

Obituaries

HORACE EDGAR GREEN (1886-1973)

Horace Edgar Green died in hospital on September 15th, 1973, after a short illness, aged 87 years.

He joined the Liverpool Botanical Society in 1923 and soon afterwards became its secretary, and then was President on many occasions between 1936 and 1951. From 1951 until 1970 he was editor of the Society's Quarterly Bulletin, and also did invaluable work typing the original hand-written manuscript of *Travis's Flora of South Lancashire* before it was revised and condensed. His active mind was continually probing into problems in his favourite subjects of seed dispersal and natural selection, and this resulted in a flow of papers that were regularly read at meetings of the Liverpool Botanical Society. Here also he showed his accurate and detailed drawings of seeds and fruits and his paintings of fungi. Until the last few years, when public transport in his area became difficult, he led field meetings annually in the Deeside district. For these services he was made an Honorary Member of the Liverpool Botanical Society in 1951. He was further recognised when he received an honorary degree of Master of Arts at Liverpool University in July 1961.

H. E. Green joined the Botanical Society of the British Isles in 1951 and attended some field meetings during the 1950s. At the northern B.S.B.I. meeting held in Manchester in October 1953, he exhibited a groundsel from Ffrith in Flintshire which had been puzzling him for some years. Dr Effie Rosser was interested in the plant and, after research, published the results in *Watsonia*, 3: 228-232 (1955), giving the plant the name *Senecio cambrensis* Rosser. His herbarium, including a specimen of *S. cambrensis* collected at Ffrith, has been given to the City of Liverpool Museums.

As well as an interest in botany, he devoted much of his time during the last 40 years to his interest in local government, particularly to education. He was elected chairman of the Neston Urban District Council in 1947, and also served as manager of several Wirral schools and as a governor of West Kirby Grammar School for Girls.

After retirement in 1949 from his post as an insurance official in Liverpool, his wide interests so completely filled his time that he often wondered how he had ever found time for his job.

Horace Edgar Green remained a bachelor. His place in Merseyside and Deeside botany will be difficult to fill.

V. GORDON

J. DONALD GROSE (1901-1973)

Joseph Donald Grose died in February 1973 after an operation. He had been in poor health during the previous year, which caused him to lose touch with botanical friends. All his life had been spent in Wiltshire, where, after finishing his education, he entered the family business of jewellers in Swindon. Retiring in 1967 he continued, with his wife and son, to enjoy botanising in Wiltshire, having moved out to the village of Liddington on the edge of Marlborough Downs.

Grose joined the Society in 1931 and used to contribute modest parcels of critical plants from Wiltshire to the Exchange Club Section from 1933. With his wife he began to work out the Wiltshire flora and most Wednesday afternoons and Sundays were spent

in botanical explorations and the amassing of records. In the years before the Second World War the writer has many memories of joining these expeditions, often with Patrick M. Hall. He became acquainted with our member Miss Gullick (now Mrs B. Welch), who was working from Salisbury – the other side of the county from Swindon; but most of his work was done in the company of Mrs Grose. Grose did not travel much in the British Isles and never, I believe, visited Scotland. Holidays were usually spent in Devon or Cornwall. Two visits were made to the Isles of Scilly in 1939 and 1952 and were productive of many records, as J. E. Lousley testifies in his *Flora*. Alderney too was visited and resulted in 'Notes on some Alderney Plants', *Rep. botl Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.*, 11: 561–564 (1937).

In 1957 the Natural History Section of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society published at Devizes his *Flora of Wiltshire*, which he had been working towards for many years. The *Flora* is written in the traditional style as regards the first part, but part two entitled 'The Vegetation of Wiltshire' was an innovation since copied by later *Flora* writers. During the years 1942–1954 lists of species were compiled from nearly 5000 localities covering the whole county. These records were arranged and discussed in nearly 100 pages of letterpress. From 1938 Grose published each year in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* lists of plant records from the county. These continued annually for seventeen years until 'Wiltshire Plant Notes (18)' appeared with subtitle 'First Supplement to the *Flora of Wiltshire*'. They were continued until No. 29, when he retired from the *Flora* committee. Other compilers have carried on the publication.

