

## OBITUARIES

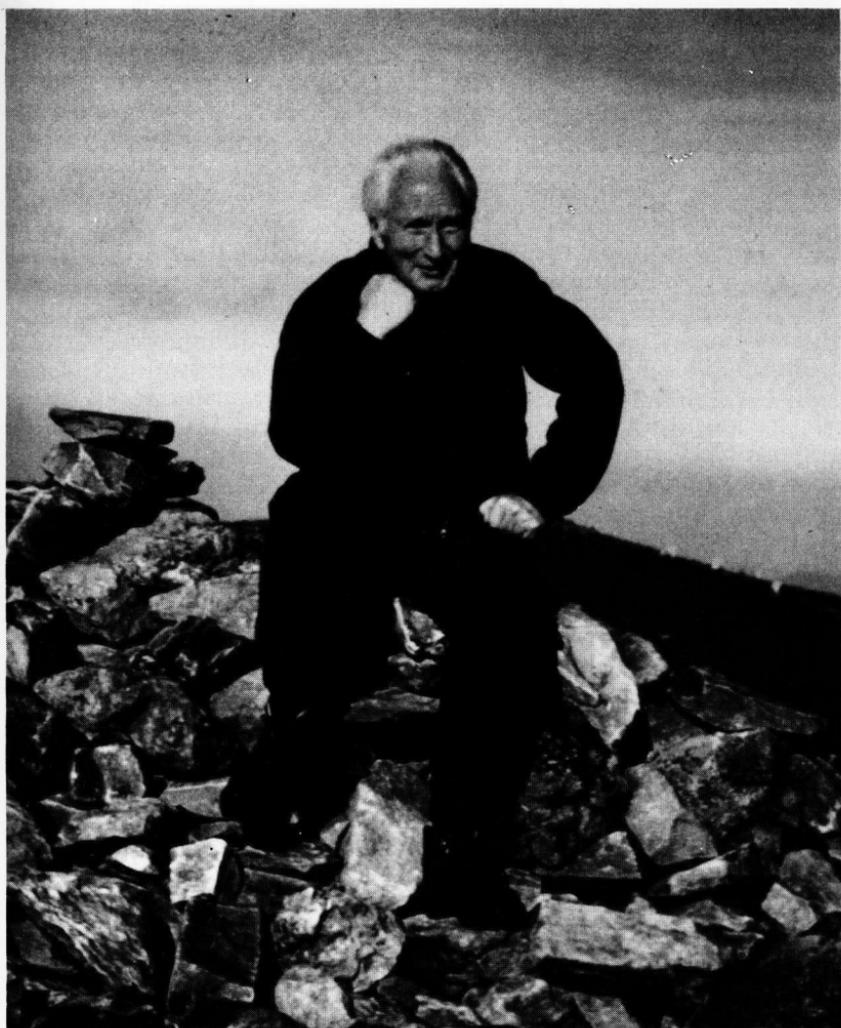
### Walter Emil Godfrey

Walter Emil Godfrey, who was killed instantly in a road accident on 6th August 1982, at the age of 69, was the son of the late Walter H. Godfrey, CBE, FSA, FRIBA, an eminent architect who was the first Director of the National Monuments Record and who was well-known for his writings on historic buildings. From his father he inherited not only a remarkable strength of character, masked, in Emil's case, by a deceptive gentleness of manner, but also an instinctive 'feel' for a building. For him, as for his father, stone and brick and wood were almost sentient things.

It was remarkable that one so very English as Emil—he was generally known by his second name—should have been born in Switzerland, where his mother was staying with a friend of the family. He spent his early years in Buxted. The family moved to Lewes in 1922, and he remained a Sussex man at heart to the end of his days. He was educated at Oundle. Schoolboys can be very perspicacious. His nickname of 'the Doge' accurately reflected that unconsciously patrician air which combined so engagingly with his innate modesty. From Oundle a History Scholarship took him to Worcester College, Oxford, and he subsequently studied architecture at the Regent Street Polytechnic (now the Polytechnic of Central London). The fact that he was at the same time working during the day as an assistant clerk of the works imposed heavy demands on him; but it provided a practical knowledge of his craft and of the materials with which it worked that was to stand him in good stead in later life.

