

## OBITUARY

THOMAS FREDERICK BARTON, M.A., F.S.A.  
1907-1965

*Chairman*

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1953-1965

It was with a deep feeling of shock that we heard of the sudden death at the age of 57 of Thomas Frederick Barton on 1 August 1965. In his yacht at the time he was engaged in one of his favourite recreations, having spent the previous day with many of his friends on one of the Society's excursions.

He was born on 23 September 1907 at Saham Toney and was educated at Haileybury and Clare College, Cambridge where he distinguished himself in classics and law. Admitted a Solicitor in 1933 he did not return to Norfolk permanently until 1946. Thereafter he soon took an active interest in local archaeological and historical affairs, which was not surprising because his family had been connected with our Society since its early days when his great-grandfather, another Thomas Barton, was a local secretary.

In 1949 he was elected to our Council and became Chairman in 1953, at about the time he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Ten years later he was made a Vice-President of our Society.

He was Honorary Archivist to the Bishop of Norwich, and at the time of his death was Editor of the Norfolk Record Society after serving as its Secretary since 1950.

His most important contribution to the study of local history will undoubtedly be his recent transcription of *The Registrum Vagum of Anthony Harison* for the Record Society. Its perceptive introduction and notes are indicative of his scholarly mind and his extraordinary skill in interpreting old documents. Another work with which he has long been connected is the indexing of all the wills proved in the Norwich Consistory Court. He had almost completed the task when he died.

Personally he was the kindest and friendliest of men. He was never unwilling to give advice when approached and his counsel was always most valuable and helpful. The Society has lost a very loyal and devoted member and those who had the privilege of associating with him will remember him with gratitude and affection.

I. C.