



## OBITUARY

Lady Bonham Carter

Members of the School will have learned with regret of the death of Lady (Charlotte) Bonham Carter, one of our Vice-Presidents. Her husband, Sir Edgar, was a distinguished jurist who played the leading part in drafting a legal code for the newly independent state of Iraq and, as a result of his association with Gertrude Bell, was largely instrumental in founding the British School of Archaeology in Iraq as a memorial to her. He served as Chairman from the beginning until 1950, and after his death in 1956 Charlotte maintained their devoted interest in the School's affairs. In 1975 she endowed in his memory a biennial Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture, which has enabled the School to invite distinguished scholars to discuss broader aspects of Mesopotamian history and archaeology than the recent activities of our expeditions which are presented at our Annual General Meetings.

Charlotte was a loyal and valued member of our Council until her death, and even in recent years, when her presence at any function required great courage to overcome physical disability, she rarely failed to attend a meeting. Although at times she appeared inattentive to the administrative and academic discussions around her, she in fact missed nothing. When some temporary financial problem such as the purchase of a new car was mentioned, Charlotte's instant reaction was "I would like to help". Her generosity took many other forms. For many years her party after the Annual General Meeting was an enjoyable occasion, where the young were as welcome as their elders. Indeed, in all her varied interests her benevolent interest in young people was a consistent element.

Charlotte was, although never much interested in the prose of history and archaeology, often to be seen in earlier days at international conferences, and she was an indefatigable traveller. An apology for unpunctual arrival at some event—"Yesterday I was in Samarkand"—was both credible and entirely in character.

The School has lost a good friend and we shall miss her very much.

D.O.