. *The former Selsey Lifeboat Station in 2009 (demolished 2017-18). Photo: David Bone.*

developed since the time of Heron-Allen. Open land has been replaced by housing estates, new roads have replaced country tracks, and the eroding coastline has been heavily defended. However, glimpses of those features referred to in 'Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric' (Heron-Allen 1911) can still be seen and we have a greater understanding of them. The short itinerary as described here gives a brief insight into some of these features but, undoubtedly, climate change and sea level rise will continue to impact for decades to come.

Acknowledgements

The support given by my wife, Anne, is much appreciated. This paper is dedicated to Tim McCann, who introduced me to the Heron-Allen Society and thereafter came looking for contributions to the annual meetings (which I obliged with on more occasions than I would have thought possible).

David A. Bone

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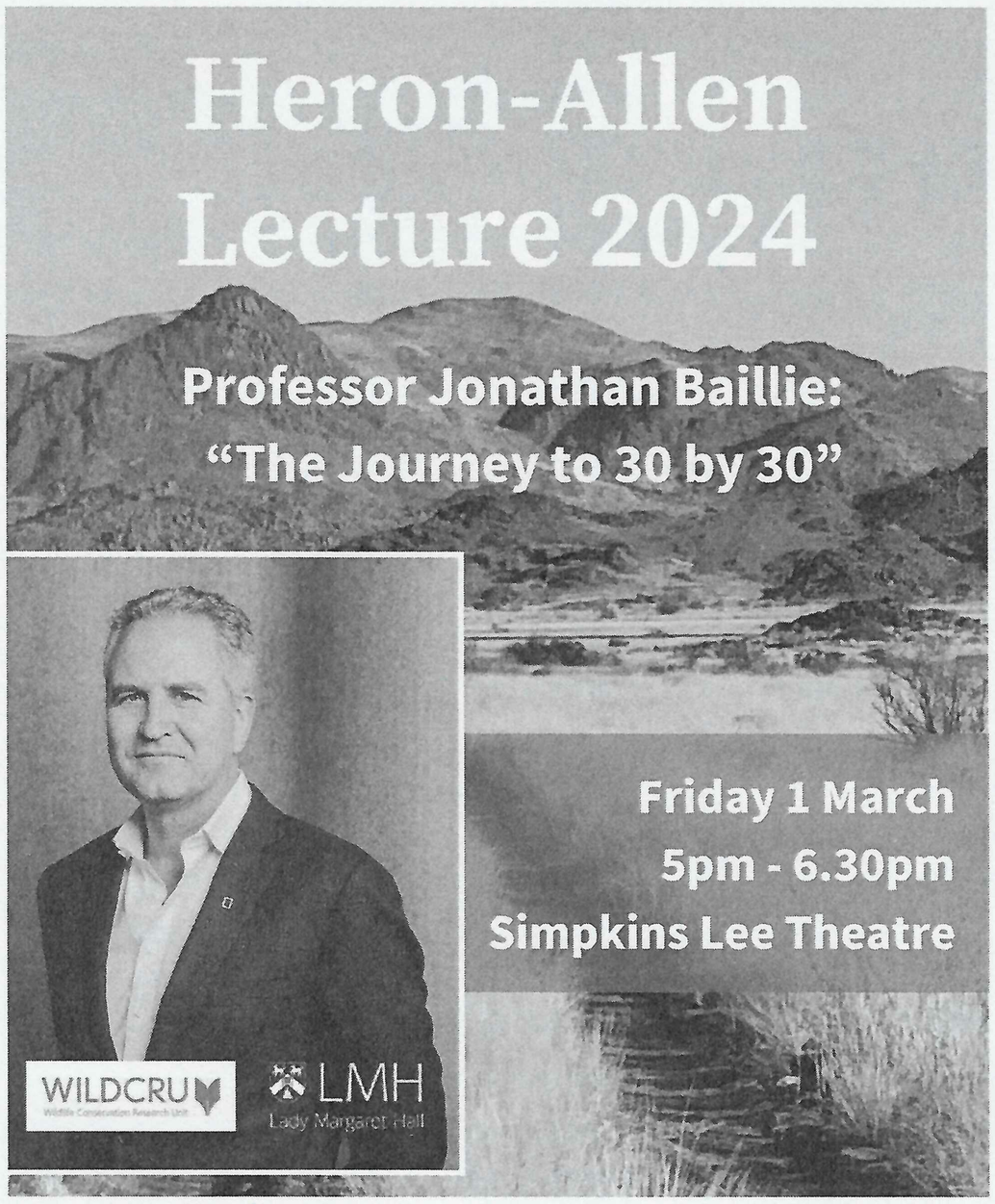
THE 2024 HERON-ALLEN LECTURE

This year's Annual Heron-Allen Lecture took place on Friday 1 March in the Simpkins-Lee Lecture Theatre at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, on the subject "The Journey to 30by30"**. We were welcomed by the Principal, Professor Stephen Blyth, who gave a brief introduction to the origin of these annual lectures and of the research grants associated with Edward Heron-Allen's gift to the college. Professor David MacDonald then introduced this year's speaker, Professor Jonathan Baillie, as a "big picture" person with a spectacular career in conservation biology; he is, among many other things, a Research Associate of the University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit WILDCRU, and is now mainly concerned with running his organization 'Natural State', based in Kenya, an important initiator in conservation technology, of which more later. (https://www.naturalstate.org/).

