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OBITUARY

STANLEY JOHN WEARING, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

1880-1960

President

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1955-1957

Stanley John Wearing was an eminent architect and archaeologist and an esteemed member of our Society.

His outstanding contribution to the archaeology of this County is remarkable and unusual. It comprises a series of masterly and fascinating sketches of local buildings and of objects of antiquarian interest.

He tells us in his *Beautiful Norfolk Buildings*, published in 1944, that many of the sketches contained therein were the result of days of quiet enjoyment before the outbreak of war in 1939. He continued this work during the war period; his main object which was most successfully attained, being to place on permanent record the historical value and architectural merit of those buildings—especially at a time when disaster threatened them. The last sentence of his Introduction is characteristic:—"If the sketches and remarks will help others to search out and appreciate the beauty of our Norfolk heritage, I shall feel this production will have served a good purpose".

During the war years, Stanley Wearing, encouraged by the Suffolk publication of H. Munro Cautley's *Royal Arms and Commandments in our Churches* (1934), prepared a similar work for Norfolk which was published by the Norfolk Record Society in 1944. In this appears his remarkable drawing of the unique Achievement of Arms of the Royal House of Tudor preserved in the church of Tivetshall St. Margaret, Norfolk—a record then impossible to a photographer and only possible to an artist of outstanding ability and antiquarian integrity.

S. J. Wearing found further material for his artistry in the study of *Civic Sword and Mace Rests in Norfolk*, and his work on this subject which was published in our Society's Centenary Volume, 1946, was illustrated by those wonderfully accurate drawings which made his art so valuable to local archaeology.

Under his able chairmanship of our Council, 1940-1945, the Society survived the anxieties and perils of a world war unharmed.

In 1948 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and in 1952 he became a Vice-President of our Society.

He was a kind and unassuming genius; and we shall always remember him and his work with admiration and gratitude.

P. M.

DENIS ALFRED JEX BUXTON, M.A., F.S.A.

President, 1961-1964

It is with great regret that we record the death this year of D. A. J. Buxton. This sad event took place only two months after the completion of his term of office as our President.

In 1956, he purchased the fifteenth-century Caister Castle near Great Yarmouth; and when his restoration of this historic building had been completed in 1958, he left his former residence in Essex and made his home here.

Norfolk archæologists are grateful to him for his practical interest in Sir John Fastolf's old house; and profoundly regret the loss of his great archæological knowledge so soon after his becoming a Norfolk resident.

We have indeed lost a kind and learned friend.

P.M.

ROY RAINBIRD CLARKE, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-President

Roy Rainbird Clarke was born in 1914 in Norwich, the son of W. G. Clarke, a journalist, a keen archæologist and one of the co-founders of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia—the remarkable regional society which in due course gave birth to the Prehistoric Society. From his father he inherited or was inspired with a passion for archæology and for East Anglia; and at an early age he edited a new edition of his father's classic book *In Breckland Wild*. He went up to St. John's College, Cambridge as an undergraduate in the Michaelmas Term of 1932—the very same term as I went up as a freshman to the same College, and it was in a set of rooms at the bottom of the staircase where I now keep, many years later, as a Fellow of that College, that Rainbird kept. His infectious enthusiasm for archæology and his ability as an organiser were very soon obvious to all of us. He gathered together—marshalled might be the best word—a small group of undergraduates interested in archæology. They included Sheppard Frere, Peter Hunter Blair, Terence Powell, John Mossop and myself, and soon we had been founded as an undergraduate archæological society, the first such society in Cambridge. I think we were all a little frightened of Rainbird then, because of his efficiency and his confident assurance that he knew what he was going to do in life. But he was right: his confidence was not misplaced, and it is sad that he was not permitted to go on doing what he did so well for at least the normal span of man's life.

He died suddenly on 7 May 1963, at the early age of 49. His contemporaries were all very impressed because, while he was an undergraduate, he got an article accepted by O. G. S. Crawford and published in *Antiquity*. It was on

"The Flint Knappers of Brandon" (*Antiquity*, 1935, 38) and is still the standard account of this unusual and ancient craft. He seemed to us then a man before his time; he died before his time, and his death is a great loss not only in East Anglia, in the Museum world, but in British Archæology as a whole.

