

# Obituaries

## Mr George Buchanan

George Buchanan, who died on 28 June 1989 at the age of 85, was one of the earliest members of the Friends of Friendless Churches and through it became a Fellow of the Society. Professionally, he was a journalist. After gaining experience with the Belfast *Northern Whig* and other papers he became a sub-editor on *The Times*, where his duties included the sub-editing of the Court Page, a meticulous task that he hated, and he migrated to the *News Chronicle*, where he wrote a column, 'Between the Headlines', that gave more scope for his individuality. His real interests, however, were in creative writing, and a stream of novels, plays, poems and autobiographical works flowed from his pen. For many years he was a leading figure in the Société Européenne de la Culture.

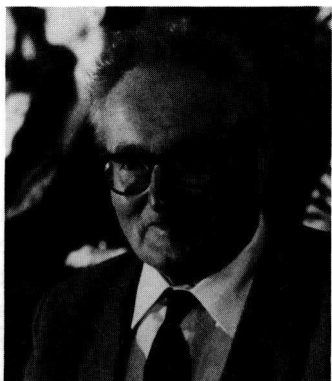
George Henry Perrott Buchanan had been born near Larne, Co. Antrim, on 9 January 1904. He was the son of a clergyman and was educated at the local grammar school and at Campbell College, Belfast. On the out-break of war he joined R.A.F. Coastal Command and served in Sierra Leone, with the Free French in French Equatorial Africa, and in night attacks on U-boats in the Bay of Biscay. His first marriage—to Mary Moore in 1938—was dissolved in 1945. In 1949 he married a widow, Noel Pulleyne Ritter, but she died two years later. In 1952 he married Janet, daughter of the 1st Viscount Margesson, who also died but not before she had borne him two daughters. Finally in 1974 he married Sandra Gail McCloy, who survives him along with his two daughters.

IVOR BULMER-THOMAS

## Dr E. A. Gee

Archaeology, archives and architectural history—Eric Arthur Gee, 1913–89, was equally at home in all three disciplines, and was always happy to share his knowledge in discussion, lecturing and writing. The early years of his career included studies at Birmingham University under Philip Styles and excavating at Maiden Castle under Mortimer Wheeler. War interrupted whatever career he had in mind, and service with the Royal Artillery in the desert was followed by a spell with the Intelligence Corps in the Middle East. In later years his light-hearted reminiscences of this latter posting formed the basis of many hilarious and greatly-enjoyed talks.

Returning to civilian life he proceeded to Balliol College, Oxford, where he was awarded a D.Phil. for his thesis on the architectural history of the Oxford colleges in the medieval period, based largely on the extensive college archives. Spin-offs from this work appeared in *Oxoniensia* (Oxford Carpenters) and the *Journal of the Royal*



Dr Eric Gee  
*Yorkshire Evening Press*

*Archaeological Institute* (Oxford Masons), both major contributions to medieval history. On leaving Oxford he took the decisive step in his career by joining the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England in its first post-war intake. Of the five successful candidates, Eric Gee headed the list and the writer of this tribute brought up the rear. After a short spell in London he was assigned to the Cambridge office where he worked under the benevolent but expert eye of E.A.R. Rahbula. In 1952 he was despatched northwards to York to set up and take charge of a new office to compile an inventory for that City. The enormous wealth of buildings and antiquities in York together with its extensive archival collections provided him with exactly the sort of challenge his intellect required. The last decade of his work in York was concentrated on the survey of York Minster, to the Dean and Chapter of which he was honorary architectural adviser.

The R.C.H.M.E. system of recording provided a type of continuous but anonymous publishing, which is probably why, as with many other members of these organizations, Eric produced no major publication, as he perhaps ought to have done. However, he was a Fellow both of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Royal Historical Society, and was a member of numerous learned societies to the publications of so many of which he contributed valuable articles. He was a very early member of the Vernacular Architecture Group, to which he brought a valuable down-to-earth approach in the study of domestic architecture. He was a great supporter of its annual conferences and was President from 1966–9. For many years he served on the York Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, where his encyclopaedic knowledge of Yorkshire churches proved an invaluable asset. Perhaps his best contribution to learning was through the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. He was elected to its Council in 1956 and served as President from 1969–74.

