



Lt-Col. O. H. North.

*facing p. 305*

## In Memoriam

The death of Lieut.-Colonel OLIVER HENRY NORTH, D.S.O., F.S.A., at the age of 80, leaves an irreplaceable gap in our Society. He had been a member of it since 1908, was elected to Council in 1930, became a Vice-President in 1935, and served as President from 1945 to 1947; thereafter, as our senior Past President, he continued to take an active part at meetings and excursions, as one of the secretaries for antiquarian correspondence, and with continued energy as an excavator. No member was more regular in attendance at the Society's meetings or more assiduous in finding a succession of fresh recruits to help in its work. He will be remembered for his researches at Watercrock and at Burrow, and for his remarkable flair for finding—and his punctiliousness in recording—all manner of prehistoric and Roman remains, not merely in his own district but throughout the Society's territory. Nobody could have had a sharper eye for a flint arrowhead or a stone axe; and though he was one of our oldest members, he remained until the last one of the youngest in spirit, retaining a schoolboy's enthusiasm for his chosen hobby. He was elected F.S.A. in 1921, in recognition of archæological work in the South of England, and in the course of his long life he took part in other excavations, and collected antiquities (and sporting trophies) from many countries; but he left us in no doubt where his dearest interests lay, in our own Society. He contributed the following papers to our *Transactions*: "The travels of Sir Guilbert de Launoy in the North of England and elsewhere, 1430" (CW2 xxi 43-47); "The Roman station at Watercrock" (xxxii 116-123 and xxxiv 35-40); "Some recent finds of stone implements" (*ibid.*, 113-115); "Stone circle, Summerhouse Hill, Yealand Conyers" (with J. E. Spence, xxxvi 69-70); "Local stone implements" (*ibid.*, 129-131); "Roman finds at Voreda" (*ibid.*, 132-141); "Two recently discovered bronze celts" (*ibid.*, 142-143); "Local stone and bronze implements" (xxxvii 155-156); "A Roman cremated burial found near Voreda" and "A bronze axe and other local finds" (xlii 232-233); "A Roman altar found at Watercrock" and "A stone axe-hammer from Threlkeld" (xliii 161 and 200); "Samian ware from Watercrock" (xliv 146); "Excavations at the Roman fort of Watercrock, 1947" (with E. J. W. Hildyard, xlv 148-162); "Trial trenching at Burrow in Lonsdale, 1947"

(with the same, and J. P. Gillam, *xlvi* 23-41); "A polished stone axe from Holme, Westmorland" (*ibid.*, 217); "Another polished stone axe-head from Yealand" and "Roman pottery from Burrow in Lonsdale" (*li* 170 and 178); and "Excavations at Burrow in Lonsdale, 1952 and 1953" (*liii* 211-212). In addition, the Proceedings of the Society's meetings during the past twenty years and more contain numerous references to his activities, as an exhibitor of recent finds, as a speaker on our excursions and as a member of the committees which organised them. He was an active member of the Cumberland Excavation Committee and of the Society's Committee for Prehistoric Studies; some of us have happy memories of his enthusiastic participation in the Pilgrimages of 1930 (when he and Mrs North camped under canvas) and 1949, and within half a dozen years of his death he was prepared to scramble up to the Langdale axe-factory site, in order to add some of its specimens to the collection which he formed—not to hoard it privately, but to place it at the disposal of other workers in that field. Only the day before his death, he told the writer of these lines that he had decided to present his archæological collections to Liverpool University, so as to ensure their continued utility to students; for many years, most of his local finds had been lent to the Lancaster Museum, for display there, and if that museum had been able to accept other than local specimens, he would probably have preferred to give it his whole collection. But Lancaster's loss will undoubtedly prove a gain to learning, and Liverpool has acquired by his gift a most valuable series of teaching material.

