

Obituaries

EVELYN MARY BOOTH
(1897—1988)

The acknowledged contribution of amateurs to British and Irish botany has particular relevance to the life of Evelyn Booth. Coming from an Irish Ascendancy background, she was born in Co. Wicklow, later settling at Bunclody, where Co. Carlow borders Co. Wexford, and here she spent most of her life. Before World War II her interests were centered round horses and pursuits like fishing, though she was always a gardener, and this made it possible for her to extend her interest to wild plants when chance changed her life in the early years of the war. She was recalled from nursing in Essex to care for her ailing mother in Ireland, and at this time met Edith Rawlins, a dedicated and determined member of the Wild Flower Society, who was tutoring families in Evelyn's home county of Carlow, and in neighbouring Co. Wexford. They began to botanise together, Evelyn's considerable energies were engaged, and as her life-long friend and neighbour Daphne Hall-Dare has said, "thereafter, wherever she went, her head was down in search of some treasure".

From this time, in the 1940s, to her death in December 1988, Evelyn Booth never stopped contributing to botany. The early work during the war, hunting and ticking "on slag heaps, bogs and mountains", bicycling to see rarities with her cousin Daisy Barton (also a botanist) and with Miss Rawlins, developed into a most thorough piece of county recording and research. This resulted in a major contribution to the B.S.B.I. mapping scheme in the 1960s, when she covered the whole of Counties Carlow and Wexford, and culminated in the useful and approachable *Flora of Co. Carlow* which was published in 1979. This has the distinction of being the first Irish county Flora to be written by a woman. The final stages of its production were helped by Maura Scannell, herself a major contributor to modern Irish floristic knowledge, notably by her co-authorship of *The flora of Connemara and the Burren* (1983) with Professor D. A. Webb. Evelyn Booth also published notes on finds from various parts of Ireland in the *Irish Naturalists Journal*. A complete bibliography of her work by Dr E. Charles Nelson (himself a good friend and gardening colleague of Evelyn) will appear in *Glasra* 1 (n.s.), published by the National Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin.

It is difficult to single out any one quality which made Evelyn Booth the remarkable character she was. Her place in the lives of countless friends, botanical and otherwise, could never be neatly labelled. A visit to Lucy's Wood, her house above Bunclody and the River Slaney, always involved a whole range of pleasures and interests: her most delightful garden (that of a true plantswoman), her sometimes wonderfully salty humour, tranquil rooms full of books and flowers where she filled visitors with good food and inspiration. A typical memory comes from David Webb, of a botanical meeting for serious work on publications. Of course lunch was provided – an extremely good salmon. Appreciative comments only brought the most casual reply from Evelyn, "Oh I thought you might enjoy one, so I got up early and caught it".

My own long-term memories centre on her courtesy. Even when I was but a child 'woof', and later as a very shy amateur, she always treated me as if there was no doubt that I was a real botanist too. I owe her much of the confidence that has caused me to remain one, and I am sure that others share this debt. More recently, during her last years, I have had the benefit of her indomitable spirit and humour. Suffering a broken hip, uncertain eyesight, and what she complained of as "dicey puff", there was never any withdrawal from plants or friends. How inspiring it was to have a lady of 89 commenting in very modern language on having ripped an arm on barbed wire while making one of her regular seed collections for the National Botanic Garden, and at the same time showing quite youthful excitement about a proposed *Hammarbya* hunt, and berating the insensitivity of her garden help, whom she called "the veg-brutal".

When I was asked to write a tribute to Evelyn, only affection and my own Co. Carlow background seemed to justify my involvement. But during the year since her death, a personal jigsaw has been completed. The pieces in the puzzle have been Miss Rawlins, fanning Evelyn's enthusiasm for wild plants, and coincidentally teaching me Latin names as I learned to talk at the house in Borris where she was tutoring my aunt; the counties of Carlow and Wexford which involved so much of Evelyn's

life, and gave me so much of my early experience of botany; and Evelyn herself, who kept me in touch with Irish plantlife at times when I was far away. In 1989 I became, together with John Akeroyd, B.S.B.I. recorder for Co. Wexford, and the chance this gives me to use and build on Evelyn's work seems to make sense of the gratitude I feel for her existence as both friend and colleague. The power of the amateur tradition, which Evelyn Booth with her lively dedication embodied so finely, must never be underestimated. The continuity, the intricate web of communication and encouragement, can often make valuable sense and records out of apparent trivia. Some two years before her death, when I was gathering biographical information on Miss Rawlins, Evelyn sent me the prophetic present of a tatty old notebook which turned out to be Miss Rawlins' checklist for Co. Wexford. This is proving a rare and valuable addition to the county records, and I will always smile when I think of Evelyn's prescience, and remember the utterly botanical phrase she used when she wrote to say she wanted me to have the notebook "because no-one will know what it is *when I'm over*".