He retired from the Royal Commission in 1978 and continued with all his varied interests until illness cut short his activities in 1986. His death in 1989 broke a link with the pre-World War II antiquarian world with its much wider base of knowledge than is customary today.

T.W. FRENCH

## Mr C. S. Martin

Clifford Samuel Martin's name is not widely known in the amenity world, but as he was one of the leaders in the fight to save the church of St Mary, Sandwich, from which so many consequences have flowed, his death calls for a note of gratitude in these pages. Sandwich, where he lived for most of his life, is almost wholly a medieval town with three parish churches and an almshouse chapel. St Mary's lies at the western entrance to the town and though not of outstanding architectural interest, save for a roof of unusual construction, it is replete with features of exceptional value, and when the diocese proposed to demolish it in 1952 Sam Martin and other local residents felt obliged to resist and invoked the help of the writer of this note, then Chairman of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. What began as a local dispute assumed a national significance when the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, took over personally the campaign for demolition. The Association of Friends of St Mary's was formed to save the church and Sam Martin, as a bank official, became its honorary treasurer. After a desperate struggle the Archbishop had to yield on St Mary's, but he succeeded in laying down that the Historic Churches Preservation Trust must not try to save churches that the diocesan authorities did not wish to preserve, which led to the formation of the Friends of Friendless Churches, and this in turn to the Bridges Commission and the creation of the Redundant Churches Fund. St Mary's is now safe in the hands of the Fund, and so is St Peter's, which Sam Martin's house overlooked and in whose preservation he also took a keen interest, an object happily achieved without the trauma of St Mary's. It was naturally in St Mary's that his memorial service was held in the presence of a large and grateful congregation. His wife, Helen, had pre-deceased him, and increasing weakness led him to move to a nursing home in Sandwich Bay. His son and daughter-in-law continue his association with the Society.

IVOR BULMER-THOMAS

## Monsieur Bertrand Monnet

The death of Bertrand Monnet in his eightieth year on 12 June 1989 deprived the Society of a distinguished Honorary Life Fellow and a valued collaborator in our work. He had held the high French posts of *Architecte en Chef des Monuments Historiques* and *Adjoint à l'Inspection Générale*, and at the time of his death he was President of the Franco-British Union of Architects, but the work for which he will be chiefly remembered is the care of Strasbourg Cathedral, of which he was the Surveyor for many years. He wrote several monographs on its history and developed some novel theories about its construction. His association with the Society began

a long time ago when he became interested in the use of siphon tubes as a means of combating rising damp, a method then strongly advocated by the late Colonel Bertram Shore in the Society, and he accompanied Colonel Shore on visits to examples of its use in England. He never failed to make contact with the Society on his frequent visits to Great Britain. He was appointed an Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, an Officier des Palmes Académiques, a Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres and a Commandeur de Saint-Grégoire-le-Grand. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters.

IVOR BULMER-THOMAS

## Miss Elizabeth Rawson

Classical scholarship as well as the world of amenities suffered a severe loss on 19 December 1988 by the death of Elizabeth Rawson. She had gone to China as a Visiting Professor at Nankai University but was taken ill and died in Peking.

Elizabeth Donata Rawson was the child of Graham Rawson, architect, and Marion Rawson, an Italophile, and was born on 13 April 1934. She showed her aptitude for Greek and Latin studies at St Paul's Girls' School and at Somerville College, Oxford, where she gained the expected First Class in Greats. She began her academic life as a Craven Fellow at Oxford and then migrated to Cambridge as Leverhulme Research Fellow at New Hall and subsequently as a Fellow and Lecturer of that college. Another chapter in her life opened in 1973 when she became a Visiting Lecturer at two American universities, first at Pennsylvania State University and then at Princeton. In 1980 she found her ideal niche as a Fellow and Tutor in that nursery of classical scholarship, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, posts which she held till her death.

She made notable contributions to classical studies in three books—*The Spartan Tradition in European Thought*, *Cicero: A Portrait*, and *Intellectual Life in the late Roman Republic*. She became Honorary Secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies in 1985 and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1988.

IVOR BULMER-THOMAS