

OBITUARY.

The Society has suffered heavily by the loss of two valuable members of the Council, Mr. Albany Major and Mr. Gilbert White. A short account of their work is given below.

Albany Featherstonehaugh Major, O.B.E., F.S.A., aged sixty-eight, the son of Charles Messenger Major, was educated at Dulwich College under Canon Carver, and passed into the Civil Service. He was for a short time in the Admiralty, but on passing into the higher division he was appointed to the War Office.

He rose to be Principal of the "Effects" Department, which has the task of returning to relatives the wills and personal property of deceased soldiers, and during both the South African and, especially, the Great War, had considerable responsibilities and, ultimately, a large staff of about 600 clerks under him. His retirement was postponed for about a year at the wish of the War Office in order that this work might be completed under his supervision. On retirement in 1920 he was granted the O.B.E. for his services.

For many years he was an active member of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, his father having been one of the original members, and for two years, 1919 and 1920, he served as President. On the formation of a Joint Committee of the Surrey Archæological Society and Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, he became one of its first members and chairman.

After retiring, he became Assessor of Ancient Monuments for the County of Surrey under the Ordnance Survey Department, and was also Hon. Sec. of the Earthworks Committee (Congress of Archæological Societies). He was Hon. Sec. of the Viking Society, 1894-1903, Hon. Editor 1904-09, and Hon. President in 1918.

He was always especially interested in Viking days and in Viking ships, and married a Norwegian lady. By bequest he left all his fairly extensive archæological books to the Croydon Society and to the Viking Society.

In 1913 he collaborated with the Rev. Charles W. Whistler in *Early Wars of Wessex*, which was published by the Cambridge University Press. At the time of his death he was working in conjunction with E. G. Burrow of Cheltenham to produce an account of Wansdyke, and this book will appear shortly.

He also translated from Norse, for an archæological friend, a book on *Early Gothic Decorative Art*, which work, already published in Norway, may appear later in an English edition.

Gilbert White died on September 23, 1925, at the comparatively early age of sixty-four. His death is a very real loss to the Society. His life-long association with Guildford and the countryside were of incalculable value, and it is not too much to say that he was in a way the nerve-centre of our activities in West Surrey. Never of robust physique, he was indefatigable in furthering our interests, and his knowledge of local archæological matters was far-reaching.

A member of Council since 1916, he took over the duties of Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer of the Joint Museum Committee on the death of the late Mr. Ralph Nevill, and made the Museum and Library his constant care. Quite recently, in the course of his duties as Coroner, it fell to him to hold a quest on Saxon remains at Banstead, and it was at his instance that Sir Henry Lambert presented parts of the find—viz., two Pagan Saxon sixth-century vases.

The Council must necessarily hold its ordinary meetings in London, but the Guildford Museum and Library are its headquarters, and Gilbert White was singularly well fitted to carry on the work in his native town. His extreme courtesy, kindness, and old-world manner endeared him to all, and those of us who attend the annual gathering at Guildford are indebted to him for an infinity of trouble gladly undertaken for our well-faring.

The Council are gratified to learn of the success which has attended the suggestion privately circulated by a few friends and responded to by many of their members that his memory should be kept green in some way, and they understand that there is a sum of upwards of £105 lying at the Bank in the names of two members of the Society, which it is proposed to devote to some object which may appeal to the patients and Governors of the Royal County Hospital at Guildford.