R. FITZGERALD

JOHN CAMPBELL GARDINER
(1905—1989)

The death on 4 September 1989 of Jack Gardiner, as he was known with much affection to many of the older members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, breaks a link with the past in the development of the Society. Although the Society was formed in the middle years of the 19th century, it almost ceased to exist during the period of World War II. A reconstituted society had been formed shortly after the end of the war and was much in need of a period of stability. When a minor crisis arose in 1958 with the resignation of the Honorary Treasurer, a review was made of the then limited membership of the Society and a decision was made to approach Mr Gardiner, of whom nothing more was known to us other than that he had joined the Society in 1949, was a chartered accountant and lived in London. It was left to me as Honorary General Secretary at the time to write to Mr Gardiner, which I did, receiving a reply from Mrs Gardiner saying he was abroad but she thought that he would consider our invitation favourably. That he did so was to be very much to the benefit of the Society and I have never ceased to wonder how fortuitous our choice had been.

Jack Gardiner was born on 20 November 1905 at Shahjapur in India where his father, following several generations of military service by the Gardiner family, was serving with the Royal Engineers. His father was killed on active service in 1914, during World War I, when Jack was nine years old. As a result Jack was educated at Wellington College, where he developed an interest in science, and for a while he oscillated between following an academic scientific career and entering the business world as an accountant. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1929, and gaining one of the Institute's prizes in the process, he became a science student at a University Extension Course. There he met his future wife, Marjorie (Wendy) Massey, whom he married in 1933. It was, however, a common love of music rather than test tubes that had brought them together.

The responsibility of marriage made him settle for the business world and Jack became a partner in a City firm of accountants but was seconded to the Ministry of Food in the war years. In 1959, a year after becoming Honorary Treasurer of the B.S.B.I., he was persuaded by Sir Charles Clore to accept the post of executive director of Sears Holdings Limited, an office he was to hold for the following 13 years. By a series of takeovers the concern gained control of much of the British retail trade, including that of footwear, cars and Selfridges. His involvement in the motor industry was somewhat to his own amusement as he could not drive a car and had no desire to do so. He often said that in his youth he preferred to ride horses.

His period of office as Honorary Treasurer of the B.S.B.I. coincided with the closing stages of the Maps Scheme and the publication of the *Atlas of the British Flora* in 1962, which was to prove to be a turning point in the study of natural history. The attentions of the Society were then moving towards problems of plant conservation, causing Jack to play no small part in the fight to try to save Upper Teesdale. In all this time, although living in London, Jack had lost none of an inborn love of the English countryside and with the ties of business relaxed for one day in the week he escaped to the

rural areas near to London every Sunday. This could be the more enjoyable with some object in view and at around the time of the end of the war in 1946 he found this in the study of the flora.

In 1957 the Surrey Flora Committee was formed, its object being to ensure that the Maps Scheme records for that county would be as complete as possible. With the assistance of public transport it was possible to reach many parts of Surrey in the morning and return by another route within one day. He lost no time in assisting the Committee, to which he was co-opted in 1962. By then he had shown himself to be a more than competent field botanist, with his own neatly compiled crib and documented field notes. J. E. Lousley's *Flora of Surrey* was published in 1976, but long before this Jack's advice was being sought in a wider field and his plant studies became broader by extending them to bryophytes which could be studied more fully in the field in the winter months in which Jack felt the same need to escape to the countryside. Above all his interest in Surrey had introduced him to bryologists of the calibre of W. R. Sherrin of the South London Botanical Institute and E. C. Wallace. He joined the British Bryological Society in 1964 and was elected to sit on its Council from 1972 to 1975. His only published work was 'A Bryophyte flora of Surrey', in *J. Bryol.* 11: 747-841 (1981), which has been described as a model for other local Flora writers. In addition to spending many happy days in the countryside it had entailed much time searching herbaria. With this task completed he turned his attention to Middlesex.