Professor Baillie began by outlining his past work at the Zoological Society of London, and with National Geographic in Washington, and explained how concepts around conservation and biodiversity had emerged over time, leading to his lecture title (which is shorthand for "nations should act together to conserve or restore 30% of land or sea area as undamaged, i.e. not degraded, by 2030" – this being a measured and achievable response to the palpable threats of extinction of 25% of mammal species). He proposed to outline where we are now, and then address what we could do about it. At present, for example, of the world's mammal biomass, only 4% is wild, and the other 96% is humans, food animals and pets!

In starting out looking at how to approach this topic, he concluded that we must be aspirational and think



globally, aiming to describe the conservation status of as many species as possible.

The nature and size of the threats was powerfully illustrated by maps showing snapshots of the amount of "conversion" (degrees of degradation – a term with variable interpretations) of the planet in 1970, in 2020 (half the planet), and an estimate for 2050 (95%!). With 10-30% of bird and mammal species under threat, it is now thought the rate of extinction is a thousand times greater than would occur without humans.

There are complications that he addressed – the status of both individual species and of biodiversity as a whole can be measured by various different indexes or indicators. It is also hard to devise and agree measurements for success or otherwise of conservation schemes – with many diverse indicators like biomass, diversity, vegetation structure, productivity, and so on, being available. His *Natural State* organisation has taken the approach of providing data analysis and summaries in the form of a dashboard (using AI).

He has run two surveys of the public to see what people thought about the simple question *"how much land and ocean, and even energy, ought we to take for our own use?"*; it appeared that people thought that more was protected than was actually the case, and their clear answer was 50% both times. There was a feeling that Generation Z was likely to be more positively supportive of conservation research and action than older generations, so these public support figures were encouraging, though some analysts wondered whether 50% was a considered response or a more educated guess. The ideal combination is of both scientific and economic evidence plus a strong public voice.

By means of international meetings and symposia, agreement has now been reached for the 30 by 30 concept, and in 2022 the 30/30 deal was agreed by 190 nations at the Montreal Conference for Biodiversity. But there remains reticence over the idea of a target – some think we might mistakenly protect the wrong stuff, for example selecting the easy targets.

Public awareness of success stories for conservation has also been raised by the production of National Geographic films ('The Last Wild Places' campaign, with the film on Gorongosa, for instance, showing conservation winning and habitats restored, and bringing resources into the area), and policy-makers have been alerted to the economic implications of policies – for example those resulting in degradation of land are worse than those that would protect it! See Baillie, J., & Zhang, Y. (2018) 'Space for nature.' *Science* 361(6407). The publication of E. O. Wilson's 'Half-Earth' also did much to publicise and persuade in this area.

His watchword of "be aspirational" has paid off, as resources have been found; the first $1bn offer came from the Wyss foundation – and over 100 countries agreed to co-operate over resources. Then $5bn was offered to work towards the 30/30 concept by a large group of countries, but there is also a need for private funding for organizations like Natural State, which is achievable if commerce can be persuaded by the economics. As a Canadian, he was pleased to see M. Trudeau offering £510m at COP15 for indigenous-led conservation projects. There's also a need to work out how to balance funding between richer and poorer countries so that the work can be focused appropriately.

The Paulson Institute report *Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap* addresses future resourcing needs for biodiversity and includes the point that $800bn is needed to reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2030 – half of this could be found by revoking agricultural subsidies! This is well illustrated by their chart to be found at https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/conservation/financing-nature-report/.

However, he is uneasy about a too commercial 'take' on nature, and rates the concept of EQUITY as the most powerful. We need not just to save those things

useful to us - but to focus on saving to ensure justice for all forms of life.

In founding Natural State, he has sought to provide good reliable data and have the right people on the ground monitoring and implementing. It's also important to be able to store and protect your data, and for this they have help from Ernst and Young.

So looking forward to what can be effective, Natural State seeks to:-

- revolutionize impact monitoring of species
- develop financial mechanisms for nature
- build capacity where it is needed most

New financial mechanisms include :-

- integrated carbon biodiversity
- re-wilding credit (in Namibia, removing fences and rethinking domestic animals)
- nature custodian credit (the concept of paying those who do well overall rather than just those who try to restore habitats)

The African Centre for Nature Restoration is being built – to be a centre of excellence, providing training and a lead in regenerative agriculture.