Oliver North was the fifth son of the late North North of Newton Hall, Lancashire. He was learning to be a tea-planter in Ceylon when the South African war broke out; he succeeded in obtaining a commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers, and served with that regiment in South Africa from 1900 to 1902, and thereafter made the army his career. He served with distinction throughout the first World War, winning an immediate award of the D.S.O. and three mentions in despatches, and retired in 1925; from 1933 to 1937 he served as district remount officer, and in the second World War he took an active part in Home Guard and Cadet Force work. His record as a rider and as a sportsman, too, will long be remembered, though it cannot be recounted here; like Canon Greenwell, he found that open-air archæology did not take up all his energy, and he could still find time for stalking, while there were occasions when digging had to be suspended so that he could go out with his gun. His archæology was no narrow specialist interest; he was at home



Miss Mary C. Fair

*Photo: B. L. Thompson, 1949.*

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in many periods, and could often quote modern analogies, among primitive peoples, for the products of local prehistoric sites; and he had great skill in the restoration of broken pottery, as is well shown by the recent photograph of him, reproduced with this notice, holding the two Roman jugs from Burrow which are described in detail in Mr Hildyard's report on our Past President's last excavation (Art. VIII above).

He married, in 1908, Edith Monica, only child of the late W. A. S. Masters, of Meopham, Kent, herself a member of our Society and his constant companion in many of its activities; he is survived by her and by three of their four sons, one of whom was killed in action in 1940. To them the Society gives its deep sympathy, in grateful recognition of a member who was the friend of all, and the helper of so many of us.

E.B.

The death of Miss MARY CICELY FAIR, of Eskdale, at the age of 80, on 10 February 1955 after a short illness, will be mourned far beyond the bounds of this Society and in many fields besides our own. In the course of a long and active life she had done a great variety of philanthropic work, and for the past thirty years or more she had been a leader in many activities in Eskdale and south-west Cumberland. It would require a volume, written by many contributors, to do full justice to her memory; here we can only try to commemorate her services to archæology and to our Society, which she joined in 1911, serving as a member of council 1927-1932, and becoming an honorary member in 1948.

The range of her interests may be seen by reference to the list of her articles in *Transactions*: "Some notes on the Eskdale Twentyfour book" (CW2 xxii 73-78); "Bloomery sites in Eskdale and Wasdale" (*ibid.*, 90-97 and xxv 272-274); "A relic of pack-horse days in Eskdale" (xxii 98-100); "Eskdale notes" (xxvi 423-428); "Notes on recent finds in Eskdale" (xxvii 218-222); "Two medieval ivory diptychs from Cumberland" (xxviii 393-395); "An ancient ford of the river Mite"<sup>1</sup> (xxix 259-264); "Austhwaite and Dalegarth" (*ibid.*, 265-268); "Drigg, Barnscar, Carleton and Benfold" (xxxi 63-68); "A reconsideration of the lakeside site at Ehenside Tarn" (xxxii 57-62); "The town fields of Drigg" (xxxiv 41-42); "A note on some West Cumberland stone axes" (xxxv 259-261); "A sandhill site at Eskmeals" (xxxvi 20-23); "Loveswater pele and parks" (*ibid.*, 126-128); "Sella Park, St Bridget's, Beckermeth" (xxxvii 24-29); "Notes

<sup>1</sup> Cf. also *Antiquity* ii 466 f., where two of her photographs are reproduced as full plates.