The B.S.B.I., the Surrey Flora Committee and the British Bryological Society were all very much in the control of amateur field workers but another society, the Linnean Society of London, which had royal patronage, rooms of its own, a paid staff, a valuable library and unique collections, was almost entirely in the hands of professional biologists – who nevertheless at times could need advice on other matters. Jack joined the Linnean Society in 1961, being elected to serve on its Council for two periods from 1966 to 1970 and again from 1973 to 1979, a Vice-President 1975 to 1979 and as Honorary Treasurer in that same period. In the year of his death he was the recipient of the Bloomer Award which is given from time to time by the Linnean Society to "an amateur naturalist who has made an important contribution to biological knowledge". More worthy recipients of the award have been few. Otherwise he had given the Society much valuable advice on its publication policy.

In the meantime, having been Honorary Treasurer of the B.S.B.I. for 12 years, he relinquished that office in 1970. He had played no small part in giving some much needed stability to the Society. His last important service to the Society was in helping to persuade Mr M. Walpole, another accountant, to follow him in office. The joint custody for 30 years by two such devoted officers has meant much to the Society.

Jack continued to be as active as he had always been until 1983 when the illness of his wife Wendy, who had been his companion for so many years on his excursions into the London countryside, brought a change. He felt that his place was by her side assisting in any way he could her recovery, until his own final illness overtook him. He was essentially a modest man, being a ready listener with a keen sense of humour. His advice, so often sought by others, was always given with some hesitancy but invariably found to be sound. We shall not see his like again.

Notwithstanding his very full life, Jack was essentially a family man and is survived by his widow, two daughters and a son.

J. G. DONY

CHRISTOPHER C. HAWORTH

1934—1989

Chris Haworth died on 2 December, 1989. He was born and bred in Lancashire, and although he lived long in West Cumbria, and put down many roots there, it was never difficult to recognise his Lancastrian origins. After National Service in the R.A.F., he graduated in Natural Sciences from Queens' College, Cambridge and worked for five years as an industrial chemist with British Petroleum. It was not long, however, before his natural bent drew him into the world where he was to make his indelible mark. Although he had graduated as a biochemist, he became a teacher of biology, first, for three years, in Essex, and then, for some 20 years, at Whitehaven Grammar School in Cumberland. He was an inspiring teacher of young biologists, many of whom now grace

the higher ranks of education, and who would happily acknowledge the debt that they owe to his influence in their formative years.

What made him distinctive as a teacher was the rare combination of, on the one hand, quiet authority in his own subject, and on the other, an intellectual curiosity and incurable desire to stimulate concern about the widest range of cultural, political, and intellectual matters. The liveliness and all-embracing nature of his interests, indeed, was as much in evidence in the influence he had on his colleagues, as in that on his pupils. Whether it was in one of the various unorthodox musical ensembles in which he played the recorder, or discussing the most recent novel that he had discovered, or explaining the potential for computers in education to sceptical colleagues, it would be difficult to exaggerate the beneficent effect that he had on those who came in contact with him, and consequently, the sense of loss felt by so many at his untimely death.

He was the first person that I knew to express a deeply-held philosophical belief in the frailty of the earth's environment, and man's obligation to protect it. There were very few others back in the sixties who shared his doubts about the propriety of leaving radioactive waste as an inheritance for future generations. It was wholly in keeping that he should have been one of the two founding members of the local branch of Friends of the Earth, which he always saw very much more as a positive force in the defence of the environment, rather than just a vehicle of protest. When, however, he felt protest was called for, as at the time of the Windscale Inquiry, this essentially quiet man was quite extraordinarily persistent and single-minded in the enormous amount of effort and skill he put into organizing the local case against the planned development.

As a field botanist, he was an exemplar. He combined encyclopaedic knowledge of most branches of the British flora, a comprehensive first-hand knowledge of a very large area of the Lake District, a meticulous care in the ordering of his herbarium and records, and the skill to execute a programme of garden cultivation in pursuit of further research.