Shortly after qualifying in 1940 he joined the forces and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers. He served in India as garrison engineer and later in Assam, where he helped to maintain the air-strips which were so vital to the success of the airlift over the hump to China. It was in India that he met, and began a life-long friendship, with a fellow-architect, Andrew Carden. After the War they set up in practice together in London and established the firm now known as Carden Godfrey Macfadyen and Sturgis in which Emil worked for the rest of his life.

For some thirty-five years then he practised as a busy London-based architect, and the record of his work is remarkable. In Oxford he was responsible for new buildings at Merton College, for major alterations over many years at Worcester College, for the reconstruction of the Holywell Music Room and for alterations and refurbishing at the Old Library and the University Church. His museum work included extensions to Barbican House and Anne of Cleves House museums in his beloved Lewes and the new cover building, museum and ancillary accommodation at Fishbourne Roman Palace. At the time of his



Walter Emil Godfrey taken by his wife on Plynlimon.

death he was engaged on alterations at the Bishop's Palace at Chichester and as consultant at the Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire. His particular interest was in the conservation and restoration of ancient buildings, and especially churches. This is the kind of work that through its arbitrary constraints demands of the architect a high measure of imagination, sensitivity and self-effacement. Emil responded brilliantly to the challenge. After the War he had worked with his father on the restoration of Chelsea Old Church and of the Temple Church, where a stone tablet pays tribute to their collaboration. As his reputation grew so too grew

the demand for his services as consultant. Eventually his fiefs extended from Beverley Minster by way of Rochester Cathedral to Lewes Priory, with innumerable parish churches, great and small, in between. For him, responsibility meant involvement. I opine that he spent far more time in travel or on the job than he did in his office.

Nor was Emil's conception of an architect confined to the drawing-board and the scaffolding. He served for twenty-eight years on the Council of the Sussex Archaeological Society, and he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1958. He was a Vice-President of the Royal Archaeological Institute, a member of both the London and Chichester Diocesan Advisory Committees, of the Cathedral Advisory Commission and of the Cathedral Tourism Advisory Group, and a Governor and Trustee of Dr. Johnson's House in Gough Square. His father had been responsible for the removal of the historic Crosby Hall from the City of London and its re-erection in Chelsea, and when the Ancient Monuments Society held its Annual General Meeting there in 1976 Emil was invited to give the anniversary address. On the basis of family records and the reminiscences of his father he gave a blow-by-blow account of the remarkable operation which was reproduced *in extenso* in the *Transactions* of the Society, volume 26 (1982), pp. 227–243. It deserves re-reading.

During the war years Emil had married Millicent, daughter of Laurence Gomme, a friend and sometime colleague of his father. She and their three daughters provided him with a happy and secure family base. In 1964 they moved from Lewes to an attractive early Elizabethan house in Steventon, ten miles south of Oxford. Although he was rarely at home during the day he soon became known and loved in the village of his adoption, where he somehow made the time to give freely of his services as honorary architect to the parish church. What some may consider his finest piece of work, simple though it is, is to be found in near-by Abingdon, where some years ago he was responsible for the imaginative and triumphantly successful conversion of the mediaeval tithe-barn at Northcourt into a modern church.

It was at Steventon, whither I myself retired in 1970, that I found Emil as my neighbour, and very soon he became my friend. Those who walked along the historic Causeway that ran in front of his house could sometimes of an evening catch a glimpse of Emil and Millicent (she acted as his 'home secretary') working together in his ground-floor study. If you went in you found a large room delightfully cluttered with books and papers of all kinds. A chair had to be cleared for the visitor, a table for any necessary business. It sometimes passed my mind that here was ample scope for a little home archaeology; they must occasionally have delved down to the lowest strata. Yet behind that apparant

chaos was an orderly, well-stocked and well-disciplined mind, with a deep sense of historical continuity and perspective. He had too a natural kindliness, a quiet charm, which endeared him to all who met him. This, with his nice sense of humour and his deep uncomplicated Christian faith, made him the most delightful of companions.

