

OBITUARY

RICHARD HENRY GRESHAM LEVESON GOWER

The Society has lost a rare and valued character by the death, on 7th February 1982, aged 87, of R H G Leveson Gower, of Titsey Place. He joined the Society in 1927, and was elected to the Council in 1929. Since then he served continuously (with the statutory breaks) until he was made a Vice-President in 1956. He remained a faithful attender at Council meetings, and his affection for the Society never flagged. He was a very active member of the Visits Committee from 1972 to 1978, and led or arranged many visits.

Perhaps his main contribution to the Society was that of his own exceptional personality, individualistic to the point of eccentricity, but attractive and lovable. He leaves an indelible impression on all who met him, and he will be greatly missed. He was a completely unassuming man, genuinely interested in people and their problems, and devoted to a simple way of life. During the Second World War he was Railway Transport Officer in the London area, and was later in Transport HQ. His knowledge enabled him to achieve the remarkable feat of dispersing thousands of troops rescued from Dunkirk to the West Country without going through London. His phenomenal memory appeared to include every detail of Bradshaw!

He was devoted to his lovely house and estates at Titsey, and had deep knowledge of the 600 years of Uvedales, Greshams and Leveson Gowers whose home it has been, a knowledge which extended to genealogy, heraldry and local history everywhere. Many Surrey organisations benefitted from his support. We are fortunate to have known him.

Eric Wood