Yet, he combined these skills with such modesty and quietness of demeanour, that there must have been many who were quite unaware of his distinction as a botanist, and few indeed were those who penetrated to the limits of his knowledge. It is difficult to convey the sense of excitement and fun that attended a day in the field with him. It was uncanny how often he would say "I rather feel that there is something interesting around here", to be proved right only a few minutes later. He was pleased, and would have been justified in feeling proud (though that would have been out of character), at the number of times that he had refound plants from 19th century or earlier records.

He was, for many years, one of the leading members of the *Flora of Cumbria* project, in which he was responsible for supervising the recording over a large tract of west Cumbria, much of which, of course, he had recorded in person.

It was through his work on the Flora of Cumbria project that he first became interested in the genus *Taraxacum*. Having, in the early days, sent some specimens for identification, he became determined to master this genus in his area. Over the next eight years, he proceeded, in the words of John Richards, to "transform the history of British Taraxacology," with his unique mixture of ability, energy, enthusiasm, organization and scholarship. He would always, however, insist on emphasising how much, like all taraxacologists, he owed to John's pioneering work in establishing the foundations upon which he worked. He rapidly built up a long list of correspondents, initiated a British *Taraxacum* newsletter, and built up a computer-generated *Taraxacum* database which gave rise to a long series of frequently updated and extensively annotated British check-lists, available to all correspondents.

It was characteristic of Chris, as a taraxacologist, to take nothing for granted. He believed in *no* species until he had thoroughly checked it out for himself! This involved seeing the types of almost all the British species, which in itself led to an extended programme of lectotypification, the fruits of which are at present in press. It also led to extensive travels during which he visited the type localities of many British species, in Ireland, northern Scotland, Orkney and southern England. Like all the best taraxacologists, Chris was an enthusiastic cultivator, who maintained a large and fascinating series of comparative cultivations in pots. He remained entirely sceptical about any species which he had not checked against the type, and which he had not grown alongside its relatives.

Chris's real enthusiasm was for the special dandelions of western Britain, the *Celtica* and *Naevosa*. He discovered, or described, many splendid new taxa; his taxonomic reassessments, based on sound method as well as on inspirational judgement, are far too many to list in full, but he made it

possible to foresee the future publication of an account of the genus in Britain. Although, sadly, he did not live to see it published, he had done enough for us now to envisage the successful culmination of his work in the shape of a B.S.B.I. Handbook of British *Taraxacum*, which his colleagues hope to see concluded, in what will surely be a fitting memorial to Chris's work.

Three years ago, he was appointed to a new post, as Head of Sixth Form at Cockermouth School. Unfortunately, he learnt at the same time of the illness that was to prove fatal, and he was never fit enough to take up the full burden of his new office. Even so, few realised how ill he was and he characteristically fought his illness with inspiring courage to the very end. He carried on an international correspondence, he continued to act as referee for *Taraxacum*, and he continued, though less and less strenuously, to botanise in the field. He never complained, and very few were allowed to realise how near the end was.

Even more important to Chris than his botany was his home and family, of whom he was intensely proud; his hospitality and that of his wife was renowned, and there was always a welcome for family, friends, neighbours or colleagues. The support of his family, and in particular of his wife, Bertha, in his last illness were incalculable. Happily, he acknowledged something of the debt that he knew he owed her by the naming of the Cumbrian Dandelion, *Taraxacum berthae*.

One of his last full days out was last July, at Wasdale Head, for a field meeting with many friends on the *Flora of Cumbria* project. It was a heavenly Lakeland day, cloudless and windless; the surface of Wastwater was like glass. While the more energetic left for the high fells, Chris, by now much weakened, was perforce confined to the lowland tetrad at Wasdale Head itself. When I pointed out the list of previous distinguished recorders on the card, and suggested that, in what must in any case be one of the most visited tetrads in the county, we weren't likely to find very many new records, Chris cheerfully expressed greater optimism, and within a hundred yards, said, "What about that, for instance?" Needless to say, it was a new record, and, by the end of the day, we (more usually, he) had found a further 20 records for the square. It was a fine day by which to remember him.

A. DUDMAN

C. C. HAWORTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FLORA OF CUMBRIA

Sixteen years ago, Chris was the first to respond to my appeal for recorders for the *Flora of Cumbria* project. So began a close and productive friendship during which he accumulated, almost single-handed, the bulk of our west Cumberland database. It was a friendship nourished by frequent letters telling of new finds and rediscoveries and enlivened by characteristic flashes of his dry wit, but a friendship overshadowed in more recent years by the darkening cloud of his illness.

