

OBITUARY

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Vice-President

The Schram family were refugees from Flanders during the first world war, and as long ago as 1926 the young O. K. Schram, whose father E. J. Schram had gained employment translating for the Norwich Union Fire Society, gained his Ph.D. at Caius, Cambridge, for a dissertation on the place names of Norfolk. He had gone to school in South Wales and his first junior academic post was at University College, Aberystwyth. While there he contributed *Some early East Anglian Wills* to *Norfolk Archaeology* (Vol. XXII, 350-69, 1926). Here and in his subsequent posts at the universities of Cambridge, Liverpool and Edinburgh, he was always willing to help local interests concerned with place names.

Schram always acknowledged his indebtedness to the late Dr. Allen Mawer, first Director of the English Place-name Survey, and he commenced work on the Norfolk volume of the English Place Name Society's series of county volumes as long ago as 1933. In 1937 he addressed the Archaeological Society and its Great Yarmouth branch on his work, showing his gift for trenchant controversy in an exchange with Mr. R. H. Mottram on the derivation of Trowse. Sarcastic on occasion he crossed swords at an interval of thirty years with two of Norfolk's best-known adopted sons—Walter Rye, the antiquary, and the dramatist Nugent Monck, whose title "The Big Field" for one of his last productions perpetuated the derivation of Mancroft from "magna crofta" that Schram was always at pains to contradict. It is a tragedy that his life's work on Norfolk place names has never appeared, for Dr. Schram died on 5 August 1968, on the eve of the retirement that he needed to prepare his quarter of a million card references for press. He was so well known in local archaeological circles that it was difficult to realise that he had lived away from Norfolk for most of his life. He still found time in his Norfolk vacations to hold office as president of the Norfolk Research Committee, vice-president of the Archaeological Society and to address numerous local organisations on the place names of Norfolk. Had he retired to his home in Sandringham Court, Norwich, as was his intention, he would undoubtedly have been a most active and useful member of our Council for many years. He was unmarried.

It is some consolation to know that Dr. Schram's Norfolk and English place name cards have been taken over by Professor Kenneth Cameron, of Nottingham University, on behalf of the Place-name Society.

P. H.