The aim is to move an area from 'highly degraded' via 'degraded' and 'functional' to 'intact'. This goal is very challenging, and needs research on what species should be involved.

To conclude, if asked what areas to focus on first, he would suggest Savannah systems, which are not yet well studied and would provide wins for biodiversity and for people and livestock. Islands would also give quick and useful results.

And to summarize some of Professor Baillie's responses to the questions, which were wide-ranging:

- He believes we are entering an era of greater transparency – and commercial companies will be subject to greater regulation. People like Black Rock are getting nervous about it! Polluters also need targeting.
- The carbon market has been under scrutiny recently – he pointed out that his system is not a verifier, but does produce data useful for verifiers.
- Biodiversity measurements – he doesn't believe claims that these can be done from satellites, but is not concerned by the various indices used – he is happy for them to co-exist.
- The 30% of area concept – he would be content with some averaging (some countries achieve more, some less) though his personal target would be 80%! The danger would be just to find enough small changes to add up, without doing anything radical. Privately owned land needs thinking about.
- Community-based initiatives are often successful, and more can be done to encourage and support these.

We all then adjourned for drinks and further conversations.

**See https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-30by30-on-land-in-england for more information on this policy.

Juliet and David Field

HERON-ALLEN AND THE PUBLISHER H.S. NICHOLS

(Abridged by the editor for inclusion in this Newsletter.)

Given that he published Heron-Allen's classic study, *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Being a Facsimile of the Manuscript in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, with a Transcript into modern Persian Characters* in 1898, one might expect that H.S. Nichols was a typically respectable late Victorian publisher, and in some respects he was. But not all, for there was a darker side to his publications: pornography.

Harry Sidney Nichols was born in Leeds in 1865, and by about 1884 had migrated to Sheffield, where he set up as a bookseller: "Nichols' Great Emporium and Literary Lounge" (Note 1). It was in Sheffield that he teamed up with the notorious Leonard Smithers, and by 1888 they were publishing 'high-end erotica' (pornography for the wealthy, basically) under the imprint of the Erotika Biblion Society.

By about 1891 Smithers and Nichols had migrated to London, where they brought out four multi-volume editions of Sir Richard Burton's *The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night* between 1894 and 1897, along with a parody of it, *The Thousand and One Quarters of an Hour (Tartarian Tales)*, edited by Leonard Smithers and published by H.S. Nichols & Co., 3 Soho Square, London in 1893, and, following the success of that, *The Transmigrations of the Mandarin Fum-Hoam (Chinese Tales)*, edited by Smithers and published by Nichols from the same address in 1894. Both were translations from the French originals by Thomas Simon Gueulette (1683-1766), but no translator is named in either. Probably their most notorious publication, however, was the explicit homosexual novel *Teleny* in 1893.

Fig. 1

By about 1894/5, though, relations between Nichols and Smithers had soured, and they parted company.

Legal notices in *The Times* newspaper show that Nichols was in financial difficulties early in 1898, resulting in bankruptcy by July of that year, which may well explain why it was Bernard Quaritch who published Heron-Allen's second classic study, *Edward FitzGerald's Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam with their Original Persian Sources, in 1899*, though it was still printed by H.S. Nichols. Not only that, but as the *Calendars of Prisoners 1900 Central Criminal Court*, tells us (p.6-7), he was facing imprisonment for 'Selling, uttering and publishing a certain obscene book called "Kalogynomia, or The Laws of Female Beauty" and printing, publishing, and selling a certain obscene book called "Mademoiselle de Maupin".'

According to the same source, Nichols was bailed on 13 February 1900, and the trial being postponed for some reason, he took the opportunity to flee to Paris, a safe haven for more than one English purveyor of erotica. *The Police Gazette* for 30 March 1900 indicates that a warrant had been issued for his arrest "for failing to answer to an indictment." However, though officially exiled in Paris, he clandestinely maintained a rented office in London through which he was able to continue to sell erotic literature to his wealthy clientele. In 1908, apparently fearing extradition back to England, he fled to New York.

His early career in the States is difficult to document, but we know from contemporary newspaper advertisements that he continued to operate as a publisher of quality editions and a rare book dealer, in the latter role offering a book-search service (see Figs 2 a - d). There is no indication that any of this success was down to peddling pornography, though Nichols's track record suggests that he probably was, and his contacts in London and Paris would have furnished a ready supply. However the years 1919-1920 find him protesting his innocence in the midst of a dubious enterprise involving forgeries of drawings by Aubrey Beardsley.