As the flora progressed, and preliminary accounts started to circulate, I particularly appreciated his restraining hand in my more shaky generalizations, verbal infelicities and factual errors. During his last few months, family accounts were dispatched post-haste off the word-processor, and seldom was he more than a few days in replying; but his most impressive achievement was the revised account of Cumbrian *Taraxacum* which, with Bertha's help, he completed and gave me only six weeks before his death. He made the most of his last summer in the field, and we were all amazed at his courage and single-mindedness in travelling to join our August bramble foray in the far east of the county. It was typical of him that, in rapidly declining health, and with the dandelion account to finish, he should nevertheless want to get to grips with Cumbrian brambles.

His *Taraxacum* herbarium and part of his general herbarium is now with Andrew Dudman, the more important Cumbrian specimens from the latter being in the Lancaster University herbarium (LANC).

G. HALLIDAY

ARCHIBALD GRAHAM KENNETH (1915—1989)

Archie Kenneth of Stronachullin, near Ardrishaig, Argyll who died on 27 July 1989 at the age of 74, had been a member of the B.S.B.I. since 1957. Field botany was a consuming interest for him and

circumstances allowed him to devote a considerable amount of time to its pursuit. For many years his main energies were directed towards the botanical exploration of the districts of Knapdale and Kintyre, comprising v.c. 101, for which area he was appointed vice-county Recorder in 1961. This work led first of all to the publication in 1964 of the *Flora of Danna*, an account of the vegetation of a small island in Knapdale in which he had taken a particular interest, and this was followed by a supplement in 1971. In 1979 the *Flora of Kintyre* was published, compiled in collaboration with Miss M. H. Cunningham of Campbeltown. Continuing field work in the vice-county soon created the need for a supplement to the latter Flora and this Archie himself published in 1985 as *Additions to the flora of Kintyre*. Archie had a keen eye for a new or unusual plant and this facility led to the discovery of many a rarity which would have escaped the notice of less observant botanists. The discovery of *Lathyrus palustris* and *Cirsium dissectum* in Knapdale, and the finding of a fine colony of *Diphysastrum complanatum* subsp. *issleri* in West Sutherland are just a few examples of his talent for turning up things of more than ordinary interest. He was also an enthusiastic and competent bryologist and a very complete list of the bryophytes of v.c. 101 was included in the *Flora of Kintyre*.

Archie developed a special interest in critical plant genera, particularly *Hieracium*, *Taraxacum* and *Rubus*, not merely from the point of view of local Flora compilation but from a genuine and absorbing interest in such groups. This brought him into contact and correspondence with the specialists – Peter Sell and Cyril West for hawkweeds, and Eric Edees for the brambles, all of whom at one time or another enjoyed the hospitality generously extended at Stronachullin by Archie and his wife Janet. On more than one occasion Cyril West accompanied Archie on hawkweed-hunting trips to north-western Scotland, an experience much appreciated by Cyril in his later years. Of all the critical plant groups, that which most caught Archie's attention was the section *Alpina* of *Hieracium*, especially its members inhabiting the rather species-poor hills of Wester Ross and Sutherland. In search of these attractive hawkweeds he would tramp many miles in inhospitable country, perhaps to visit a hill previously unknown botanically, and to find, if lucky, one or more species of this interesting group. This dedication resulted in a greatly enhanced knowledge of the alpine hawkweeds of the north-west and the discovery of several new and as yet undescribed species. It is fitting that one of these is to be named in his memory.

Resulting from the discovery of some puzzling colonies in his home area Archie became very interested in the marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza*) and after studying populations in western and north-western Scotland he became involved, as joint author with David Tennant and others, in the publication of papers on *D. incarnata* subsp. *cruenta*, *D. lapponica* and the enigmatic *D. francisdrucei* which was shown to be referable to *D. traunsteineri*.