It has been said that the (conveniently alliterative) concomitants of happiness are five—faith, family, friendship, fitness and the fulfilment that comes from doing a worth-while job. By these criteria Emil was indeed a happy man. Few of those who saw him slip quietly into the middle of a PCC meeting can have reflected that here was a man in his seventieth year who had just come back from a gruelling day's work a couple of counties away. It was a cruel fate that struck him down so suddenly, before he had even claimed the retirement that he had so well earned. Only later will his family and his friends be able to find consolation in the thought that he was at any rate spared those indignities of old age which his contemporaries begin to dread.

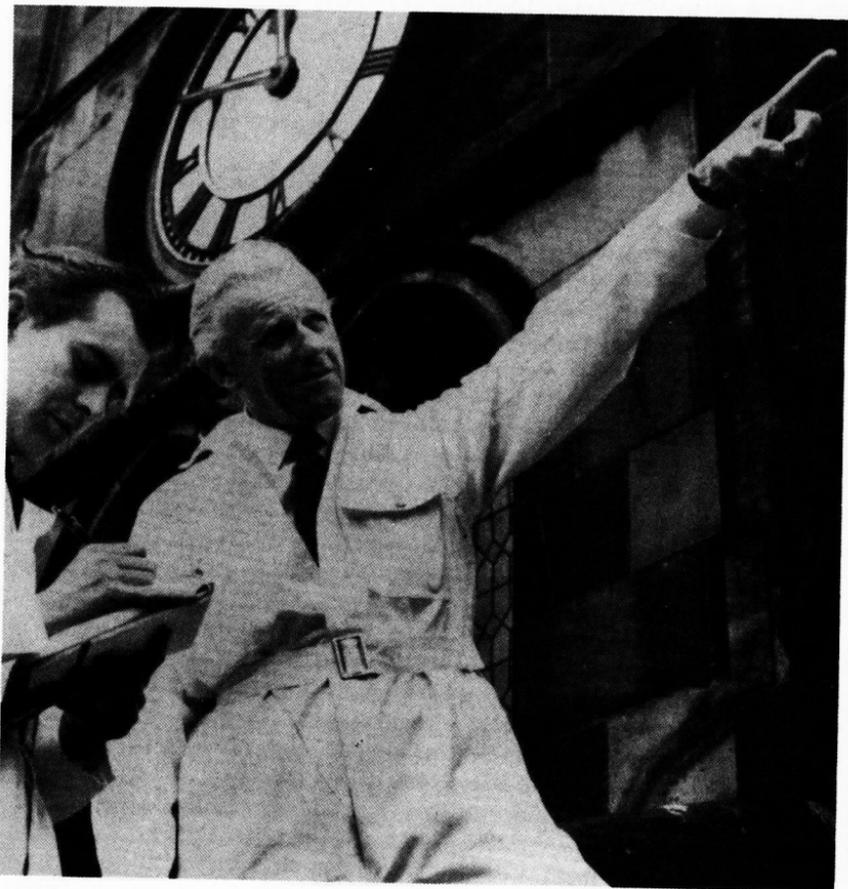
The funeral took place in Steventon Parish Church on 16th August and a memorial service was held, so appropriately, in the Temple Church on 13th October. The service was conducted by the Master of the Temple, Lord Briggs of Lewes (Provost of Worcester College) read the Lesson, and the address was given by the Venerable Max Godden (Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings). The large congregation bore witness alike to the breadth of Emil's interests and to the regard in which he was held. Doubtless some specific way will be found of perpetuating his memory. But his real memorial resides in the buildings which he conceived or conserved, and in the hearts of those who knew and loved him as a man of unusual integrity and wholesomeness.

*James Cobban*

### **Laurence Edward King**

The death of Laurence Edward King at the age of 74 on 9th December 1981 is a grievous loss not only to the Society, on whose Council he had served since 1968, but to ecclesiastical architecture and the architectural profession as a whole.