An exhibition of the drawings was announced in *The New York Times* on 13 April 1919, with an enthusiastic review of it on the same page. There were seventy drawings all-told, the article announced. However, it was not long before doubts were raised as to the authenticity of the drawings in Nichols's collection. An article in *The New York Herald* on 19 April 1919 (p.9) quoted the opposition by Beardsley experts A. E. Gallatin and Joseph Pennell, along with Nichols's protestations that his drawings were genuine. The controversy rumbled on, giving Nichols enough publicity to publish *Fifty Drawings by Aubrey Beardsley, Selected from the Collection owned by Mr. H.S. Nichols*, in a limited edition of 500 copies, in 1920 (see Figs 3 a - c).

No untoward consequences seem to have arisen from all this, and Nichols lived on as a book dealer and publisher. In the 1940 US Federal Census, now aged 75, the presumably retired Nichols was living with his daughter Marcia and her two children at 167 Home Street, the Bronx, New York. He died in the Metropolitan Hospital, Manhattan, in 1941.

Given the foregoing it is difficult to see how Heron-Allen came to do business with such a shady character. However, it is known that Heron-Allen adhered to the dictum that "a filthy mind is a continuous feast" and, like many a Victorian gentleman, he had a Cabinet of Erotica (Note 2). Though it is not known exactly what it contained, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that some of its contents were acquired from Smithers and Nichols. On the other hand, Nichols was also a respectable publisher of quality editions – he published Heron-Allen's "Facsimile" edition for a start, and in 1894 had published his *Prolegomena towards the Study of the Chalk Foraminifera*, and, in that same year, had published, "for the author", the translation by Heron-Allen & his wife, Marianna, of *The Arts and Crafts Book of the Worshipful Guild of Violin-Makers of Markneukirchen &c.* (This was De Fidiculis Opuscula – Opusculum VII, a limited edition of 100 copies. The following year he published, again "for the author", Opusculum VIII, *The Seal of Roger Wade, Crowder*, relating to an alleged Welsh forerunner of the violin.) Nichols seems to have had a genuine interest in the Oriental, for as well as Omar and the Arabian Nights he also published a limited edition (100 copies) of Sir Richard Burton's Sufic poem *The Kasidah of Haji Abdu*

El Yezdi in 1894, and in 1899, an edition of its Sufic prose parallel, Fairfax L. Cartwright's *The Mystic Rose from the Garden of the King: a Fragment of the Vision of Sheikh Haji Ibrahim of Kerbela*. So he certainly wasn't a publisher of pornography on a par with some others. In many ways I find him a rather intriguing character.

Bob Forrest

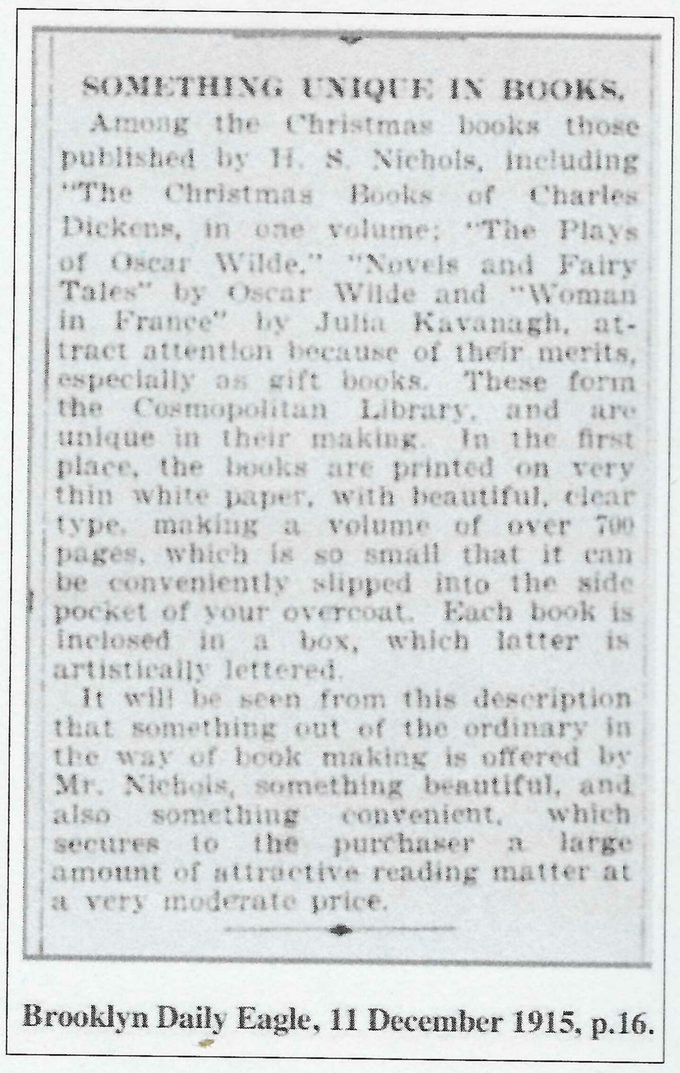
Note 1: James G. Nelson, *Publisher to the Decadents: Leonard Smithers in the careers of Beardsley, Wilde, Dowson* (2000): a) p.28 & p.287