Archie was a rather rare attender at organized botanical meetings, although he rarely missed the annual B.S.B.I. Exhibition Meetings held in Glasgow or Edinburgh, where he obviously enjoyed the opportunity to foregather and exchange news with fellow botanists. In the field he preferred his own company or that of one or two companions. During an excursion it was not unusual for him to go off on his own in order to carry out some private investigation or visit a particular spot he had in mind and which the slow (by his standards) rate of progress of the party would otherwise have prevented. Those who have accompanied him in the hills will readily testify to his speed and agility. His stride was deceptively unhurried, but companions were often left trailing far behind. His dress was unconventional by modern standards and consisted of an old pair of trousers, tweed jacket, open-neck shirt, knitted woollen bonnet and, if it looked like rain, an old gabardine raincoat. He never wore climbing boots, preferring a strong pair of brogues or perhaps wellingtons. He travelled light on the hills with no encumbrances such as camera or binoculars, and a small satchel sufficed to carry his lunch and any specimens collected. He was never without a stout hazel crook which he found indispensable in assisting the crossing of burns or reaching awkward places on the crags.

Like his mother, Katherine Graham-Campbell of Shirvan, Lochgilphead, Archie was a keen cultivator of rhododendrons, and many fine specimens grow in the moist, wooded environs of Stronachullin. His other absorbing interest was the music of the highland bagpipe of which he was a very competent exponent in his younger days. Latterly an affliction of the tendons of the hands meant that playing to a high standard was no longer possible, but he remained a well-known composer of pipe music and was much in demand as a judge at piping competitions throughout Scotland.

Archie Kenneth was a fine Highland gentleman of a style becoming increasingly rare. We shall

miss him for his kindly, unpretentious manner and cheery companionship in the field, and Scottish field botany will be the poorer for his passing.

PRINCIPAL PUBLICATIONS OF A. G. KENNETH

- 1964 The flora of Danna. *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinb.* **39**: 489–501.
 1970 (With A. McG. Stirling) Notes on the Hawkweeds (*Hieracium sensu lato*) of western Scotland. *Watsonia* **8**: 97–120.
 1971 The flora of Danna – a supplement. *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinb.* **41**: 155–164.
 1979 (With M. H. Cunningham) *The flora of Kintyre*.
 1983 (With D. J. Tennant) The Scottish records of *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri* (Sauter) Soó. *Watsonia* **14**: 415–417.
 1984 (With D. J. Tennant) *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (L.) Soó subsp. *cruenta* (O. F. Mueller) P. D. Sell in Scotland. *Watsonia* **15**: 11–14.
 1985 Additions to the flora of Kintyre. *Glasgow Naturalist* **21**: 1–12.
 1985 A hybrid club-moss, *Diphasiastrum* × *issleri* in Scotland. *Glasgow Naturalist* **21**: 101.
 1986 (With M. R. Lowe & D. J. Tennant) The status of *Orchis francis-drucei* Wilmott. *Watsonia* **16**: 178–180.
 1987 (With D. J. Tennant) Further notes on *Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *cruenta* in Scotland. *Watsonia* **16**: 332–334.
 1988 (With M. R. Lowe & D. J. Tennant) *Dactylorhiza lapponica* (Laest. ex Hartman) Soó in Scotland. *Watsonia* **17**: 37–41.

A. MCG. STIRLING

A. G. KENNETH – AN APPRECIATION

Archie Kenneth has contributed more to our knowledge of the *Hieracium* flora of Scotland than any other botanist since before World War I. Starting in his native Kintyre and moving on to Argyll, Perth, Inverness, Ross and Sutherland, as well as some of the islands, he developed an eye for hawkweeds in the field which brought him a wealth of new records, and resulted in a joint paper with his friend of many excursions, Allan Stirling. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble for him, and if more material of a plant was requested, off he would go the following year in search of it, however long and arduous the walk.

One of his important early finds was a new species, *H. solum*, a disjunct member of the Series *Alpestris* found only in two localities in Kintyre. Some of his other most important finds are in Ross, and contain several new species still to be published. My last letter to him was to inform him that one of them was to be called “*kennethii*”.

Archie had a wonderful way with people. He even controlled Mary McCallum Webster on a B.S.B.I. excursion, giving her all manner of excuses why he had not taken the party to see the Danna dactylorchids. He explained afterwards, that actually he was taking me the next day so that I could look at them in peace without any outside distraction. I prayed that Mary would not find out, but that thought did not seem to bother him at all. He holds a special place in my heart for the way he enabled Cyril West to continue looking at living hawkweeds long after he was unable to get to them himself. His wife even cooked special dishes that Cyril was fond of to keep him happy during his stay at Stronachullin.

