

## OBITUARIES

### STANLEY ARTHUR HARRIS 1891–1991

Stanley Arthur Harris died on 29 March 1991; if he had lived another six months he would have celebrated his centenary. He was the second son of the head gardener and chauffeur to James Lister, J.P., of Basil Grange, West Derby, a director of the Liverpool Gas Company. Stanley's schooling was modest, as was his first job — book boy in a new Carnegie Library — but he was a chorister at St James, West Derby, and so sang in 1904 at the laying of the foundation stone of Liverpool Cathedral, and occupied a special seat at the service for the completion of the cathedral seventy-four years later. In 1906 he joined the Gas Company as an office boy, and about three years later, with his brother Ernest, joined the Territorials, working his way up to sergeant. So when on 30 August 1914 the first three battalions of the 'Pals' were formed in Sefton Park, he was made sergeant on the spot and marched his men down to parade at St George's Hall for Lord Derby. In 1915 at the school of musketry at York he passed the Lewis Gun examination with distinction, and for two years was an instructor training officer-pupils to become instructors, not himself going to France until 1917.

On demobilization in 1919 he returned to the Gas Company and because his widowed landlady was so talkative, took an evening course leading to his qualification A.C.I.S. Through the years he rose to be chief cashier and, as auditor, the only man in Radiant House allowed green ink in his pen. From its first copy in 1924 Stanley was a regular contributor to the Gas Company's *Co-partners Magazine*, developing his skill in communicating with his colleagues in entertaining historical articles. He joined Robert Gladstone's Lovers of Old Liverpool Society and on its discontinuation in 1935, he joined our Society, proposed by Gladstone, becoming a council member in 1938 and a vice-president in 1953.

He knew Lancashire, Cheshire, and north Wales from the saddle of a bicycle with Phyllis, whom he married in 1923, but especially he knew his native Liverpool, where he could, as occasional gas-fitter's mate, gain entry to any building in the town. Family links with Bath and Warwick, and experiences on army training courses based — it seemed to his fascinated listeners — in the parks of half the stately homes of England, added to his knowledge. His papers and notes in our *Transactions* from

1937 to 1981 chart his discoveries and his enthusiasm for early docks and old buildings, and for classical architecture, its designers, and how they came to be chosen. Over forty years ago he was giving information to John Summerson at the Soane Museum and he was one of the Lancashire correspondents for Howard Colvin's *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* (1978). His *Development of gas supply on North Merseyside 1815-1949*, published in 1956 after the Gas Company had been nationalized, is an invaluable work. Friends will be happy to know that last October Stanley had a day out visiting Deganwy to see again the place where he had trained with the Territorials. In Liverpool perhaps his best memorial would be the re-adoption of the translation of *otia* from the City's early 18th-century motto *Deus nobis hæc otia fecit* in the 18th-century manner, which his historical imagination reconstructed as

'God has given these  *blessings*  to us'

Janet Gnosspelius

#### Appendix: Stanley Harris's Publications in *Transactions*

- 'Henry Berry (1720-1812): Liverpool's second dock engineer', LXXXIX (1937), pp. 91-116  
 'Banastre Tarleton, cricketer', LXXXIX (1937), p. 151  
 'Further information concerning Henry Berry (1720-1812), Liverpool's second dock engineer', XC (1938), pp. 197-198  
 'The countess of Southampton at Sefton, 1668', XCI (1939), pp. 216-217  
 'First mention of a Liverpool mayor', XCIII (1941), p. 127  
 'The old Woolton summer house, and the question of Woolton beacon', XCIV (1942), pp. 111-120  
 'The interiors of two old Liverpool theatres', XCV (1943), pp. 147-148  
 'An early Liverpool postmaster', C (1948), p. 197  
 'Sarah Clayton's letter and John Wood of Bath', C (1948), pp. 55-72  
 'The sights of Liverpool in 1749', C (1948), p. 200  
 'Robert Adam (1728-1792), architect, and Woolton Hall, Liverpool', CII (1950), pp. 161-177  
 'Paradise Street, Liverpool: the derivation of the name', CIV (1952), pp. 143-144  
 'Sir John Soane (1753-1837), architect, and Halsnead Hall, Whiston', CVI (1954), pp. 153-158  
 'The old Blue Coat Hospital, Liverpool: was it designed by Thomas Ripley?', CIX (1957), pp. 143-158  
 (with T. C. Barker) 'Henry Berry (1719-1812): an inventory of his professional papers', CXII (1960), pp. 57-63  
 (with T. C. Barker) 'The Scholes: a sixteenth-century Lancashire house', CXIII (1961), pp. 43-64  
 (with T. C. Barker, R. Dickinson, and R. Sharpe France) 'Further light on the Scholes', CXV (1963), pp. 175-176

'*DEUS NOBIS HÆC OTIA FECIT*: some notes on Liverpool's motto', CXVI (1964), pp. 1-17

Review of *The great diurnal of Nicholas Blundell*, I, ed. Frank Tyrer, CXX (1968), pp. 151-153

Obituary of Bertram Benjamin Baron Benas, 1880-1968, CXX (1968), pp. 144-145

'Who designed Capesthorpe Hall?', CXXI (1969), pp. 43-45

Review of Peter Howell Williams, *Liverpolitana*, CXXIV (1972), p. 189 (with Janet Gnosselius) 'John Moffat and St Peter's church, Liverpool', CXXX (1981), pp. 1-14

### THOMAS LLOYD-JONES 1904-1990

Thomas Lloyd-Jones, M.A., a former President of the Society died on 18 July 1990 after a long illness.

Tom, a native of Liverpool, was a member of a Liverpool Welsh family and thus part of that community which has contributed so much to the cultural life of the city. Ending his formal education at an early age, Tom developed an intense interest in adult education. For many years he was very active in the W.E.A., being a member of the Liverpool Branch Council and then Chairman of the Branch, later becoming Chairman of the West Lancashire and Cheshire District. For a number of years he was also a member of Liverpool University's Board of Extra-Mural Studies. In 1962 the University conferred on him the honorary degree of M.A. for his services to adult education.

One aspect of his interest in adult education was the study of local history. He developed a series of W.E.A. lectures on 'Know Your Liverpool' and as a result came a stream of publications on his native city. These included *The Story of Aigburth, Liverpool . . . catalogue of an exhibition of pictures, maps etc. relating to Aigburth* (1951), *Know Your Liverpool, Walks in the City Centre* (1974), *Liverpool Parish Church: Our Lady and St. Nicholas. A history and guide* (1977), and *Street names of Liverpool* (1981).

In his working life Tom was employed by a major oil company at its Liverpool terminal, in later years as a supervisor. Indeed the (Liverpool) *Journal of Commerce* announced his M.A. award under the heading 'Honour for Expert on Bunkering'.

It was natural that Tom should join the Historic Society in 1956, and be elected to Council in 1968. He remained a member until 1983, being President from 1972 to 1974. He undertook these duties with the same patience and care that he always showed in his historical searches, presiding at both Council and lecture meetings with a brisk yet genial efficiency. He did not contribute to the Society's *Transactions* but his commitment to adult education and local history always brought to mind Chaucer's description of the Clerk of Oxenford: 'And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche'.

Neville Carrick