

## OBITUARY

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HAROLD SANDS, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.,  
M.I.Mech.E.

## AN APPRECIATION

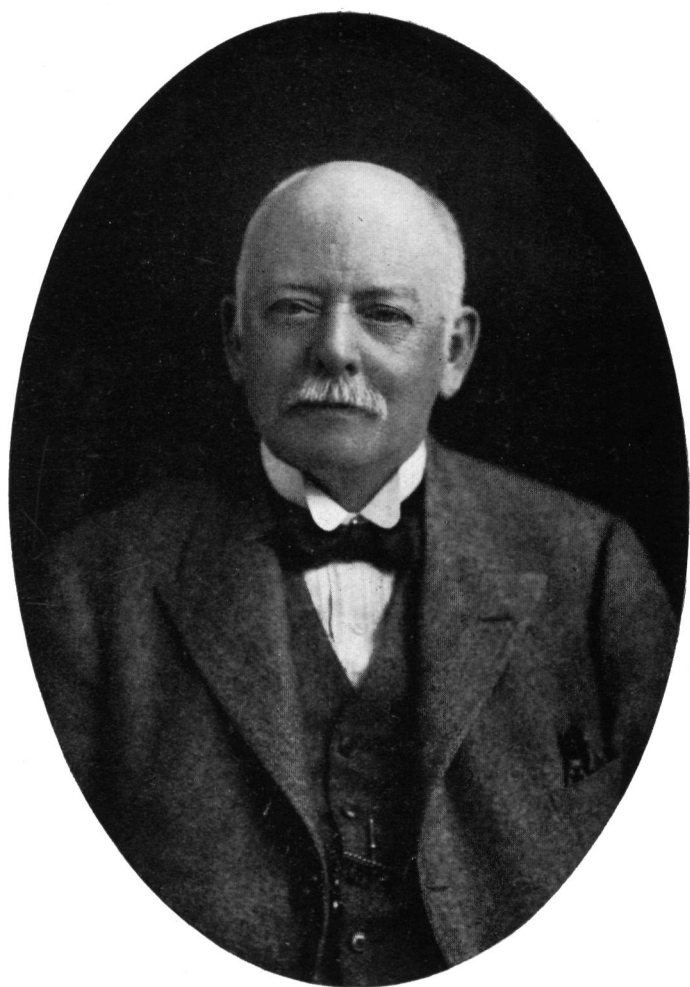
BY CHAS WM. F. GOSS, F.S.A.

The death of Harold Sands, which occurred on the 16th June, 1935, at the age of 74, came as a shock to his many friends, although his state of health, for some months previously, had awakened serious apprehension and had given rise to anxiety amongst members of the Council, but so sudden an end was unexpected.

Young Sands was partly educated with all the advantages attainable at a Nottingham school. What figure he made at that school is not precisely ascertained, but later on we find him up as a student at London University.

Contrary to expectations he declined to continue academical studies, contending for the preferability of a course of training in engineering, subsequently becoming a Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Animated by incessant habits of diligence and by an insatiable thirst for knowledge, he decided upon a study of law, and began earnestly to read for the Bar, to which he was called by the Middle Temple in 1893, but there is no evidence whatever that he conducted any serious business as a barrister.

At this period antiquarian zeal took possession of him. Being the son of a wealthy father, and therefore happily free from all financial difficulties, he was able



to indulge his inclinations in the pursuit of archaeology and antiquity, particularly in collecting material for a history of ancient castles, with which object he made excursions to all parts of the country for the purpose of surveying the ruins. This hobby afforded him constant and ever increasing pleasure, and it remained his paramount interest to the very end. In this connection he amassed an amazing amount of information of outstanding importance, spending a considerable sum of money annually in the preparation of plans of castles and drawings of the architectural details, all of which, together with a collection of lantern slides, and certain manuscript material now repose in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, where they will assuredly prove of interest and of permanent value, both to specialists and students of the subject.