Other papers by Grose in the same *Journal* are:–

The impact of war on the Wiltshire flora (1944).

The pioneer vegetation of the bed of Coate Water (1945).

Botanical references in the Saxon Charters of Wiltshire (1947).

A botanical survey of Spye Park (1954).

A botanical survey of Colerne Park (1955).

Colour variations in Wiltshire flowers (1967).

A catalogue of prehistoric plant remains in Wiltshire (with B. E. Sandell) (1964).

Occasionally in recent years I used to receive a moss or two from him with a request for names, in conjunction with some find or problem on other plants. It is a source of regret that he never took up bryology. Wiltshire is an interesting county for bryophytes and lichens and in need of serious workers on these groups, as was Grose on the flowering plants. Wiltshire is the poorer for his passing and our sympathy goes to his wife and son, in whose care his herbarium remains.

E. C. WALLACE

STANLEY T. JERMYN (1909–1973)

Stanley Thomas Jermyn died suddenly on September 23rd, 1973, at the age of 64. At the time of his death he was just completing the final revision of the manuscript for his major work, the *Flora of Essex*, already partially type-set in preparation for publication in late 1974. Those of us who worked with him on this project deeply regret that he never lived to see the fulfilment of a life-long ambition.

Although Stanley Jermyn had been recording the distribution of plants in his native Essex since 1946 it was not until the early 1960s that he began collecting records for the *Flora* in earnest and it was at about this time that he began to take an active interest in the then recently formed (1959) Essex Naturalists' Trust. Working part-time he took over as treasurer in 1965, then in 1966 he became part-time and by 1968 full-time hon. secretary/treasurer, rapidly building up the E.N.T. to be the largest county trust, with a membership of nearly 6,000 and responsibility for 33 reserves. It was this tremendous

work for the conservation movement which undoubtedly delayed the production of his Flora, but which on the other hand was instrumental in turning public opinion in favour of conserving the remaining flora and the fauna of the county.

Stanley was very proud of the fact that in 1962 he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, for he had very little formal education and to his considerable credit was largely self-educated. Born at Benfleet in 1909, one of ten children, he suffered severe illness as a child and had to leave school at 14 to work in a warehouse at Southend. He educated himself from the age of 16, studying by correspondence course in the evenings after work, and very soon moved into the office of the company. In the 1930's as a member of the South Essex Natural History Society he developed a keen interest in natural history and in botany in particular; he was later to become secretary to the Society (1949-57) and a vice-president on moving to Hutton in 1958. He became a B.S.B.I. member in 1947 and began to build up his extensive herbarium as well as collecting for the British Museum. It was during this period that he really began to specialise in botany and made lasting friendships with numerous other botanists, who gave him the encouragement and advice which enabled him to acquire the knowledge and expertise to become a first class field botanist.

In 1957 he joined the London Natural History Society and at about the same time became very active in the Essex Field Club, leading field meetings for both societies and lecturing widely, often with his brother Leonard C. Jermyn, a keen photographer, who pioneered the stereophotography of plants. It was during this phase that he began seriously compiling comprehensive records. Initially he worked jointly with Bernard T. Ward, collecting and collating the Essex data for the *Atlas of the British Flora* published in 1962. He then went on compiling data, on the large county maps that the late Eric Saunders had designed for Essex Field Club recorders, in preparation for a Flora of the county. He appears to have first started a manuscript in about 1964-65 and worked very rapidly to completion of the first draft by 1968. The bulk of the records were his own and he must have covered well over 60,000 miles of the county in his car. There can be few places that he did not visit: he knew nearly every wood, marsh, lane and roadside verge like the back of his hand and recorded methodically at every season of the year.