He was for a few years in the Taunton Museum and then came back to his native Norfolk, first as Deputy Curator of Norwich Castle Museum where he was in charge of the archæological collections, and then as Director of the Norwich Museums. The skill and promise of his undergraduate days remained and developed. He was a fine organiser and administrator. He created and ran the Norfolk Research Committee. He was brilliant in telling the people of East Anglia the importance of the antiquities they found and what they should do with them. The Norwich Castle Museum became the centre of a remarkable organisation, and many chance finds which might have been lost or sold came to that Museum for record and safe keeping because of his enthusiasm and energy. As Professor Grahame Clark wrote in his notice of Rainbird Clarke's death in *The Times* (May 1963), "both in this respect and in his zeal for display (he) made of the Norwich Castle Museum a model of what a good regional museum ought to be and do."

When, ten years ago, I began to edit the *Ancient Peoples and Places* series, I turned at once to Rainbird Clarke for a volume on East Anglia. He was the obvious person to do it, and he did it extremely well, producing his material in exemplary form in the agreed time. A few years ago I was planning for Anglia Television a series on the past of the East Anglian region. Rainbird was the obvious choice for the archæology, and he did his part in the programmes which were eventually called "Once a Kingdom" with assured skill. The shots of him climbing and crawling in the flint mines of Grimes Graves—to which remarkable place he introduced me thirty years ago—showed his enthusiasm, and his passion to interpret all aspects of archæology to the general public.

But it would be quite mistaken to think of him as only a regional archæologist with a passion for good regional organisation and liaison with the public. He was the best kind of regional archæologist, but he was also a very good archæologist outside his region. He had been made a Vice-President of the Prehistoric Society of Great Britain, and worked hard for and with the Council for British Archæology. In successfully popularising archæology in Norfolk he never abandoned the high standard of scholarship he knew and practised in his professional papers, and in the sturdy provincialism of his outlook and achievement he always saw it as a part of the whole of human history. In the notice I have already quoted, Professor Clark says that Norfolk's loss is also England's. Rainbird Clarke's premature death is a great loss to all archæologists working in north-western Europe, and I hope that his example of dedication, efficiency, competence and knowledge may be an inspiration to others. It is a difficult one to follow.

GLYN DANIEL.

THE REV. CHARLES LINNELL, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-President

The archæology and ecclesiology of Norfolk have suffered a sad loss in the death of the Rev. Charles Linnell. In a quiet and unostentatious way he built up an impressive body of writing, largely but not entirely dealing with his native county; and he was tireless in imparting his wide knowledge, and in helping other workers in the same fields.

Charles Lawrence Scruton Linnell was born on 10 January 1913. He was educated at Gresham's School, Holt; Keble College, Oxford; and Ely Theological College. In the course of his life he was to spend a period as a Chaplain at each of these foundations. In 1951 he became Rector of Letheringsett, and remained there until he withdrew in 1961 to his Oxford college. For the last three years of his life he was Librarian and Assistant Chaplain of Keble, where despite progressive ill-health, he made a remarkable impact on the life of the college. At the time of his death, on 13 March 1964, a moving tribute to his work there was contributed to *The Times* by the Warden of Keble.

His full-length books included a delightful collection of essays, *Some East Anglian Clergy*; a volume entitled *English Cathedrals*, published with copious illustrations by Messrs. Batsford; and an edition of the *Diaries of the Rev. Thomas Wilson, D.D.*, an eighteenth-century divine, the manuscripts of which he discovered in the library at Keble. In collaboration with Lady Harrod he produced a lively and evocative *Shell Guide to Norfolk*. He contributed the chapters on Norfolk and Suffolk churches to Mr. John Betjeman's *English Parish Churches*. In a more specialized field, his *Norfolk Church Monuments*, written in conjunction with the late S. J. Wearing, will be of permanent value. He followed this up with a smaller volume on *Suffolk Church Monuments*. His pamphlet on *Norfolk Church Dedications* was another most useful publication.

Besides these more general works, he wrote a considerable number of guide books to individual Norfolk churches, thereby performing a valuable service to parishioners and visitors alike. He was a frequent contributor to *Norfolk Archæology*, the *Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society*, and other learned journals. He gave generously of his time as an adviser in all antiquarian matters, and his lectures were both erudite and enjoyable. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and served for a number of years on the Council of our own Society, whose members will long remember him with gratitude and regard.

R. W. K-C.