After the death of Walter Godfrey and Albert Richardson, and the retirement of Stephen Dykes Bower, only Marshall Sisson could rival him for the title of the leading ecclesiastical architect of his day, and he was given far more church work than Sisson. Almost all the historic churches of his native Essex were in his care, and he had many important commissions in London, where he had his office (in Bloomsbury), but his practice extended much farther afield. He was trusted both as an executant



Laurence King at work on Blackburn Cathedral with his lay assistant Theodore Williams.

architect and as an advisor by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, the Friends of Friendless Churches and the Redundant Churches Fund. Despite all the ecclesiastical work that came to his office for a long time he had one regret — that he did not have any cathedral in his care, though he was consultant at Exeter. At last the deficiency was remedied, and not only is his extension of Blackburn Cathedral notable in itself but the cooperation between him and the Provost was a model of what the relationship between architect and client should be. Towards the end of his life when the diocese of Europe was put on the same footing as the forty-three English dioceses and became subject to the Inspection of Churches Measure, he was chosen as the inspecting architect for all its churches and thereby gained another cathedral, that at Gibraltar.

Laurence King was given so much ecclesiastical work in the first place because he was himself a devout churchman and knew what a church was for. In this he resembled the great Victorian church architects. He did not have to be told about the importance of altar and font in the ecclesiastical scheme. When so many architects complain that they have been "inadequately briefed" what they really mean is that they do not themselves know the function of a church. Not so King. This is not the place for a full record of his religious activities, but they played at least as big a part in his life as his professional work. He was a member of the Church Assembly or General Synod, for the diocese of Chelmsford, from 1950 to 1980, when he did not seek re-election. He was Warden of the Guild of All Souls and a member of the Court of Fellows of the Society of the Faith until his death. He was a director of Inter-Church Travel and made frequent pilgrimages to the Holy Land, sometimes as a lecturer. He was a Guardian of the Shrine at Walsingham. He was a churchwarden of St. Magnus-the-Martyr in the City of London. His religious faith was deep and sincere and permeated his whole being.

Laurence Edward King was born on 28th June 1907 and was the son of Frederick and Flora King. He received his early education at Brentwood School and from there went to the Bartlett School of Architecture in the University of London, where he trained under Professor (later Sir) Albert Richardson. This experience gave him an understanding of, and love for, Renaissance and Georgian architecture that lasted all his life. He set up in private practice and taught at the Royal College of Art but had scarcely established himself when the Second World War broke out. He served throughout in the Army, mainly in the Middle East. In 1946 he resumed his private practice and his teaching and tutoring. Having been elected to the Church Assembly in 1950, as already noted, he was invited in 1951 to serve on the Archbishop's Commission on the Repair of Churches, and as its Chairman I found him a valuable member. By now his practice was rapidly growing. Among his most important commissions were the reconstruction after war damage of Wren's great churches, St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Magnus-the-Martyr in the City of London. With Arthur Knapp-Fisher he restored the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. He had charge of Thaxted church among many others in Essex and the Redundant Churches Fund entrusted him with the notable Saxon church at Chickney. He was asked to repair Little Walsingham Church after it had been seriously damaged by fire. Though his main work was repair or reconstruction, he designed a number of new churches for housing areas, among them Perivale, South Ruislip, Leigh-on-Sea and Letchworth, and he rebuilt St. Saviour's Priory in Haggerston, North-east London.

King's practice was not exclusively ecclesiastical. He did distinguished work in the educational field. His restoration after war damage of the lovely Grey Coat School in Westminster was outstanding, and he designed a cricket pavilion for his old school at Brentwood and new buildings for Eastbourne and Framlingham Colleges and the United Westminster Schools, as well as extensions to Sutton Valence and Emanuel Schools.

About ten years before he died he developed eye trouble and, after two operations for cataract, he had to rely on contact lenses for his sight. He adjusted his life remarkably well to his disability, and carried on his practice almost as before. In this period he was greatly helped by his lay assistant, Mr. Theodore Williams, who had long relieved him of the administrative work in his large practice. Later he developed an incurable cancer, but was able to arrange for the future of his practice by association with a neighbouring firm of architects in Bloomsbury. He signed the letters announcing this association only a few days before his death, and they were received after he had already died.