Archie loved his coffee, and I can see him now, explaining to the manageress of a Ross hotel that a demi-tasse was no fit amount of drink for a man who had been on the hills all day. For the rest of our stay at least, everyone in the hotel dining room had a large cup of coffee (or two) if they wanted it.

May I give a special thank you from those south of the border, like myself, who benefited by his quiet and happy companionship in the hills.

P D. SELL

GUY MALCOLM SPOONER
(1907—1989)

All who knew Malcolm Spooner will mourn the death of a distinguished marine biologist, a remarkable and versatile field naturalist, and a formidably knowledgeable but unassuming and immensely likeable man. Born in Yelverton, Devon, on 26 June 1907, he was educated at Charterhouse School and Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated with a First in Zoology in 1929. On leaving Cambridge he joined the staff of the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association, where his work included pioneer research on the genetics of gammarids and, after the war, investigations of the uptake of radioactive fission products by seaweeds. He was awarded the M.B.E. for his wartime code-breaking work at Bletchley Park. He and his botanist wife Molly were married in 1943. For many years he edited the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association*. Outside his professional field, he was a fine entomologist, with a wide field knowledge of diverse groups of British insects, and he was elected a fellow of the Royal Entomological Society in 1959. He was a leading authority on British aculeate Hymenoptera, and it was through his useful papers on various genera of these insects that I first came to know of him in my student days. Later, he was quick to correct the identification of a hoverfly I had miscaptioned. It was he who first showed me a brown hairstreak butterfly, and the rare ant *Formica exsecta* on field excursions in Devon. I well remember his keen pleasure in the flies and solitary wasps on the umbels of *Angelica* which grew in their comfortably natural garden at Yelverton – and in the *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* which had long become naturalized in the shade of the house.

Malcolm Spooner's botanical activities were centred on his native south-west Devon. Wistman's Wood on Dartmoor was a particular and abiding interest. He had known the wood for many years when, in late summer 1964, we sat talking among the gnarled oaks with two Nature Conservancy staff, who expressed misgivings at the wood's apparent state of decline. Malcolm's very characteristic response was to seek out the sites of old published photographs of the wood, and to take comparable new photographs from the same spots. These showed what surprised almost everyone at the time; that, far from receding, the wood had almost doubled in area since the early years of the 20th century. Malcolm and Molly repeated the measurements in the wood made in the early 1920s by R. H. Worth, and over the years he built up a comprehensive bibliography of the many references to the wood in botanical and topographical literature. The results of this work appeared in a paper of which I was privileged to be a joint author in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* for 1980. In 1953, he and F. S. Russell re-edited the published papers of R. H. Worth as *Worth's Dartmoor*, still a valuable reference work on the Moor. After his retirement from the Plymouth Laboratory, Malcolm devoted much time and many miles' walking to recording the flora of the Dartmoor tors, and he and Molly made an important contribution to tetrad recording for the *Atlas of the Devon Flora*.

He was for 15 years a member of the Dartmoor National Park Committee. For many years he was active in the Devonshire Association, whose *Transactions* he edited from 1967 to 1972, and of which he was President in 1979. He was a founder member of the Devon Wildlife Trust, and a valued and active member of its Council.

M. C. F. PROCTOR

ANNA YOUNGER
(1901—1989)

The death of Mrs Anna Younger has removed from the Scottish botanical scene a true stalwart who was deeply revered and much respected, who was untiring in her efforts to encourage field botany, particularly in Scotland, although her interests were by no means confined to that country.

She was deceptively frail in stature and uncomplainingly bore the scars of several field accidents, but she remained a person of unbounded determination in searching for and finding the rarest species in the British flora.

Even when in her late eighties, she was accustomed to dash off to see plants in any corner of the British Isles when a finding of a new species to her meant a further drawing in her Bentham &

Hooker Illustrations. In her haste, she had several brushes with authority from which she managed by her charm to escape conviction! She was, however, no mean botanist and she was a particularly keen student of critical groups such as the genera *Carex* and *Potamogeton*.

She was a most generous patron of the Arts and local charities, and she herself had a high reputation as an accomplished embroideress. She will be much missed within the wide circle of her friends in Scotland.

G. TAYLOR