

I found myself talking regularly to John on the phone and when he was out Stephen would answer and we would often chat. In 2002 Historic Scotland paid for John to come to Scotland for five days as part of our Survey and it was on one of these evenings as we talked, that John told me 'although I have been unwell I am happy, life is good to me, I am well looked after at home and I have two daughters that I am proud of.' On the Friday when I saw him on to the train for the last time his last words to me were 'now that you have finished the French wares you must take on the German material, your work is for Scotland as important as John Allan's is for England.' That gave me a real lift as only the night before he had told me at some length how much

he admired John's work. It was only a few weeks later when I phoned, Stephen told me the terrible news. When my wife said I will send some flowers to your friend I realised she was right, after all these years that was just what the shy and modest man had become.

The utter futility of John's death came to me as it did to all his friends in the world of medieval ceramics as a great shock and he has left a void that will be very hard to fill. My one regret is that at John's Funeral I never got to meet Stephen and thank him for keeping me informed about John's condition during the long weeks that he was in hospital.

George Haggarty

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