Note 2: For the "locked Case A containing all the Victorian pornographic literature", see *Edward Heron-Allen: a Talk delivered by his grandson Ivor E. Jones at the first Edward Heron-Allen Symposium, Chichester, July 2001* [Opusculum II of the Heron-Allen Society, 2002.], p.14. For "A filthy mind is a continual feast," see ib. p.15.

Fig. 1 Nichols and Smithers, from 'Publisher to the Decadents', see note 1

Figs. 2a - d Cuttings from contemporary newspapers concerning Nichols's activities in the United States

Figs. 3a - c Front cover and title pages of Nichols's publication of the Beardsley drawings



SOMETHING UNIQUE IN BOOKS.

Among the Christmas books those published by H. S. Nichols, including "The Christmas Books of Charles Dickens, in one volume; "The Plays of Oscar Wilde," "Novels and Fairy Tales" by Oscar Wilde and "Woman in France" by Julia Kavanagh, attract attention because of their merits, especially as gift books. These form the Cosmopolitan Library, and are unique in their making. In the first place, the books are printed on very thin white paper, with beautiful, clear type, making a volume of over 700 pages, which is so small that it can be conveniently slipped into the side pocket of your overcoat. Each book is inclosed in a box, which latter is artistically lettered.

It will be seen from this description that something out of the ordinary in the way of book making is offered by Mr. Nichols, something beautiful, and also something convenient, which secures to the purchaser a large amount of attractive reading matter at a very moderate price.

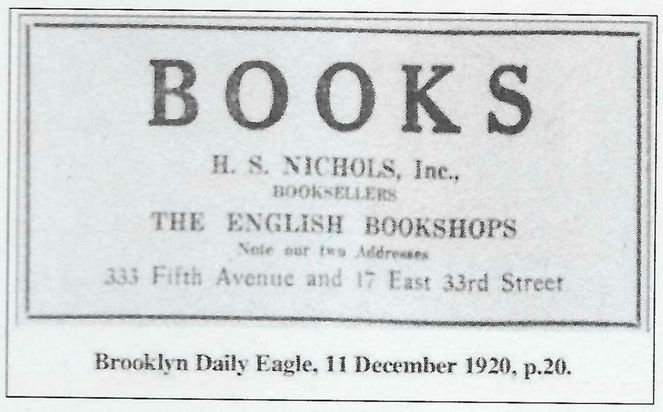
Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 11 December 1915, p.16.

Fig. 2a

BOOKS SEARCHED FOR AND found—If you want some particular book very badly, for which you have searched and searched in vain, let us find it for you. No charges of any kind for our services. H. S. Nichols, Inc., Booksellers, The English Bookshops, 333 Fifth Avenue and 17 East 33d Street, New York City. (Established 1886.)

New YorkTimes, 3 July 1921, p.40.

Fig. 2b

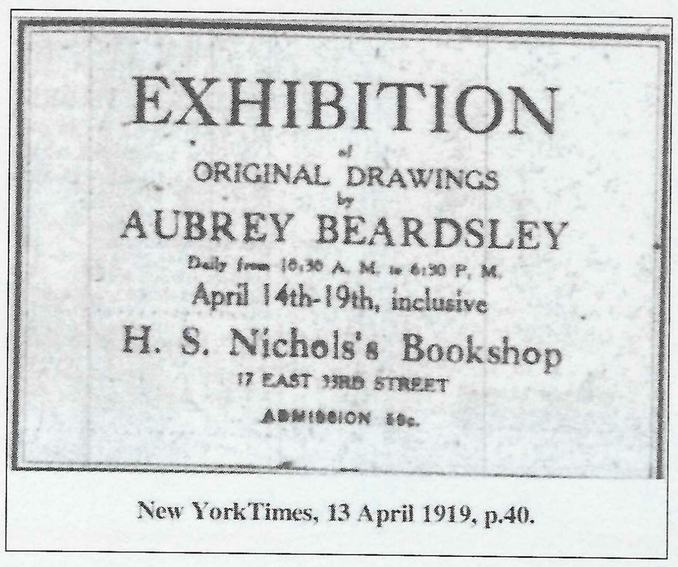


BOOKS

H. S. NICHOLS, Inc.,
BOOKSELLERS
THE ENGLISH BOOKSHOPS
Note our two Addresses
333 Fifth Avenue and 17 East 33rd Street

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 11 December 1920, p.20.

