

Obituary

Lionel Milner Angus-Butterworth

Lionel Angus-Butterworth, who died on 20th June 1994, was the last surviving Founding Father of the Ancient Monuments Society, being among those convened by John Swarbrick in Manchester in 1924 to establish what was expected to be the Northern arm of the S.P.A.B.

Lionel was born on 29th June 1900 at Bowdon in Cheshire, the son of Walter Butterworth, M.A., J.P., head of a family based in the township of Butterworth near Rochdale supposedly since before the Norman Conquest. He assumed the additional surname of Angus by deed poll in recognition of descent in the female line from David, Earl of Angus. Following an education at Wadham House School, Hale and Wilmslow College in Cheshire, he saw service in the last years of the Great War, in France and Belgium. On the close of hostilities he continued his education in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sheffield, following this with a degree in History from the University of Manchester and a year's course in the Faculté des Lettres at the University of Toulouse.

Against such a polymathic background he chose to throw himself not into academe but industry, becoming a director of glass manufacturing and engineering companies: the Newton Heath Glass Works in Manchester, the Palatine Glass Company Limited of Salford and John Humphreys and Sons, Engineers of Hulme in Manchester. He wrote a *History of British Table and Ornamental Glassware* and contributed sections on glass to Volumes 4 and 5 of the Oxford *History of Technology*. He remained throughout his life the acknowledged expert on the history and the potential of glass.

During the Second World War he directed companies involved exclusively in government contracts for the Admiralty, the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Aircraft Production. This led to the opening of an office in London and regular commuting from Cheshire to a service flat in Hampstead. His London base was strengthened when he became a Freeman of the City of London and Liveryman of the Worshipful Companies of Glaziers and Chandlers.

Early in life he had developed strong literary interests as an antidote to business pressures, writing essays, biographies, poems and short stories (as well as many letters to newspapers). He was President of the Manchester Literary Club, the Manchester Poetical Society and the Lancashire Authors' Association. His writings were published in Britain, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and India, and he received an Honorary Degree of D. Litt., conferred by the University of Arizona in 1977 both for his poetic work and for his book on *Robert Burns and the 18th Century Revival in Scottish Vernacular Poetry*, published by Aberdeen University Press and still a standard work.

His public life involved service as a Governor of the Royal Hospital and Home

for Incurables, the National Provident Institution, the Royal Scottish Corporation and the Royal Caledonian Schools. We however will remember him for his work for the A.M.S. He remained Honorary Director up to the time of his death and had in his seventy years of service occupied most of the Society's officerships. He was its unofficial historian, composing the "Early History of the Ancient Monuments Society" (pp. 49-84, Volume 20, 1976 of the *Transactions*). His role in those critical early years was recalled by Professor R.W. Brunskill, our present Chairman, in his Anniversary Address after the 1994 A.G.M. at Gawsworth Hall which, with melancholy timing, took place barely a week after his death. For the last ten years or so of his life he found attendance at Council meetings difficult but well into his nineties I was the recipient of beautifully written, carefully composed letters, the last one bemoaning the condition of The Crescent at Buxton, barely a hundred yards from the hotel where he lived from 1977 following the death of his wife Lilian. She was the elder daughter of Colonel George Reay, a descendant of the Reays of Dounreay Castle, Caithness. Lionel and Lilian had one son and two daughters and lived for many years at Ashton New Hall, Ashton-upon-Mersey in Cheshire, a fine Georgian house located south of the church.

To me Lionel was the Grand Old Man of the Council, saving his interventions for important matters but delivering them with a careful authority. Above all he was that link with the Society's foundations, broken now by his death but preserved particularly in the 1976 article and in the twenty-five scrapbooks on the early years of the Society donated by him to Manchester Central Library where they are still retained.

MATTHEW SAUNDERS