It was during these intensive years of recording that he moved on from being an academic botanist to take up a new and consuming interest, the conservation of the fast-disappearing wild-life habitats in Essex. On moving to Felsted in 1965 he had an office built on the side of his garage to house his records and extensive herbarium of some 15,000 sheets, but by the late 1960's this became full of Trust paperwork. Partly as a result of seeing some of George Gibson's herbarium sheets piled by the boilers in the Saffron Walden Museum, he became concerned about donating his herbarium to an institution that would value it in the long term. As his Flora was nearly complete and the herbarium no longer so necessary for reference, he suddenly decided to crate up the entire collection and in 1971 had it shipped to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. His original manuscript drafts and data sheets however are to be deposited with the Essex Records Office.

In addition to mounting appeals to purchase new reserves, he fought campaigns to avert threats to the localities of rare plants and was so persuasive that he won many council officers and farm bailiffs over to his way of thinking. By the time of his death he had built up such a reputation for prompt action that he was inundated with requests for wild life surveys, conservation plans and advice from local councils and countless individuals concerned about particular habitats. He still found time, however, to write a personal letter to young children who wrote to him to ask what they could do for the Trust. He was constantly trying to keep an eye on the rare and endangered, and built up stocks in his garden of a number of species to save the local races should they be extinguished in the wild, distributing seed to organisations both here and in America. It was as well that he did, for despite his efforts *Bupleurum falcatum* was wiped out in its classic site by fire in 1962; the famous Fyfield Pea locality was destroyed by hedgerow

removal in 1971 (although he was warned in time to collect some tubers), and, but for his advice on management, *Tordylium maximum*, now confined to one locality, would have met a similar fate.

It was as a result of his efforts to preserve the beautiful *Melampyrum arvense* from extinction in Essex that I came to know Stanley Jermyn in 1967. His policy, rather ahead of his time, was to publicise the rarity of a species, to assist in persuading land owners to preserve its habitat and amateur botanists to report to him any undisclosed localities. I had known of a site for *M. arvense* for many years but had been unaware that only one other existed in the county. From then on we worked together, making detailed records of the locations of rare and local species, initially to illustrate his Flora with maps showing the distribution patterns of local species but with the longer term aim of formulating a conservation policy.

Stanley Jermyn described the Essex flora with a detail and an affection that will never be surpassed. His efforts to preserve the Essex flora for the generations to come must be continued by those of us who care with an even greater fervour in the decades ahead lest his book, intended as a living guide to the Essex countryside, becomes a detailed historical indictment of man's destructive power and wilful neglect of the beauty around him.

K. J. ADAMS

ROY LESLIE SMITH (1892–1973)

Roy Smith died in St David's Hospital, Cardiff on April 6th, 1973, at the age of 81.

He was born in Cardiff on June 26th, 1892 and educated at Howard Gardens Secondary School, Cardiff. On leaving school he was apprenticed to a firm of electrical contractors and, from 1934 until his retirement in 1965, was employed by the Cardiff Corporation Transport Department as a maintenance electrician.

Roy Smith joined the Society, then the Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles, in 1921. He was keenly interested in the adventive flora and thoroughly explored the docks and waste ground in Cardiff and Barry, deriving great pleasure in the often difficult task of identifying unfamiliar alien plants. Although the adventive flora was his main interest, he did not neglect the native plants and rendered considerable help to the writer in the preparation of his *Flora of Monmouthshire*. Many members of the Society will recall the enthusiasm with which he conducted them over the docks to see some particularly interesting alien plant and search for others.

In association with the writer he contributed to the *Rep. botl Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.* articles entitled 'The adventive flora of the Port of Cardiff' (1925), 'Additions to the adventive flora of the Port of Cardiff' (1926) and 'Notes on the adventive flora of Cardiff' (1938). With Dr R. Melville he contributed to the *Rep. botl Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.* for 1927 'Adventive flora of the Metropolitan Area.'

Owing to the development of cataract his eyesight deteriorated during the last few years of his life. An operation restored his sight to some degree but insufficiently for him to continue botanising in the field.

He formed a small herbarium of adventive plants which he presented to the National Museum of Wales.

A. E. WADE