

OBITUARIES

GEORGE CHANDLER, 1915–1992

George Chandler, a former honorary secretary of the Society, died on 9 October, 1992.

George Chandler was born in Birmingham but became an adopted Liverpudlian during his long period as Deputy City Librarian and then as City Librarian. Elected to the Society in 1950, he became honorary secretary in 1951 and retained the office until 1957. In 1959 the decision was taken to deposit the Society's library in the Central Library, and he became the honorary librarian until 1974, when he left Liverpool to become Director General of the National Library of Australia.

George Chandler did not contribute to the Society's *Transactions*, but gave the commemorative lecture to the Society on William Roscoe to mark the bicentenary of Roscoe's birth. That was followed by his biography, *William Roscoe of Liverpool* (1953), the first of a series of publications on Liverpool history. He encouraged Liverpool City Council to recognize the 750th anniversary of the city's foundation by sponsoring his *Liverpool* (1957), a history based on sources in the city libraries and lavishly illustrated from the city's collections.

Encouraged by the success of that work, he persuaded the city fathers to continue the publication of the Liverpool Town Books (the records of the borough corporation). The Town Books had been edited with scholarly care by J. A. Twemlow. Chandler continued the transcriptions as *Liverpool under James I* (1960) and *Liverpool under Charles I* (1965). The style of the volumes, with their popular introductions by Chandler and generous illustrations, was quite different from that of Twemlow's volumes but the transcriptions are of great value to students of Liverpool in the seventeenth century, when it was on the threshold of its rise to a great seaport. Another major work of Chandler's of local significance was *Four Centuries of Banking* (2 vols, 1964–8). It chronicled the history of Martin's Bank and its constituent banks, including the Bank of Liverpool, and was published as a record when Martin's Bank was absorbed by Barclays.

George Chandler's most important help to local historians probably lay in the development of services in the Liverpool Central Library. In particular he founded the Liverpool Record Office, which became the repository for the city's official records and many important private

collections. To the archives he added the local history library of books, engravings, and watercolours, and developed them as one unified department with a staff of archivists and librarians. This was a pioneering effort in the 1950s, when the reputation of libraries over archive provision was very patchy.

George Chandler became one of the most eminent librarians of his generation with an international reputation, but never lost his interest in the history of Liverpool and the Historic Society.

Neville Carrick

EUNICE SCHOFIELD, 1914–1992

Eunice Schofield (born Barker) was a redoubtable member of the Historic Society, her presence and trenchant comments at lectures and on council an important element in its character. She was born in Todmorden in Yorkshire, and studied for her B.A. at Manchester University where she met Maurice whom she married in 1943. A postgraduate teacher's diploma at Maria Grey College in London led to a teaching career, successively at Todmorden, Manchester, Blaydon, Aylesham and Newmarket. In 1947 Eunice and Maurice settled in Widnes. Her teaching was an important part of her life, one which she recalled in her last years, remembering with wry affection the struggle she had to control unruly children in the 1930s and 1940s, a task at which she was evidently very skilled.

Members of the society will remember Eunice as a person who spoke her mind. Her interjections at council on society policy, on the Post Office (she filled the office of publications secretary for the society for many years, and kept us all aware of the inflation of delivery charges), and on the foibles of humankind were savoured by all. Yet, though Eunice had a sturdy spirit she had much good humour too, and debates with her were always lively, constructive and, above all, good fun. She kept friends in the society on their mettle, just as she had the schoolchildren in her care, and, by her own account, even the doctors who tended her in her last illness.

She was an active historian. She began research at Manchester University after her first degree, but is better known in the society for her more recent work on Food and Cooking of the Working Class, Medical Care of the Working Class, and, with Maurice, the formidable work of transcribing the Liverpool Plantation Registers (funded by the SSRC), and the Hasell of Dalemmain letters, which afford an unrivalled insight into Liverpool trading activity in the late-eighteenth century. ('Food and cooking of the working class', *THSLC*, CXXIII, 1971; Medical Care of the Working Class; the computerised edition of the Liverpool Plantation Registers are held by the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex: 2923, Liverpool trade and shipping 1744–86; the transcribed Hasell letters are unpublished, but can be consulted in the Schofield archive held by Liverpool University Department of Archives, D514: see M.M. and E. Schofield, 'A good fortune and a good wife: the marriage of Christopher Hasell of Liverpool, merchant, 1765', *THSLC*, CXXXVIII, 1988).

Other aspects of her life may not be familiar to members: her membership of the Friends Meeting in Warrington, her love of music and delight in playing the piano. What we did experience and delight in on Thursday evenings was a person of character and courage whose death leaves the society the poorer. Eunice is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth.

Michael Power