

OBITUARY

B. Cozens-Hardy, D.L., M.A., F.S.A.
Hon. Life Fellow

Basil Cozens-Hardy was born on February 4, 1885, and died on January 13, 1976. Educated at Norwich School, Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford, he qualified as a solicitor in 1911 and practised all his life in Norwich.

We can but summarize here the record of a very long, full and active life, concentrating on his contribution to antiquarian matters in the county and his faithful service to our Society in particular. His many other activities will have been recorded elsewhere.

The disability following injury in the first war, which necessitated his giving up active sport, could have led to his becoming interested in archaeology. Be that as it may, to those of us who were privileged to know him in his latter years there is little doubt that it was in this archaeological and historical sphere that his most passionate interest lay.

He joined our Society in 1919 and within three years had been elected Excursion Secretary. Not only did he arrange the outings, but he gave many interesting papers at the places visited – these can be read *in extenso* in our Transactions. From 1928 he was General Secretary, while continuing the excursion duties until 1936. It was in that year, when he was Sheriff of Norwich, that a successor as Excursion Secretary was found; although he continued as General Secretary until he became Treasurer in 1947. He was elected a Vice-President in 1956, remaining Treasurer until 1973. In recognition of these services for over fifty years he was made the first Honorary Life Fellow of the Society in 1972. Many of his colleagues regretted that he never became President, but he always declined to be considered for this office.

In spite of the difficulty he found in climbing stairs he most regularly attended our meetings, both of the Council and of the General Purposes Committee of which he was chairman for many years. In fact, he missed his first Council meeting in forty years when he was laid up in hospital following a motoring mishap! Until the last he was very alert to local happenings which could call for action by the Society, and as a consequence the writer was the frequent recipient of letters, terse and always effective, containing the occasional Latin phrase and written in a small neat hand.

He made many gifts to the Society over the years, including the axe used as the 'badge of office' for our Presidents.

Two important developments took place in 1922, with both of which he was closely connected. The Norfolk Archaeological Trust was formed for the purpose of holding property which would have been vested in our Society had such a course been legally convenient. Independent of the Society but described by him as 'its hand-maid' this Trust still flourishes to-day very largely due to the interest he always showed in it as secretary during its first fifty years, and more particularly because of his generosity upon which it relied in large measure in its early years. It was also in 1922 that he was appointed to the Church Advisory Committee then newly set up by the Bishop of Norwich.

In 1924 he supervised the national scheduling of Norfolk's ancient monuments – some 190 of them (a record number for any county) were submitted to the Ancient Monuments Board.

Five years later he was the prime mover in getting the Caistor St. Edmund excavations under way, and he took an active part in this 'dig' under Donald Atkinson during the next few years.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1931.

During all these years he made valuable contributions to the historical records of the county, contributing regularly to *Norfolk Archaeology*, and also to the publications of the Norfolk Record Society. He edited *The Diary of Syllas Neville 1767-1788* in 1950, and his *History of Letheringsett* appeared some seven years later. He also published, in collaboration with Ernest A. Kent, *The Mayors of Norwich 1403-1835*, and at the time of his death he was engaged in typing the family history.

With Basil Cozens-Hardy's passing Norfolk antiquarians have lost a distinguished colleague and valued friend. Those who knew him best will remember him with affection and gratitude.

I. C.

OBITUARY

The Reverend Heywood Gerard Benson Folland, M.A.(Cantab),
M.A. (East Anglia), F.S.A. 1903 – 76.

Gerard Folland was different. A scholar who never wrote a book, a gifted speaker who gave few lectures, a man of deep reflection and wisdom whose counsel was seldom sought (he only became a member of our Council in 1970), yet his name will be honoured when many, acclaimed in their day, have been forgotten. This is not to belittle the achievements of others, but to emphasise the uniqueness of Folland's activities. His concern was to preserve the records of parochial life at a time when they were little valued by most of their guardians, little consulted by scholars, and when there was little official provision for the preservation of manuscripts. Folland's distinction rests not so much in his realisation that these records were being lost through damp, decay and private acquisition (fortunately others shared this view with him), but in the vigorous and selfless manner in which he responded to this situation. He sought no praise, no reward, no thanks, no public acclaim, not even the reimbursement of his expenses; nor for most of his life did he receive any.

In 1950 he became secretary of the recently created Bishop's Committee for Books and Documents – P4 (Peck's porch picnic party) as it was affectionately called. For twenty five years he led this group of like-minded people in the monumental task of sorting, inventorying and ensuring the safe custody of the contents of about 600 parish chests throughout the diocese – a task which he completed in 1975. Folland led from the front – usually a good many paces in front – as he sought out the keys, entered the church and located the chest. Like a child with its Christmas presents, and in less time, he had scattered the contents and, with unerring sensitivity, allocated all members of his team a job congenial to their temperament and expertise. His concern for others was evident in his efforts to make members comfortable in their work, often under difficult conditions; however busy, he would welcome the casual visitor to the church and carefully explain interesting points. At the end of the day, when documents had been sorted, lists compiled, passages transcribed and everything had been neatly wrapped in brown paper and lawyer's tape, which emerged in unlimited quantities from his capacious suitcase, he meticulously repacked the chest. The job seemed done and his team dispersed. But for Folland the day had barely started. Night by night, and deep into the long winter nights, with pen and ink he transcribed into his 'Fair Books' the lists and extracts compiled by the Committee. These volumes, arranged by Deanery and kept in the Norfolk Record Office, fill four feet of shelving and provide a monumental guide to the contents of every parish chest throughout the diocese. Such was Folland's achievement.

But Folland was different, and others will remember him differently. The vitality and dynamism which to the last manifested themselves in the youthful brow and dancing eyes, spilled over into ecclesiology and theology. Those who knew his library – if it were possible to know a library which, like the man, overflowed all bounds – glimpsed the range and depth of his reading. Those who have been stunned on entering the beautiful church which he built at Bawdeswell after the wartime destruction of its medieval predecessor, will sense the range of

a mind which could conceive a monument at once so East Anglian and yet so pregnant with the symbolism and mysticism of the East.

Recognition came only when developments in social history led scholars to turn to the records he had done so much to preserve and make available. In 1975 the University of East Anglia conferred upon him the degree of M.A. *honoris causa*. He chuckled and enjoyed it all, but the only recognition he would have wished, and will surely receive, is that generations of parishioners and scholars should be served by his work.

A.H.S.
C.A.E.