Laurence King never married and had many of the tastes of a bachelor. He was a member not only of the Athenaeum but of Boodles. He greatly enjoyed his connections with the City of London, of which he was a Freeman, and he was a liveryman of the Barbers' and Needlemarkers' companies and a Parish Clerk. He was Chairman of the Worship and Arts Association and of the Cordwainer Club, and a member of the Art Workers' Guild. He was elected F.S.A. (Scot.) and in due course a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1971.

Despite all his achievements he was not universally admired in the amenity world, and it is sad, but necessary in a full account, to record a whispering campaign against him for alleged, and totally unfounded, indifference to archaeological considerations in his repair work. In part, it may be suspected, this was due to jealousy of his professional success. The esteem in which he was held by most of us charged with the care of old buildings was abundantly manifested after his death. Both his funeral service at St. Thomas's, Brentwood, and the Memorial Requiem Mass at St. Magnus-the-Martyr were national and ecumenical occasions in which Roman Catholic as well as Anglican prelates took their part and in which homage was paid by large and distinguished congregations. Characteristically he had laid down in his will the form of service he desired.

*Ivor Bulmer—Thomas*

## Raymond Wood-Jones

Fellows of the Ancient Monuments Society will have been saddened to learn of the death on 10th November, 1982 at the age of 62 of Dr. R.B. Wood-Jones, a former Chairman, Hon. Editor, Hon. Architect and Member of Council of this Society.

Raymond Wood-Jones was born in Liverpool and entered Reilly and Budden's famous Liverpool University School of Architecture in 1939. His studies were interrupted by six years of service in the Royal Air Force in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East where he served as an officer in the Meteorological Branch and developed an interest in the subject which he maintained for the rest of his life. On returning to the crowded studios of the post-war Liverpool School of Architecture he graduated and gained practical experience in architectural offices culminating in that of the well-known Liverpool firm of Herbert J. Rowse and partners.

Having developed interests in the theory as well as the practice of architecture, Raymond Wood-Jones accepted a post at the University of Manchester School of Architecture where he remained a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Reader until ill-health forced his early retirement in December 1981. During this period of nearly 30 years a busy career of research, writing, teaching, practice and campaigning swiftly developed and was at all times accompanied by enthusiastic and dedicated service to this Society and the ends for which it was established.

Appointed Hon. Editor in 1953, Raymond Wood-Jones took over responsibility for the New Series of Transactions and continued in office until he published Volume 14 in 1968. At all times he made sure the pages reflected the wide range of interests represented in the Ancient Monuments Society; he encouraged young scholars and extracted contributions from established figures so that a high reputation was quickly gained for *Transactions* and many of the leading figures in architectural history and in the field of conservation are represented in its pages. He also used the editorial section *Notes and Communications* to launch an almost annual attack on the forces of greed, ignorance or short-sightedness which, especially during the late 1950s and the 1960s, were hacking away at the stock of historic buildings. Having relinquished the post of Hon. Editor he was immediately elected Deputy Chairman and, in 1969, Chairman of the Council. He served what was then the normal two-year period, stepping down in 1971. On the death of his friend and colleague of many years and in many activities, Dr. T.L. Marsden, he became Hon. Architect to the Society and continued to hold this post until his death.

Although such an active and long-standing member of the Ancient Monuments Society, Raymond Wood-Jones was also busy in many other organisations concerned with architecture. Pre-eminent among these was the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, but he also served on the Council of the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Vernacular Architecture Group. In addition he was a member of many other architectural and archaeological societies and bodies.

