

Obituary

Ivan D. Margary, MA, FSA

It is with the greatest regret that we record the death, on 18 February, 1976, of Mr Ivan Donald Margary, at the age of 79. After graduating from Exeter College, Oxford in 1921 he spent most of his life farming in Surrey on his estate at Chartham Park, where he lived in the adjacent Yew Lodge. His early interests in geography and meteorology were broadened by a growing fascination with the archaeology of the Surrey-Sussex-Kent area where he lived.

He was a most notable archaeologist, who, as a Surrey resident, always maintained a great interest in the county and he joined the Surrey Archaeological Society in 1927. He took an active part in the Society's proceedings from the beginning, including excavations, excursions and lectures, and in 1946 he was elected a Vice-President. From that time onwards his attendance at Council meetings was regular, and he played an important but, by his own choice, unobtrusive part in the shaping of the Society's affairs. His advice to successive Presidents, tendered with diffidence, was always valuable.

In 1961 seeing that the increased cost of printing was beginning to embarrass the Society he founded the Margary Fund and endowed it with a capital of £6,000 to be applied as and when needed for the publishing of the Society's *Collections* and reports. At other times he made special donations for Library purposes, such as towards the binding of the collections of other archaeological societies. In gratitude, the Society re-named its principal room at Castle Arch the 'Margary Room'.

After reading James Dunning's *The Roman Road to Portslade* (1925) he decided to undertake the necessary field work on the proposed road which passed less than a mile from his home. His studies expanded to include other Roman roads in the area culminating in *Roman ways in the Weald*, first published in 1948 (revised editions 1949, 1956, 1965) and then the larger *Roman roads in Britain*, in two volumes, in 1955/7 (revised editions 1967, 1973), which has become the standard work on the subject. When new information came to light and especially when any correction of his published work seemed necessary, he was the first to acknowledge and revise what he had said in lectures or in print.

He published over sixty papers, mainly on Surrey and the other two counties which lay less than three miles from his home. Apart from his Roman work on Stane Street, the Portslade Road, London-Lewes Road and in Kent, he also studied the trackways in Ashdown Forest and along the North Downs, Dry Hill Camp, Lingfield and 18th century Sussex.

His numerous benefactions will be long remembered by the many organisations he helped. Part of the rôle he played in the acquisition of the site of the Palace of Fishbourne in 1962 and its excavation and the subsequent

setting up of a Museum he recorded in *Britannia* (2 (1971), 117). Earlier, he helped in the purchase of Avebury for the National Trust (1943), leased his forty-room Chartham Park to the Westminster Hospital as a convalescent home rent free (1946-62), and contributed towards the restoration of Kelmscott. Other donations included financial help for the Society of Antiquaries, Royal Archaeological Institute, Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, Council for British Archaeology, Royal Geographical Society, and the Sussex and Kent Archaeological Societies. In his will a substantial bequest to Surrey Archaeological Society will undoubtedly be recognised in the future as marking the start of a significant new stage in the Society's career.

G. P. M.