

OBITUARY

Charles Boardman Jewson F.S.A. 1909-1981

President 1964-1967

The sudden death of our Chairman Charles Jewson on the 27th of June 1981 is a severe blow not only to this Society but also to the cause of local history in Norfolk. Joining the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society as a junior member in 1925, he was elected to the Council in 1959, and held the office of Chairman from 1965. He became a Vice-President in 1967. It was, however, his appointment, when he was already serving as our President, as Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1965 – the first Lord Mayor appointed as a non-political nominee of the whole City Council – which gave him the distinction, unique in our annals, of holding both offices at the same time. He was also President of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, Chairman and Treasurer of the Norfolk Record Society, and, from 1975, Chairman of the Norwich Survey. He served as a magistrate on the Norwich Bench from 1951 to 1979.

Charles Jewson was the son of Percy Jewson, Liberal M.P. for Great Yarmouth 1941-5 and Lord Mayor of Norwich 1934-5, who served on our Council from 1939 to 1959. Though attracted initially to both architecture and archaeology as a career, he qualified as an accountant and joined the family firm of Jewson and Sons in 1934, retiring as a director in 1974. Describing himself with typical self-effacement as a timber merchant, he also became a local historian of considerable range. The list of his published works spans over forty years from a modest article on the records of St. Mary's Baptist Church, Norwich, in the *Baptist Quarterly* for 1936-7 to *Simon Wilkin* published by the Centre of East Anglian Studies in 1979 and the *History of Doughty's Hospital* of 1981; and it varies in content from *The People of Medieval Norwich* of 1955 to *The timber trade with Russia 1921-1939* of 1948. To *Norfolk Archaeology* he contributed papers on the Norfolk connections of the English Church at Rotterdam (vol. 30, 1952, 324-337) and Norfolk and the Little Parliament of 1653 (vol. 32, 1961, 129-141) and a transcript of the Return of Conventicles in the Norwich Diocese 1669 (vol. 33, 1965, 6-34). He edited for the Norfolk Record Society the accounts of the 'baptised' Church in Norwich 1726-45 (*Norfolk Record Society* vol. 22, 1951, 41-64) and three registers of passengers from Great Yarmouth to Holland and New England 1637-9 (*Norfolk Record Society* vol. 25, 1954). Here as elsewhere his deep interest in Nonconformist, especially Baptist, history and his love of the Norwich region and its intellectual and cultural inheritance were central to his writing. These lifelong preoccupations flowered most notably in *The Jacobin City, a portrait of Norwich 1788-1802*, published in 1975, which broke new ground as a study, based securely on original sources, of Norwich at a time of intellectual and social ferment.

At Council and on less formal occasions of the Society, Charles Jewson's wisdom and gentleness and his modestly-carried scholarship will be sadly missed.