

OBITUARY

ROY GEORGE DOTTIE

Roy Dottie, the treasurer of this Society, died unexpectedly on July 3rd, 1987.

He was born in Garston on 26 March, 1935, and was educated at Gilmour County Primary School and Quarry Bank High School. From 1953 he read History at Durham University, gaining an honours degree in 1956 and a Diploma in Education there the following year. Roy returned to Liverpool to teach: at Rose Lane in 1957, Sefton Park in 1958, as head of History at Toxteth High from 1959, and at Speke Comprehensive from 1965. He had been a lecturer at S. Katharine's College since 1972.

In the best tradition of the teaching profession, Roy was closely involved in the life of each establishment where he worked. While a schoolmaster he also served as a housemaster and was responsible for several sports' teams doubtless encouraging his protégés to emulate his own favourite team, Everton. At S. Katharine's (now the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education), he was a real college man, and served as treasurer to the Senior Common Room, licensee of the Students' Bar, secretary of the Academic Council, and on the eve of his death, had been elected a Staff Governor of the college. Amongst those extra responsibilities, and routine teaching duties, he found time to be a regular member of the Derby Lodge quiz team.

Generations of students will remember him as a committed and able teacher, whose enthusiasm for history was inspiring. As an undergraduate he had taken up Roman legionary history as a special interest, and in spite of the general decline in Latin, he succeeded in involving his own undergraduates in the study of Roman Britain. Local

history, especially that of his own neighbourhood Childwall, particularly fascinated him, and again his excitement with the subject was reflected in his teaching. Fortunately, he decided to push his interest beyond the pedagogical, researching and completing a study of Childwall in the Stuart Period for which he was awarded the degree of M.Phil. at Liverpool University in 1981. It is an able and scholarly scrutiny of what he happily admitted was something of a backwater in the nation's history, but as is the way with intelligent and reflective local studies, his thesis is regularly consulted by 'national' historians.

Roy has written and published several academic papers: 'Transport and the Port of Liverpool', in E.M. Sigsworth, ed., *Ports and Resorts in the Regions* (1980); 'The Recusant Riots in Childwall in May 1600: a reappraisal', in *Seventeenth-Century Lancashire*, *THSLC*, 132 (1983); and 'Childwall: A Lancashire Township in the Seventeenth Century', *THSLC*, 134 (1986). An eminent reviewer in the *English Historical Review*, particularly noticed Roy's paper in *Seventeenth Century Lancashire*, together with that written by Brian Quintrell, and commended them as compulsory reading for all students of the seventeenth century; rare praise in such a contentious historical arena!

This Society has appreciated Roy's historical expertise and contributions to our lecture meetings, but we owe him an especial debt of gratitude for his work on our behalf as treasurer; an office he had held since 1981. Readers of learned journals and members of societies often have no inkling of the hard work and effort, willingly given by the voluntary officers. For a busy man like Roy, his time was precious, but with good grace and humour he dealt with the many small confusions inevitable in the management of a subscription society. The council will miss his positive advice and help in discussion and his affable presence at our lectures.

Roy died suddenly, leaving his wife and three children, and innumerable friends, colleagues, and acquaintances to mourn his passing.

Jenny Kermode