

In Memoriam.

HENRY CHARLES MILLER LAMBERT,

K.C.M.G., C.B., F.S.A.

9th February, 1935.

It has not been usual in the past to print obituaries in these volumes: but the death of Sir Henry Lambert, which came as a painful shock to all his friends, removes so prominent a Member from the Society's list, so active a helper from our work and so valued a contributor from our publications that it is fitting a few words should be said here in appreciation of the loss we have suffered. There is no need to repeat the biographical details which appeared in an obituary in *The Times* of February 11, 1935: nor will it be necessary to remind most Surrey readers that he belonged to one of the families, comparatively few now in number, which have played a distinguished part in the life of our County for several centuries and are still resident in it: but we may recall a few details of his personal connection with our work.

Sir Henry (then Mr.) Lambert joined the Society in 1908: at that time there was no rule for compulsory retirement from the Council and changes in it were comparatively rare; but in 1919 he was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of an old and very well-known member, Mr. Ridley Bax. His election came at a time when the Society was making good the losses caused by the War and when the Council was finding considerable difficulty, a difficulty which lasted for some years, in making suitable provision under changed conditions for the general direction of its work and for editorial and other services. In all the Committee work which this entailed his experience of affairs, his quiet determination to secure efficiency and his practical knowledge of Surrey archæology, combined with his natural gifts of tact and of moderation in counsel, were invaluable: and when in 1930 it was decided to try the experiment of an Executive Committee there was no hesitation in asking him to accept the Chairmanship. On this Committee, and perhaps we may add on the Records and Ancient Monuments Committee of the County Council, his loss will be particularly felt.

His active work as a contributor to the Society's publications began before the War, in Vol. XXVI; and in the same volume appeared a review of his *History of Banstead*, a work which had occupied his leisure for some years: the writer of the review thought

(and thinks still) that this modest but comprehensive and scholarly volume was a model of what such compilations should be: and recalls with pleasure now that the author found his notice "particularly satisfactory." A supplementary volume was published in 1931. Meanwhile Sir Henry's contributions became a regular feature of our *Collections*: from 1918 till the present year they never failed. The subjects covered were extremely varied, ranging from prehistoric finds to 15th-century Court Rolls and 18th-century School Bills, all treated with the same quiet competence: but one of his chief interests remained throughout the exploitation of our vast wealth of Records. In this connexion it is proper to add that he was an original member of the Surrey Record Society, founded in 1913, and later one of its Vice-Presidents; and the Society has to lament that his death cut short, with other work, the preparation of what would certainly have been a very valuable Introduction to its volumes of Manorial Records.

In these remarks I have made no effort at a complete enumeration of Sir Henry Lambert's writings and activities, but I must not omit a mention of the recent Schedule of Surrey Antiquities which he had so large a share in preparing for the Ancient Monuments Committee; nor the scheme for a hand list of Domestic Architecture in Surrey, in which he was equally concerned. He was a man whose experience in national affairs did not prevent him from putting a just value (indeed it enabled him to do so) on the work which results from local interests and local effort: that he applied to his own share in such work standards of the most meticulous care and the most exacting scholarship was a tribute to the importance of the functions which our Society, and the Surrey Record Society, endeavour to perform.

H. J.