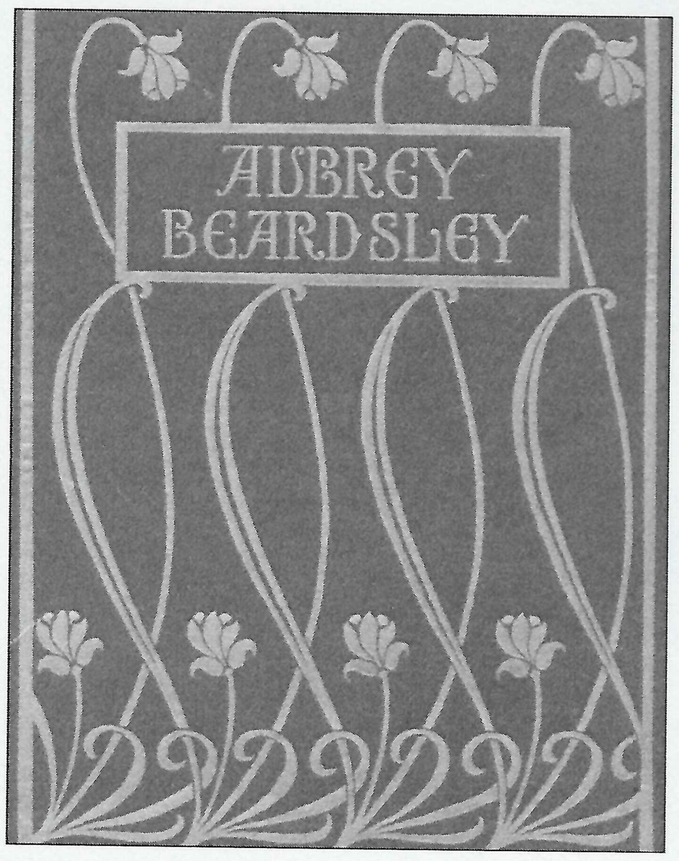
Fig. 2c



EXHIBITION
of
ORIGINAL DRAWINGS
by
AUBREY BEARDSLEY
Daily from 10:30 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.
April 14th-19th, inclusive
H. S. Nichols's Bookshop
17 EAST 33RD STREET
ADMISSION 50c.

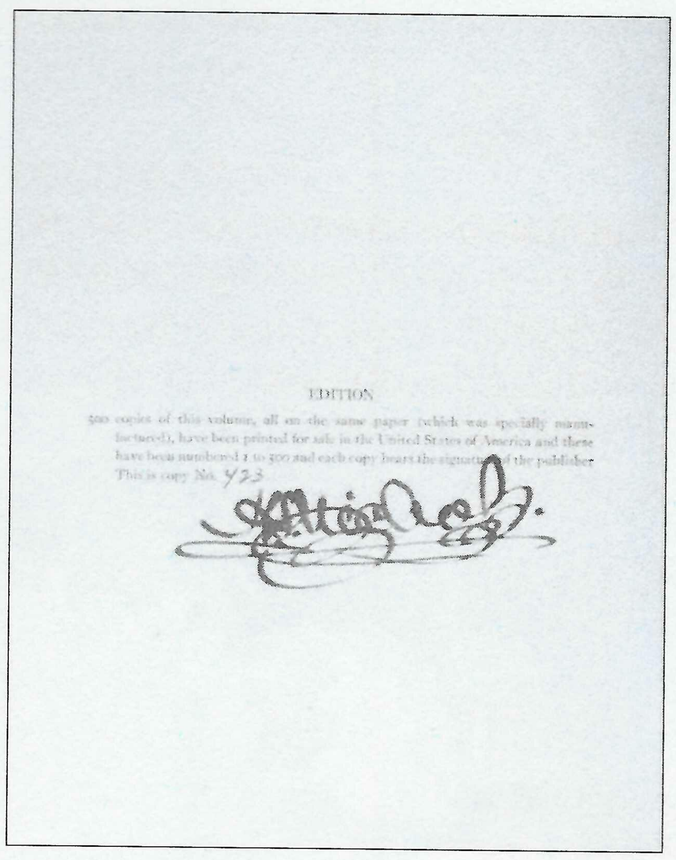
New YorkTimes, 13 April 1919, p.40.

