

In Memoriam.

PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON,

F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Born 20th Jan. 1865; died 17th Dec. 1936.

By the death of Philip Johnston our Society has lost a distinguished and most valuable member and an admirable exponent of ancient churches and their contents.

He was the seventh child of John Brookes Johnston, Secretary in London of the Sun Insurance Co. Educated at King's College School and London University, he also studied drawing and painting under Professor Delamotte; and after serving his articles with John Belcher, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., he practised his profession as architect from 1886 and attained a special connection in ecclesiological and domestic restorations, which extended from Norfolk and Oxfordshire to the South Coast—chiefly in Surrey and Sussex.

He was appointed architect to Chichester Cathedral and to the Stratford-on-Avon Preservation Society. His activities included the restoration of Poling Priory, Sussex, as a residence for his brother, the late Sir Harry Johnston; the restoration of Prittlewell Priory, Essex, for the Corporation of Southend-on-Sea; and research work at St. Helen's Priory, Bishopsgate, for the Leather-sellers Company. At Oxford in 1927 he gave expert advice to the Victoria and Albert Museum on an ancient wall painting then discovered in a house at Carfax; and in 1933 he was called in to inspect the ceiling of Jesus College Chapel, which thereafter was replaced by the present oak ceiling.

In Surrey his professional work included the churches at Caterham, Chaldon, Charlwood, Compton, Coulsdon, Ewehurst, Stoke D'Abernon, Warlingham, and Witley. He was an advisory expert to the Surrey County Council.

He became a member of our Society in 1899, and of its Council in 1902; and he was elected a Vice-President in 1930. From 1899 onwards he was a constant contributor to our *Collections* of authoritative papers on Churches, Low Side Windows, Church Chests, Wall Paintings and Ecclesiology in general. His first

article (on Low Side Windows and his restoration of Warlingham Church) appeared in Vol. XIV (1899), and in Vol. XLII his account of his discoveries at Ewhurst Church proved to be the last we were to have from his pen.

Mr. Johnston's elucidations at churches and houses were of exceptional character, masterly in matter and excellent in delivery, and of special value to members who, like the present writer, were non-professional students in ancient architecture. The first of these, it may be noted, were delivered in 1900 at Ripley and Send; and the last in July, 1935, at Tandridge, Oxted and Limpsfield.

In addition to his numerous papers in the *Surrey Archæological Collections*, his contributions to the *Victoria County History of Surrey* are of outstanding importance; and he edited, and partly compiled, the very useful *Schedule of Antiquities* which our Society published in 1913. His addresses delivered during a visit of our members to Camberwell which he conducted in 1907 were elaborated in four papers which appeared in the *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society* some years later and were published in book form under the title of *Old Camberwell*.

In his activities in other Societies special mention may be made of (a) the Sussex Archæological Society, which he joined in 1897, and in whose annual volumes he contributed many papers until 1919; (b) the Royal Archæological Institute (1901-21); and (c) the British Archæological Association (1917-36) of which he became a Vice-President in 1931; and in these last also Mr. Johnston's valuable papers were welcome reading.

In 1902 he married the daughter of Dr. Wynne, Bishop of Killaloe, who survives him, with their daughter, who is professionally Miss Thea Holme, the actress.

His wide circle of friends held him in warm regard and esteem, and his passing leaves a most lamentable gap in our Society.

ARTHUR BONNER.

MILL STEPHENSON,

B.A., F.S.A.

The death of Mr. Mill Stephenson on 29th July 1937, in the eightieth year of his age, removes from the Society its second oldest member and one who had been amongst its most active helpers. Indeed it is not too much to say that it is very largely to him that the Society owes its continued existence at the present day, although the number of its members who can recollect the almost moribund condition into which it had fallen in its old Danes

Inn days, when in 1889 he was called upon jointly with the late Rev. T. S. Cooper to act as its Honorary Secretary, is now nearly infinitesimal. To Mr. Stephenson fell all the active work of carrying on the business of the Society in its then London home, Mr. Cooper's part being to look after its interests at Guildford in view of the hoped-for possibility of the removal of its offices to that town in the near future. It was not, however, until 1898, a year after Stephenson had resigned his office, that the removal actually took place, so that he was practically in sole charge during the whole term he was in office. By his careful management and sound business instincts he succeeded in rescuing the Society's finances from the somewhat chaotic condition into which they had been allowed to fall and restored it to the sound position it held when the time for the removal was ripe. But it was not only from the business point of view that Stephenson regained for the Society its old prestige. He was first and foremost an antiquary and in his hands the editorship of the *Collections* which was a part of his work was safe. After his retirement from the Hon. Secretaryship he served continuously on the Council until his death, having been appointed in 1930 a Vice-President. Until the last few years he was one of the most regular attendants at the Council meetings, where the sound advice he was able to give on the conduct of the Society's affairs was always eagerly sought.

Freedom from the necessity of having to work for his living permitted him to devote the whole of his long life to the pursuit of his own particular antiquarian interests. Of these the first was the study of monumental brasses in which from his schooldays he had been interested and of which subject he became the greatest authority in this country. His *List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles* (1926) in which he completely revised and brought up to date the *Manual* of the Rev. Herbert Haines published so long ago as 1861 is indispensable to all who would study the subject and will remain a classic. To this Society's *Collections*, in addition to many articles dealing with special aspects of the subject, he contributed in serial form from Vols. XXV to XXXIII the fullest descriptive account of the brasses of any county which has ever appeared. But many other counties have from time to time reaped the benefit of his great knowledge and for many years until the War he carried on the business of the old Monumental Brass Society.

The study of brasses led to his acquiring a special knowledge of such other subjects as heraldry and the history of English armour and costume, in all of which he was looked upon as an

authority and frequently consulted. Another subject in which he was keenly interested was the excavation of Roman and medieval sites. He superintended for the Society of Antiquaries the excavations on the site of the Roman city of Silchester for the greater part of the twenty-odd years during which they were carried out, although his incurable modesty and intense dislike of anything like appearing to seek publicity for himself probably account for the fact that only in the last of the reports does his name appear as one of the editors. For this Society he superintended the excavations of the Roman villa found in 1914 at Limnerslease, Compton, and contributed an account of them to Vol. XXVIII of the *Collections*.

This is not the place to attempt to give an account of his work for the many other societies which must deplore his loss. But to the Society of Antiquaries, in the library of which he worked regularly for many years and did an untold amount of unadvertised and purely voluntary work in arranging and listing its various collections, he will be especially missed. His knowledge of his particular subjects was always ungrudgingly given to all whom he felt to be genuinely interested in them and he would spare no pains in tracking down for them any obscure questions which he could not immediately answer.

M. S. G.