on early Copeland" (*ibid.*, 72-88); "The church of the Holy Trinity, Millom" (*ibid.*, 89-97); "A group of remains near Eskdale Green" (xxxviii 267-270); "Some leaden spoons from Eskdale" (xxxix 285-287); "The Gosforth area in Prehistory" (xliii 50-54); "Roman and Briton" (*ibid.*, 82-86); "Seaton priory, otherwise Lekely" (xlv 134-137); the surveys of Bronze Age swords and daggers, and of types of bronze spearheads and axes, from Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands (xlv 34-38 and 172-178); "The pre-Reformation church bells of West Cumberland" (xlviii 108-113); "The West Cumberland group of pre-Norman crosses" (l 91-98); "Notes on the history of Ulpha" (*ibid.*, 99-104); "Notes on the manor of Drigg" (*ibid.*, 105-109); "Three West Cumberland notes" (li 92-95); and "Calder Abbey" (liii 81-97). In addition, she furnished many notes, some of them considerable, for inclusion in *Addenda Antiquaria* or *Notes* (CW2 xix 168, xxi 274, xxiv 370 f., xxv 377, xxx 222 f., xxxi 229, xxxii 183 ff., xxxvii 214-217, xxxviii 311 ff., xlii 235 f., xliii 200 f. and 206, xlv 161, xlvi 293, xvliii 218 ff. and 222 f., xlix 221 f., l 209 f., lii 189 ff. and liii 213 f.), the subjects ranging from prehistoric and Roman finds, through medieval documents, masons' marks and holy wells, to a grandfather clock by Burton of Kendal. In many cases her papers were illustrated by her own photographs, themselves a splendid testimony to her skill and indeed artistry in that medium. Mention should also be made of her paper in the *Journal of Roman Studies* xvii 220-224, "Circular bath-buildings in connexion with cohort-forts", and her notes in *Antiquity*, ix 222 ff., on "A north country dew pond" (Tomlin Tarn, on St. Bees Head) and x 488 f., on Reflex cameras and how to make the best use of them. R. G. Collingwood's *Roman Eskdale* [1928] drew largely on her local knowledge, and her own *Eskdale and district* (1949) is a model guide-book, illustrated mainly by her own photographs.

But her own writings give only an indication of the width of her interests and of the depth of her learning, which many authors have been glad to acknowledge as a constant help in their researches. Whether in field-survey or the study of casual finds, she seemed to be equally at home. If she had been less generous in her help to others, and less modest in assessing her own qualification for the task, she could have written a splendid history of West Cumberland; and when such a work comes to be written, it will owe much to her researches, and to the example which she has set to so many people in all walks of life, up and down that district. She took practical steps, too, towards the achievement of that long-desired project, bequeathing to this

Society in her Will the sum of £100, "for excavation and research in South-West Cumberland".

She was an indefatigable correspondent, and in her letters constantly urged the need for research to be matched by publication, and for detailed studies to be merged in the general survey, the need for which she saw so clearly. Age did not lessen her activity, but seemed rather to give her still greater stamina and width of interests. During the last few months of her life she was engaged in further study of Calder Abbey, a fresh analysis of the Bridekirk font, a new assessment of the Roman fort at Ravenglass, and a well-planned campaign of attention to medieval masons' marks — to name only the subjects on which her correspondence with the writer of this memoir touched, often in considerable detail.

She was a foundation member of our Committee for Prehistoric Studies, and did yeoman service in compiling record-cards for finds and sites in Eskdale and West Cumberland; as Miss Clare Fell writes, "by stimulating local interest she came to hear of finds which would otherwise have gone unrecorded, and she visited all the known sites in her area, making notes and taking photographs". Another member writes as follows: "She was a great and gallant lady . . . I remember well how she led me round Ravenglass during a torrential downpour, with an indifference to the elements which I could admire, though I could not share it", and he adds that Hardknot fort may in a sense be regarded as her monument, for it must have been largely her persistent representations which led the Ancient Monuments Department to undertake the custody and the treatment of its remains. The Rev. M. K. Hodges, who in recent years was her parish priest and came also to know her as a friend and fellow-antiquary, writes that "her knowledge was profound, her diligence unswerving, and her mind curiously humble—which made her helpful and approachable to students and to audiences; in her were combined a woman's sympathy to her neighbours and friends, a first-class intellect and a scholarly diligence and honesty; she never considered herself, but only other people's needs, and all the causes which she so ably served".

Her father was the Rev. T. W. Fair, some time vicar of Eskdale, from whom she learnt to handle a rod; Corstopitum was always associated in her mind with a fine stretch of fishing in the Tyne which she once took, and the association of the discoverer of the Greenwell's Glory with that city always endeared Durham to her. She first received a call to the study of Eskdale's history and antiquities from her father's predecessor as vicar of the parish, the Rev. W. S. Sykes, with whom in later

years she was to carry out a long series of researches (cf. CW2 224 f. for an obituary notice of him).