While the domain of castles and everything connected with them was certainly his chief interest, upon which subject he made himself a complete master and a recognised authority, he found time for other interests. He was a keen collector of paintings, and he had a congenial passion for history, early records and manuscripts, his library being fairly rich in historical records and Anglo-Saxon aids.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1905, the meetings of which he regularly attended, and for one period served as a member of Council. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

In the year 1922 he became a member of our Society, elected a member of Council in 1925, Vice-President in 1930, and upon the death of Dr. William Martin he was chosen Chairman of Council, in which office he showed great and loyal devotion to the Society until he relinquished it in 1935.

Mr. Sands was a man of considerable ability and versatility, but literary work was not so much his concern as that of original research and the transcription

of early English records, of which he was a keen student.

The Society, however, is indebted to him for his most valuable contribution, in three parts, of "A Link in the Early History of London," which appeared in our *Transactions*, Vol. V, Parts III and IV, 1926-28, and Vol. VI, Part I, 1929. In 1930 he delivered an interesting illustrated lecture before the members of the Society on the "Excavations of Old Sarum."

Sands was not a man to hold any office lightly to which he had been elected, and during the period he was associated with the Society he took great interest in every activity, which had for its object the archaeological improvement of the members. The part he played in its control was of high value, rarely ever absenting himself from the meetings, even during the early days of his afflicting visitation. He made several donations to the funds of the Society, but his modesty was such that he never allowed his kindly actions to be brought to the notice of the members, for he had the defect of reserve, which may have been inherent or perhaps due to chronic dyspepsia, which clung to him to the end, and if perchance his manner appeared rather forbidding at first it became easy on closer acquaintance.

Sands had the faculty for retaining useful information and for employing it appropriately in conversation or when engaged in discussion, quoting with astonishing accuracy. He had a sense of humour, too, which had something subtle about it, and as a raconteur he enlivened such few gatherings as he could bring himself to attend. Those who were best acquainted with him knew him to be a man frank and fearless, with strong prejudices, immovable in his convictions, opposed to amiable tolerance, yet dependable for unchangeable regard and loyalty to those whom he thought worthy of friendship.

In the early part of 1934 he received his first warning of a serious break-down; but there was an interval of apparently restored health, and his friends began to



TO HAROLD SANDS, ESQ.  
F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., M.I.Med.E.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS  
OF COUNCIL OF THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

desire on your retirement from the Chairmanship of the Council, to place  
on record our high appreciation of your great service to the Society during  
the past five years, and to tender to you our sincere thanks for the un-  
failing interest which you have always taken in the welfare of the Society.

With this letter of appreciation is presented the First of the  
Society's silver Medals to be struck, 26th. February, 1935.

PRESIDENT.

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nurse the hope that he might completely recover his former robust health, a hope fated to a disappointment, for towards the end of the year the symptoms returned in greater severity, but in spite of his increasing suffering he presided at the Council meetings until January, 1935, when he became very frail.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Sands the Society presented him with a beautifully illuminated vellum address of appreciation of his services (reproduced on another page), together with the first silver Research Medal that had been struck by the Council, in connection with the Essay Prize. These were handed to him shortly before he passed away.

It is not easy to write all that one thinks, and feels, of honour to Sands; suffice it to say, that in his death the Society mourns not only the removal of one closely united to us in archaeological interests, but also a friend.

## BISHOP PERRIN

Bishop Perrin, who died since our last *Transactions* were published, was well known to our members from the fact that he was Rector of St. Andrew Undershaft and St. Mary Axe. He was the son of Mr. Thomas Perrin, of Westbury-on-Trym, and was born on 11th August, 1848. He was educated at King's College, London, and Trinity College, Oxford, and after his ordination spent twenty-two years in Southampton. In 1893 he succeeded to the diocese of British Columbia, which covered an area of 17,000 square miles. After eighteen years in the dominions, he was brought by the Bishop of London to be Bishop Suffragan of Willesden, a position which he occupied for another eighteen years. He resigned his bishopric at the age of 80 and was appointed Assistant Bishop in the diocese of London. A lifelong teetotaler and a strong Sabbatarian, he was human enough to appreciate determined views in others, and his genial