

# IN MEMORIAM

## Robert Hogg

It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to report the death of our honorary member Robert Hogg on 12 January 1995 at the age of 84.

One of the most important and influential figures in local museum, history and archaeological studies this century, Robert Hogg will be greatly missed by people in all walks of life who came into contact with him over the years. He will be especially missed by all those students, researchers and colleagues who benefited from his sound academic and practical advice on a whole range of subjects.

Robert Hogg was born in Carlisle in 1911, educated locally, and joined Tullie House as a junior museum assistant in December 1926 at the age of 16. Apart from service during the Second World War when he served first with the South Lancashire Regiment and later with the R.E.M.E., he spent all his working life on the staff of Tullie House Museum. He graduated externally in Natural Science at London University, passed his Associateship of the Museums Association in 1949, and was awarded a Fellowship in 1954. He was appointed Keeper of Archaeology and Geology and also Curator of the Art Gallery at Tullie House in 1949. In 1966 he became Curator of the Museum and held this post until he retired on 28 October 1975 on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

While Robert Hogg is primarily remembered for his lifetime's work in the development of Tullie House Museum, he did not confine himself to purely internal matters but over the years carried out important fieldwork, watching briefs and excavation on various sites in Carlisle and the surrounding area. The results of this work can be found in some thirty articles, notes and contributions in the pages of *Transactions*. Worthy of special mention are the excavations at Brampton tiliary; Tullie House grounds (1954–6); the fortified manor house at Burgh-by-Sands; Scotch Street, Carlisle, in 1953, and his paper on the Eden bridges at Stanwix. His great personal interest in geology and the effect of the environment on early settlement in the region, can be seen in his article published in *Transactions* (CW2, lxxii, 1–35).

During his long museum career, Robert Hogg witnessed many changes at Tullie House especially the growth of the Archaeological and Fine and Decorative Art collections. He was responsible for the complete re-display of the Prehistoric and Roman Galleries in the old museum. The practical side of his nature enjoyed this kind of work and he was always keen to involve himself in the 'in-house' conservation and restoration of objects, indeed, his pottery restoration equipment still exists! On excavations, he was never afraid of 'getting his hands dirty' and often had to work on very limited budgets with a small team of paid workmen and volunteers. His excavation work at Carlisle sites revealed his passion for researching the City's past, especially its early Roman origins. He told me once that the late Sir

John Burgess, chairman of the Cumberland Newspaper Group, was so tired of hearing him 'going on' about Roman Carlisle that one day he said 'alright, you think you know what it looked like, show us!' Robert readily accepted the challenge and the result was the excellent 1958 Historical Exhibition with Roman period display settings far in advance of presentations currently in vogue at other museums around the country.

Robert Hogg was associated with CWAAS throughout his working life and was Hon. Curator of the Society between 1949 and 1975, and was a founder member and Hon. Secretary of the Carlisle Regional Group following its formation in 1949 until 1975. The parent body acknowledged the importance of his contribution to regional affairs by making him an Honorary Member in 1984. He was always much in demand as a lecturer to local groups and societies and was on the panel of lecturers for the extra-mural department of Newcastle University. Students and researchers found him unstinting in his help with their projects once he was convinced of the historical value of a topic and that it was not merely the 'esoteric whim' of a university tutor!

My main regret is never having interviewed Robert as part of an Oral History Project, since he had a fund of stories and anecdotes relating to great names of the past – R.G. Collingwood, F.G. Simpson, I.A. Richmond – who were his contemporaries, and a few who are still with us. His wide contacts enabled him to bring to Carlisle many of the country's leading archaeologists to deliver lectures on their chosen subjects. He regarded the visit of Sir Mortimer Wheeler as the most memorable, when more than 300 people packed Creighton School hall to hear about the excavations at Stanwick hillfort.

Robert Hogg always recognised the importance of Tullie House as the principal centre of cultural activity in the Carlisle district. During his time as Curator he regularly called for more resources to develop the true potential of the site and increase the display and storage capacity and other public facilities. As long ago as 1967, he was complaining about the 'retarded state' of the museum service in Cumbria compared with other regions. The new Tullie House development completed in 1991 has gone a long way towards satisfying some of these demands, but some aspects will not be achieved for some years yet. I am quite certain that the majority of museum officers will share the sentiments expressed by Robert Hogg on his retirement in 1975, '... that museum work is an extremely complex and difficult job behind the scenes and people just see the finished result without knowing the amount of work involved.'

Following his retirement, he continued to keep in touch with local archaeology, devoted more time to his passion for oil painting and was an enthusiastic member of the Carlisle Golf Club.

On behalf of all his colleagues and friends, both in the Society and around the country, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Marjorie and his two daughters, Diane and Jennifer, at this time.

Colin Richardson