

## OBITUARIES

### CHARLES HILARY JENKINSON, 1882—1961

By the death on 5 March, 1961, of Sir Hilary Jenkinson, C.B.E., LL.D., F.S.A., the Society lost one of its oldest members and one of its greatest Presidents. He had been Hon. Secretary 1908–10 and 1920–24, and President from 1954. Sir Hilary's professional duties in the Public Record Office, of which he was Deputy Keeper from 1947 to 1954, enabled him to make for himself, as teacher, scholar and administrator, an international reputation, secured for the future by his standard works on English handwriting and on archive administration, and buttressed by the legends which inevitably cluster round a strong and idiosyncratic personality. His pre-eminence in this field perhaps obscured in the public mind his services to archæology, more particularly to that of his native Surrey. He was born in Tulse Hill in 1882 and went from Dulwich College to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took a First in the old Classical Tripos. In 1908, when he had been two years in the Public Record Office, he began helping his older colleague, M. S. Giuseppi, as joint Secretary of the Surrey Archæological Society. During his tenure of the office, which at that time also included the editing of the Collections, he was responsible either in collaboration or alone for Volumes XXI to XXVIII and XXXIII to XXXVI and for the first *Schedule of Antiquities in the County of Surrey* (1913). He himself contributed a number of articles and reviews. As might be expected, his chief archæological interests were those allied to records, for example seals and wallpaper, and he never wearied of pointing out that no archæologist or historian could afford to neglect the evidence of records. For Surrey he himself, as co-founder of the Surrey Record Society in 1913 and as editor of many of its volumes, had made available a mass of material in printed form and offered advice as to its use: "Are you interested in Church Plate or Furniture? you must refer to the Edwardian Inventories. Is Sport your subject, and if so, do you know where the history of Cricket begins? it is in the legal Records of the Borough of Guildford. English Military History? the Tudor Musters are your bridge between the long bow and the musket. Do you want to know what was the state of a prehistoric site in the days before pre-history was a word? early Surveys offer your best chance. Are Surrey Tools and Crafts your quarry (or for that matter agricultural systems and prices and a whole host of other country topics)? you must turn to Manorial Accounts." Many will remember these words being spoken at the Annual General Meeting of 1943.

From the early 30s Sir Hilary gradually took a less active part in the affairs of the Archæological Society, owing to his increasing commitments in the world of records, in which sphere he was rewarded by various academic distinctions and, in 1949, by a knighthood. Only when he retired from the Public Record Office in April 1954 was he free to devote more time to the multifarious societies which claimed his interests, particularly our own. His Presidency has seen a great increase in the Society's membership, a welcome revival in its excavation programmes, the complete reorganization of the Library, and (what was especially near his heart) the reappearance of an annual volume for publishing the results of excavation and other research.

It must not be supposed, however, that archives and archæology exhausted Sir Hilary's interests. Among other things he was something of an authority on food and wine, an expert and enthusiastic gardener, and a collector of Chinese snuff-boxes. He could quote verbatim long passages of versifiers like Calverly and Chesterton and his own English style was marked by a highly original use of punctuation and capital letters, sometimes deliberately overdone in order "to keep up a reputation for eccentricity." The extent of his personal generosity is known only to the recipients.

## PHILIP CORDER, 1891—1961

The sudden death of Philip Corder, M.A., Litt.D., on 29 May, 1961, was a great shock to a very wide circle of friends and pupils, and deprived our Society of a Vice-President and Chairman of its Excavation Committee. The breadth of his influence on British archaeology was established not only through his office of Assistant Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, well known and beloved though he was there, but also through his work at Verulamium as first Curator of its Museum and later as director of the excavation school at Great Casterton. He was a brilliant teacher and his wide knowledge and experience of excavation on Roman sites in general, and of the development of Romano-British pottery in particular, gave him the background which his friendly temperament enabled him to place at the disposal of all who asked. He had a high standard of scholarship, as his published works and editorial productions witness, and there will be many who will remember with gratitude his guidance of their first essays in archaeological publication. He was not only a scholar; his great fund of human wisdom made his judgment much in demand, both in questions of policy and more personal affairs.

Philip Corder joined our Society in 1944 when he came to live in Purley and was elected to the Council in 1945. He remained an ordinary Council Member (with statutory intervals) until 1958 when he was elected Vice-President. He was a member of the Publications Committee 1958-60 and a member, later Chairman, of the Excavation Committee.