Raymond Wood-Jones still found time to pursue his own research interests: these were in the fields of vernacular architecture, ecclesiastical architecture, and, increasingly over the years, Gothic architecture as a whole. The results of some of his studies in vernacular architecture were published in our *Transactions* but he is best-known for his book *Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region*, a pioneering work, published nearly 20 years ago, but still the most comprehensive study available of the domestic vernacular architecture of an English region. He also carried out research with the aid of the Neale Bursary of the RIBA and a Nuffield Fellowship into the traditional domestic architecture of South-West Suffolk but was never able to find time to put the report submitted at the conclusion of this work into published form. His interest in church design was long-standing and had formed the basis of his MA thesis in 1953, but from an emphasis on the problems of the modern church architect he turned increasingly to those presented to architects of the greater churches and parish churches of the Gothic phase both in this country and Spain. Locally the appointment as Hon. Historian of Manchester Cathedral (after a spell as Cathedral Architect) fostered this interest and a sabbatical term spent in Spain and many subsequent visits encouraged the latter interest. Sadly, little was published, but some idea of what we might have enjoyed may be found in his contributions to *The World's Great Architecture* edited by Patrick Nuttgens and published in 1980.

Much of the research activity of Raymond Wood-Jones was fostered and guided for ten years by Professor R.A. Cordingley and in his work as a lecturer in the Manchester University School of Architecture Raymond tried to maintain the Cordingley tradition of a high standard of achievement but a high level of tolerance, of truly drawing from the student his own talents rather than instructing in whatever were the fashionable architectural tricks of the day. The practical application of architectural theory was also an important component of the Cordingley tradition and right until the end of his university career Raymond Wood-Jones continued to lecture to undergraduate and post-graduate students on the techniques of

building conservation and repair as well as on the history of architecture. Nor was his teaching confined to the School itself. Right from the days when extra-mural lecturing meant lugging a heavy box of glass slides from one magic lantern to another he delighted many audiences in the Manchester area and more widely with the breadth of his knowledge of buildings.

The practice of architecture was also one of the many activities of Raymond Wood-Jones. His work at Peover Hall was described in *Transactions* and conservation work quite naturally formed the bulk of his practice but he also designed several churches, was for several years Architect to Manchester Cathedral, and gave freely of his advice and experience while serving on the Diocesan Advisory Committees of Chester and Blackburn.

Yet for all his many other activities it is still as a vigorous campaigner for the conservation of buildings that Fellows of this Society will remember their former Chairman. Over and over again he represented the Society at Public Inquiries and more often than not his arguments were sufficiently persuasive to ensure success in causes which had seemed lost. For many years he worked through the Manchester Historic Buildings Committee, which he had helped to found, to preserve buildings ranging in date from Baguley Hall, through Hough End Hall to the great Victorian warehouses, and, again, he had many successes. Carefully picking accurate but devastating words his proofs of evidence, his printed articles or his remarks in radio interviews made unassailable the case for preservation of major and minor works of architecture alike. Although not all his campaigns were successful it must be a source of joy to this Society as to his widow and children that his doughty fights of ten, twenty and thirty years ago have helped so significantly in securing the high degree of public acceptance of the cause of architectural conservation which he maintained so resolutely.

R. W. Brunskill

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The Society has also lost by death two other eminent members. Dr. Margaret Envys Wood (Mrs. E.G. Kaines-Thomas), who died on 13th June 1981, was a member of the Council from 1966 to 1972, when she was elected a Vice-President. She is best known for her classic book, *The Mediaeval House*, which was reprinted before her death, and in earlier life had done notable work for the *Victoria County Histories*. She and her husband, who shared her antiquarian interests and survives

her, lived at Donnington Dene, Newbury and for many years they were the mainstay of the Newbury District Field Society, one of the most vigorous of local amenity societies.

Matley Moore, who died on 20th January 1982, lived with his sister Elsie, who survives him, in that beautiful half-timbered mediaeval house Greyfriars in the heart of Worcester. He had made arrangements for it to pass eventually to the National Trust. It is almost incredible to find such a house with its beautiful garden at the centre of a large town, and its survival says much for the loving care that Matley Moore and his sister bestowed on it. The great hall was used for many meetings of amenity societies. Through Matley Moore's life was mainly spent in Worcestershire, he played some part on the national stage in the amenity world, particularly in the matter of historic churches.

*I. B-T*