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IAN ARCHIBALD RICHMOND

IAN ARCHIBALD RICHMOND, 1902–65

The sudden death of Sir Ian Richmond has deprived not merely our Society but the entire world of classical learning of one of its commanding figures. After graduation at Oxford and two years in Rome, during which he studied the Aurelian Wall (on which he published his first book, *The City Wall of Imperial Rome*, in 1930), he held a lectureship in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Belfast for four years (1926–30), during which he began his work on Hadrian's Wall. In the same period he made contributions to the study of the Mausoleum of Augustus and the Praetorian Camp in Rome and in 1930 he returned to Rome as Director of the British School. In due course his fundamental study of Trajan's Column appeared in the *Papers of the British School* (1935) and in the same year he completed and published Ashby's unfinished *Aqueducts of Ancient Rome*. The intimate knowledge of classical archaeology which he acquired in Rome during his early years gave breadth and depth to all his subsequent work.

In 1935 he went to Newcastle as lecturer, and during the next twenty years engaged in those studies which were to make him the leading authority on Hadrian's Wall, the Roman Army and Roman military antiquities. Promoted Reader in 1943 and Professor in 1950, he was translated in 1956 to the newly created chair of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford. He was first elected to our Council in 1931 and held the Presidency of the Society in 1958–61. In June 1964 he became a member of the Editorial Committee of this *Journal* and characteristically began at once to devote meticulous care to the selection of material and the perusal of proofs: but for years before that he had been one of Miss Taylor's most trusted counsellors and closely concerned with problems of editorial policy.

He was created C.B.E. in 1958 and in 1964 received his knighthood. At the time of his death he was in the second year of his Presidency of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He had been suffering mild heart trouble for two years and in the spring of 1965 was ordered to take things more easily. He died suddenly on 5th October, peacefully in his bed, having returned from a month's excavations at Inchtuthil only a few days before.

This is not the place to list his many academic honours. Rather we must record the indefatigability of his labours in the service of archaeology and pay tribute to the wide horizons of his learning, and to the unflinching generosity which placed its resources at the disposal of all who asked. It was a not unusual experience to know that he was engaged on tasks A and B, either of which might strain the leisure of an ordinary mortal, and then to hear quite by chance from someone else how fully he was engaged on tasks C and D: yet all were done with equal thoroughness. The devoted service which he rendered to the English and Scottish Royal Commissions on Historical Monuments (since 1944), to the Ancient Monuments Board for England (since 1959), to the British Academy and to national and local learned societies in all parts of the kingdom, took heavy toll of his time and energies, as did his own excavations and his visits to those of others: but the value of his service in these fields is beyond all calculation. In particular, his guidance and encouragement to young archaeologists will not be forgotten by those who experienced them. Yet he did much more: for a man so gifted with learning, wit, wisdom and the love of his fellow-men was naturally in great demand on committees of all sorts and as a public lecturer, and he rarely failed to respond. In these ways his influence was very widely active behind all sorts of endeavour.

As a lecturer, he was technically superb, the beautiful clarity of his diction and of his slides matching one another to perfection, and he was a master-craftsman at the drawing-board. But the illumination which he cast on the subject in hand came even more from that rare gift of intuition which is the mark of a real historian. Academically his interests were as wide as the title of his Oxford chair, and had been so long before he came to occupy it. Recent numbers of this *Journal* contain articles on Palmyra and Massada, he had lately visited north Africa and was about to write a study of Roman Spain: but his concern with Massada and with Spain had both been revealed years before, just as his interest in ancient geographers, exemplified in chapter VI of *Roman and Native in North Britain* (1958) and in "The British Section of the Ravenna Cosmography" (*Archaeologia* 1949), went back to a very early paper on "Ptolemaic Scotland" (*PSAS* 1921/22).

There were those who begged him to curtail his ceaseless activity and to write more. This was to underestimate both the man and the value of his unique *auctoritas*. In fact his output of writing over the years was very considerable: his time even on journeys was never wasted. Few knew the immense pains he took to revise the *VCH* volume on *Roman Essex*, to which his introduction is a masterpiece. Much of his best work is to be found in similarly composite or anonymous volumes,

such as the Royal Commission's Inventories of Roxburgh or the Northumberland County History. His *Roman Britain* (1955 and 1963), however, displays to perfection his notable ability to assimilate and condense, and his powers of lucid exposition. At the time of his death, his revision of Collingwood's *Archaeology of Roman Britain* and his report on Hod Hill were in the press, and he was engaged on a joint edition of Tacitus' *Agricola*. In the field, his fourteen-year campaign at the legionary fortress of Inchtuthil had just been completed: its publication will now devolve upon his colleague, Dr. St. Joseph.

For long years to come the words he himself wrote of Haverfield will be the motto of all who study Roman antiquities: "I read again and again everything he ever wrote, and for me he being dead yet lived". For Ian Richmond's intellect was acute and his vision sure. The mantle of Haverfield and of Collingwood had descended to him with enhanced prestige. His felicitous command of English and his exacting scholarship shine out in his own writings, and his standards were unsparingly applied to work submitted to him; but few passed through the fire without lasting gratitude. He was a splendid companion in the field, where his natural cheerfulness, indeed ebullience, is an unforgettable memory. All his actions were illuminated by this zest for life and by his deep inner faith and genuine humility. His place in the hearts of all who knew him is secure, for he commanded love as well as respect. Our sorrow for a life cut short at the zenith of its powers is assuaged by the legacy of his example.

S. S. F.