Fig. 2d



AUBREY BEARDSLEY

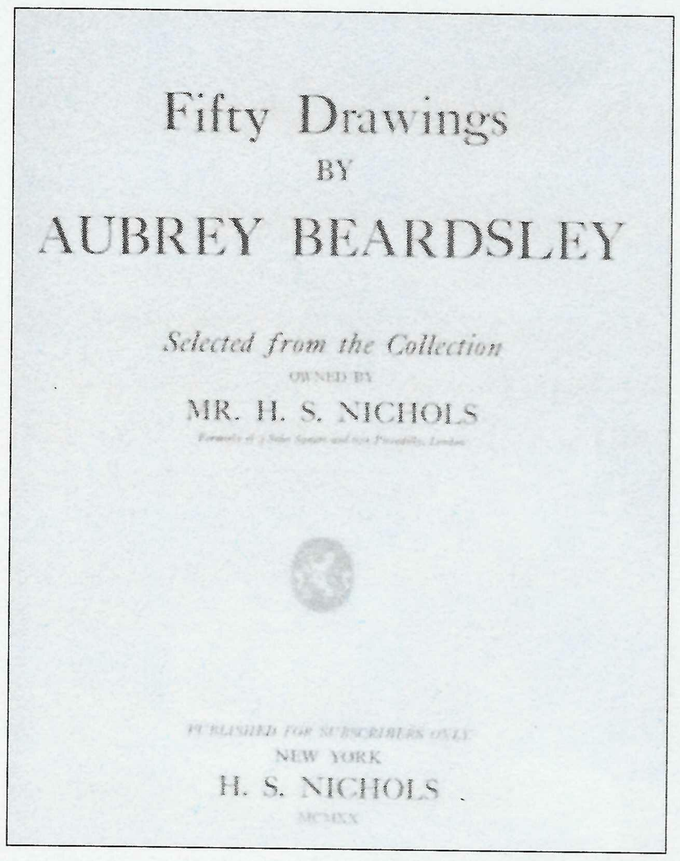
Fig. 3a



EDITION

500 copies of this volume, all on the same paper (which was specially manufactured), have been printed for sale in the United States of America and these have been numbered 1 to 500 and each copy bears the signature of the publisher
This is copy No. 423

Fig. 3b



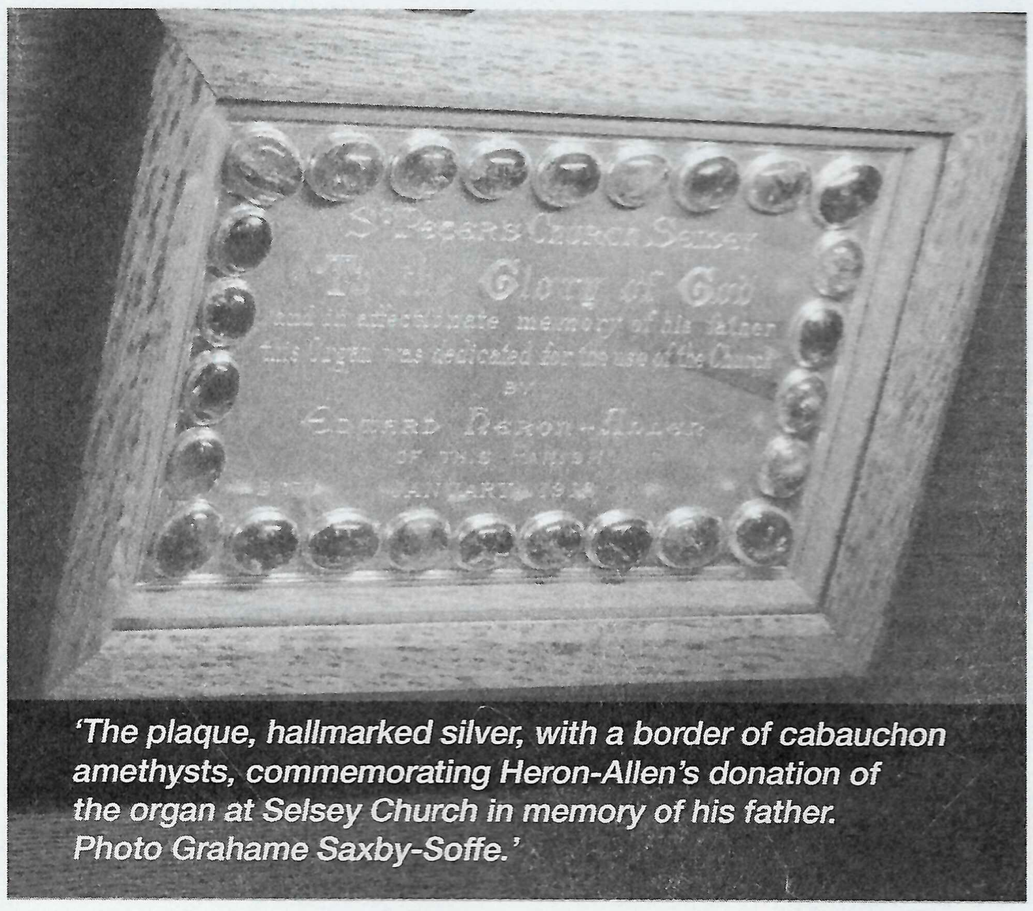
Fifty Drawings
BY
AUBREY BEARDSLEY

Selected from the Collection
OWNED BY
MR. H. S. NICHOLS
Formerly of 3 Saint James's and 175 Piccadilly, London

PUBLISHED FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY
NEW YORK
H. S. NICHOLS
MCMXX

Fig. 3c

Dr Kate Adcock plays the Heron-Allen organ at Selsey Church to open the 2022 Symposium and AGM. Photo Grahame Saxby-Soffe.