Our Vice-President Mr B. L. Thompson has kindly furnished the photograph, here reproduced, which shows Miss Fair in the field, at an excavation of the Seascale stone circle in 1949; it is well that posterity should be able to picture her as she was happiest to be, hard at work. It is still difficult to think of an Eskdale without her leadership and stimulus, and of West Cumberland no longer safely entrusted to her supervision; but the Society's sense of bereavement must be a challenge to that further work which she would have urged it to undertake, and to produce (when the time for it is ripe) the new *History of West Cumberland* which would be perhaps the finest of memorials to her labours in its field.

E.B.

By an oversight, the death in 1952 of our honorary member Sir CHARLES REED PEERS, F.B.A., some time President of the Society of Antiquaries, has not hitherto been recorded in these *Transactions*; he will long be remembered for his services as Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and it was in recognition of his work in that field that the Society conferred its highest honour upon him in 1919. An obituary notice will be found in *Antiquaries Journal* xxxiii 149-150.

His successor as Chief Inspector, Mr JOSCELYN PLUNKET BUSHE-FOX, C.B.E., F.S.A., became one of our honorary members in 1936; his death, which occurred on 20 October 1954, deprives the Society and the learned world of a man who in his day did more than almost anyone to place Romano-British archæology on a scientific and human footing. He obtained his first archæological experience with Sir Flinders Petrie in Egypt, but it was at Corstopitum that he found his special vocation for the study of stratification in general, and of Romano-British pottery in particular. Under Haverfield's general direction, R. H. Forster and W. H. Knowles were concerning themselves mainly with the planning of structures and the study of inscriptions, coins and metal objects; Bushe-Fox, undoubtedly influenced by the work of our Past President Mr F. G. Simpson at Haltwhistle Burn and on the Wall, no less than by James Curle's splendid achievements at Newstead, realised that Corstopitum could itself provide a basis for the study of Roman pottery in Britain as a whole: his publication of the Corstopitum material led inevitably to his direction of excavations for the Society of Antiquaries at Wroxeter, and to a number of similar projects, culminating in the long series of seasons spent in the uncovering

and elucidation of the Saxon Shore fort at Richborough in Kent. These excavations were not confined to research (though their achievements in that were considerable), but involved the training of a long succession of students, and it was in large measure due to him that so many specialists were trained, and so many lasting friendships formed, in the course of work which incidentally involved a substantial advance in knowledge of the history of Roman Britain. For many years he made a point of visiting our Society's territory every summer, and he was never too busy to give heed to problems affecting its archæological interests, so that his honorary membership, conferred on him three years after he had succeeded Sir Charles Peers, was no mere formality. But there is an additional reason for us to remember him with gratitude: his paper on "The use of samian pottery in dating the early Roman occupation of the North of Britain", printed in *Archæologia* lxiv (1913) 295-314, is a classic—and incidentally stated a case, which subsequent research is generally recognised to have confirmed, for the first Roman occupation of Carlisle having been due to Cerialis, soon after A.D. 71, rather than in the governorship of Agricola eight or nine years later. He was quiet-spoken, and never dogmatic, with a whimsical humour, and ever a kindly word for younger archaeologists—one of whom, to whom in his recruit stage Bushe-Fox gave the warmest encouragement and support, takes this opportunity of placing on record his tribute to a great and inspiring leader.

E.B.

In Sir ARTHUR KEITH, F.R.S., who died in 1954 at the ripe age of 88, the Society has lost yet another honorary member, elected in 1926 in recognition of much help given by him in the study of skeletal remains from excavations within the Society's territory.

Miss ANNE GEDDES GILCHRIST, F.S.A., who died on 24 July 1954 at the age of 90, had been a member of the Society since 1923 and served on its Council from 1933 to 1938. She only contributed three papers to these *Transactions*: "The psalm-tune book of Nicholas Reay, curate of Cumwhitton, 1711-18" (CW2 xxvi 337-348); "A late Anglian cross-head and an Anglo-Saxon crucifix at Bentham, Yorkshire" (xxxiii 278-282); and "A medieval sculptured stone presented to Grasmere church in 1913" (xxxv 73-76). Her main work, however, was in musical antiquarian studies, and notices of some of her writings in that field have been given in CW2 xxv 384, xxxv 287, xl 226 and xliii 209, the last two items dealing with "Some old Lake-

