

Obituary

Anthony W.G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Mr. A.W.G. Lowther, a Vice-President of the Society, died at Leatherhead on December 8th, 1972.

After school at Charterhouse, Lowther qualified and practised as an architect in London until the war, but maintained wide interests, which included philately and natural history as well as archaeology. He joined the Society in 1927, and soon made his mark in it. He served on the then Local History Committee, and the Excavation Committee for many years, and was Local Secretary for Leatherhead. He was elected to the Council in 1933. In 1948 he succeeded Dr. Wilfred Hooper as Hon. Secretary, a post he filled for ten years. While not perhaps an innovator, he devoted great energies to this exacting task, at a time when the Society was recovering from the effects of the war, and in spite of impaired mobility due to polio contracted while on military service in Persia. He became a Vice-President in 1958. He was also a local correspondent of the Ordnance Survey, and served on the Ancient Buildings Committee of the Surrey County Council. The Society of Antiquaries stood high in his affections throughout his life.

But Lowther will perhaps be most remembered for his long series of excavations. He made very notable contributions to Iron Age and Roman studies in Surrey, some of which are of national importance. The *Collections* carry a large number of reports of this work, covering several sites at Ashted; the pottery from Farley Heath; the Iron Age fort at Carshalton; Purberry Shot, Ewell; the villa at Walton-on-the Hill; and a Roman site at Farnham. His seminal monograph on Roman Flue Tiles (*Research Paper* No. 1), and his study of the Bronze, Iron, Roman and Saxon periods in the Farnham Volume (1939) deserve separate mention, as does his important report on the medieval manor-house of Pachenesham (published in the local Leatherhead journal). He contributed the article on the Society's history to the Centenary Volume in 1954.

This distinguished work ensured for Lowther a sound reputation well beyond the borders of Surrey.

E. S. Wood