'The plaque, hallmarked silver, with a border of cabauchon amethysts, commemorating Heron-Allen's donation of the organ at Selsey Church in memory of his father. Photo Grahame Saxby-Soffe.'

The silver plaque has a hallmark at the bottom left which apparently was from Heron-Allen's jeweller.

The plaque reads

St Peter's Church Selsey
To the Glory of God
and in affectionate memory of his father
this Organ was dedicated for the use of the Church

by

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN
OF THIS PARISH
JANUARY 1912

THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Heron-Allen Society's website is at http://www.heronallensociety.co.uk. The webmaster, Maira Canzonieri, can be contacted through the website or directly by email 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 and answer queries, which now becomes increasingly important with the loss of our two main experts.

THE HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY

towards the appreciation of the life and works of Edward Heron-Allen

Dear Heron-Allen Society members

You may not have seen that we have recently added this notice to our website at http://www.heronallensociety.co.uk/.

Following the recent deaths of Tim McCann and John Whittaker, the remnant of your committee has struggled to see what the future might be for the Society. You will have seen the announcements we have made on the website, but of course decisions now need to be made.

As you will know, we have recently decided not to ask for further subscriptions, as we are aware that we can't provide value for money to members at the moment.

We will shortly be publishing our latest Newsletter (postponed from last autumn), in honour of John, though we feel that this will be likely to be our last publication unless we can find a new way to keep the Society in existence. This may sound harsh, but we are finding that without the energy and expertise of Tim and John we lack the means to continue.

The website will continue for the moment to be the focus for activity and communication, so please do keep an eye on activity there.

You will get further information in a letter enclosed with Newsletter no. 42, which will encourage you to think about this, and to get in touch with any suggestions.

Further to this announcement, we are contacting you all through this letter, to ask for your offers, thoughts and suggestions for the Society's future.

We as a committee cannot continue as we are, and if others are not able to step up and take over then we will need to think about winding up the Society.

So, some things to ponder:

Would you be interested in becoming part of a new committee, or in some way contributing to the continuation of the Society in some form or another? All ideas and suggestions welcome.

Would you consider joining a Zoom meeting for further discussion?

Have you still got publishable research material either to hand or in the pipeline? If so, would you be able to publish it elsewhere than with the Society? Maybe in collaboration with the West Sussex Record Office?

There will need to be either an AGM this summer if the Society is to continue, or an EGM to wind up the Society, so a decision is needed in the near future.

I have appended some relevant clauses from our Constitution for info; please note that we are not a registered charity, and do not have any official status. (You will see that the 'Objects' and 'Activities' paragraphs mention the completion of a biographical project, which has not yet been completed.)

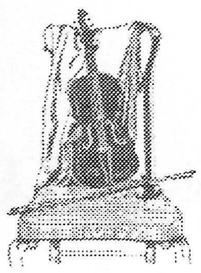
I've also listed our remaining Committee members. Please see over for all this.

We look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible as soon as possible.

With all best wishes

Juliet

Juliet Field – Hon. Sec. May 2024



Objects

The objects of the Society are to study and record all aspects of the life and interests of Edward Heron-Allen, 1861-1943, and to promote his work. The Society will encourage the publication of material by or about Edward Heron-Allen, perhaps first in separate studies relating to his different interests, with the final target of a complete biography.

Activities

The Society will have regular meetings, perhaps once a year, which should include at least one talk on an aspect of Edward Heron-Allen's activities to be followed by a meal or social gathering. Normally the talk or talks will be published and distributed to members as an opusculum, and should form part of the biographical project. A newsletter will be published annually. Archive material relating to Edward Heron-Allen and his family will be collected and preserved in the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester.

Archives

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

Dissolution

Should the Society be dissolved and all financial incomings and outgoings have been concluded, any assets held by or in the name of the Society shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as agreed by the committee of the time.

Heron-Allen Society Committee

Chairman – vacant
Hon. Sec. – Juliet Field
Hon. Treasurer – Pam Thompson
Members – Peter Horton, Sam Jones, David Thompson, Venetia Jones
Webmaster – Maira Canzonieri
Associates – Publications: Gregory Whittaker, Selsey Press
West Sussex Record Office: Nichola Court