Country fiddlers and their tune books" and "Some old Westmorland folk-singers." A sympathetic obituary, in *The Times* of 28 July 1954, describes her as a living encyclopædia of tunes and their history, who freely placed her vast knowledge at the disposal of anyone who asked for it, including many foreign scholars, and adds that she had an extensive knowledge of folk-lore and of local customs, especially those of her native Lancashire. She was born in Manchester on 8 December 1863, and studied music under Dr J. M. Bentley; she was on the editorial committee of the Folk Song Society from 1906, and she was elected F.S.A. in 1935. For many years, until increasing infirmity compelled her to restrict her outdoor activities, she was a regular attender at the Society's excursions, and it may be remembered that on one of them she provided the explanation of the "Dean Trenches" as really osier-beds (CW2 xxv 271).

The Rev. ALFRED AINLEY, M.A., who died recently, had been a member of this Society since 1911, but he had already in 1902, while assistant curate of Maryport, taken part with the late J. B. Bailey in a survey of the Roman road from Maryport to Cross Canonby vicarage (CW2 iv 253); he never contributed to our publications, but he was for many years a regular attender at the Society's meetings. He was born in 1871, went to Exeter College, Oxford, graduating in 1897 and proceeding to M.A. in 1900; he was ordained in the diocese of Carlisle, where the whole of his active life was spent: after serving various curacies, he became vicar of St Bees in 1911 and held that living till 1940, when he retired and settled at Cockermouth.

The Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., writes: "The Rev. WILLIAM SHERWEN SHERWEN, B.A., who died at Ravensglass on 24 March 1955, at the age of 82, was born at Hensingham and educated at St Bees School and St John's College, Cambridge, where he took his degree. He was ordained in 1895 and served as curate of Holy Trinity, Huddersfield, and then as vicar successively of St Luke's, Cleckheaton, and St Anne's, Thwaites, where he remained for 31 years until his retirement in 1947, when he settled at Ravensglass. During his long incumbency of Thwaites he proved himself an outstandingly good visitor, being known and loved in every home in his widely scattered parish. He did good work for the parish council, the further education committee, the C.M.S. and the Boy Scout movement. He was a keen member of our Society, which he joined in 1923, and was particularly interested in local history, upon which he often lectured; he never contributed to our *Transactions*, but

he wrote a MS. history of Thwaites parish, and the printed guide to Muncaster church. He and his daughter helped W. G. Collingwood in his excavations on Thwaites Fell (CW2 xxix), and also gave assistance to Miss Fair in her study of Calder Abbey (CW2 liii)."

Miss EDITH MARJORIE WARD, M.A., B.Sc., who died on 14 March 1955 at her home in Grasmere, was elected a member in 1931. She was for some years a tutor in geography at Liverpool University, of which she was a graduate, and she was the author of several books on geographical subjects and of some novels, but in this Society she will chiefly be remembered for her book, *Days in Lakeland* (1929), a much more scholarly work than many of the gossipy volumes which have been poured forth in recent years; it is to be regretted that a book on the early religious foundations on the Solway coast was left unfinished at her death.

Mr WILLIAM T. PALMER, F.R.G.S., who died in London on 27 December 1954, aged 78, became a life member of our Society in 1943. He was born at Burneside, and his father, grandfather and great-grandfather were shepherds, the latter losing his life in a storm on Shap Fells. Mr Palmer was by profession a journalist, working for a Kendal newspaper syndicate and later in Liverpool; for many years he lived in the Kendal and Ambleside districts, before going to London. He was a founder-member of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, and for many years edited its *Journal*; a great walker, he once covered 85 miles in 24 hours. He was the author of many books, some half dozen of them on the Lake District, all eminently readable and unpretentious; his last work, *Byways in Lakeland*, was noticed in CW2 lii 214 f.

We also record, with regret, the death of the following members of the Society, whose dates of joining it are added in parenthesis:

- Mr E. L. HARTLEY, Ulverston (1916), at the age of 90.
- Mrs WILLIAMS, Burrow (1917).
- Dr J. PRINGLE, Gosforth (1948).
- Mr A. J. HOPKINSON, Ambleside (1949).
- Miss S. H. JOHNSON, Broughton-in-Furness (1951).