

OBITUARIES

SIR THOMAS NEAME, M.A., F.S.A.

THE death of Sir Thomas Neame, which occurred on the 28th August, 1973, has removed from the Kent Archæological Society one of its most eminent and respected members. Joining the Society in 1940, Sir Thomas was unanimously elected President in 1959, and guided its affairs with calm, business-like efficiency until laying down his office in 1967, when he became an Honorary Vice-President. Members of Council will remember with pleasure and gratitude its annual meetings at his residence, often on the extensive lawn backed by trees and flowering shrubs, occasions made especially happy by the welcome and hospitality of himself and the late Lady Neame.

Not only was Sir Thomas pre-eminent in fruit-growing in Kent—in 1953 he received from the Royal Horticultural Society its Medal of Honour, and was a member of the governing body of Wye College, and also chairman of the East Malling Research Station—his interest in the history of Kent was deep-seated and enthusiastic, being reflected in his valuable collection of maps, books and manuscripts relating to the county, an absorbing interest that demonstrated his scholarship in that field. His education at Cheltenham College and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, laid the foundation of his wide understanding of the humanities.

In 1949 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in acknowledgement of his distinguished services to history and antiquity, especially in relation to Kent. He was appointed High Sheriff of Kent in 1948, and was knighted in 1960.

Although at the advanced age of 87 at his death, his upright, soldiery figure was often seen at Council meetings up to the end, and members will remember with deference, and indeed with affection, his incisive, but always good-humoured, contributions to its debates. Of decisive and strong character, Sir Thomas also possessed the human touch of kindness and understanding, to which the writer of this note can testify. To those who worked closely with him, his advice and friendliness were of the greatest value. By his death, the Society has lost a personality whose memory will be revered and honoured. Sir Thomas Neame will go down in the history of the Kent Archæological Society as one of its most influential and respected Presidents.

G.W.M.

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PROFESSOR D. E. STRONG, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A.

PROFESSOR Donald Strong died very suddenly, on 21st September, 1973, at Nicaea, Turkey, where he was on an archæological visit. Dr. Strong occupied the Chair of the Archæology of the Roman Provinces at the Institute of Archæology, University of London, after a distinguished career at the British Museum where he had established himself as a leading authority on Greek and Roman art.

Though he was a recent member of our Society and his tenure at the Institute cut short by his untimely death, Professor Strong will be sadly missed by his host of friends of any standing and students present and past. Behind the obvious scholarship upon which were solidly based both the erudition of his lectures and the warm-hearted humour of their delivery, he was above all a man who did not spare himself in the service of his colleagues, friends and students; the members of the Eccles Training Course were probably his last student audience and their enthusiastic acclaim of his lecture to them was but a small return for his unstinted efforts on their behalf at a time of failing health. His study at the Institute was always open to all callers, usually at the expense of his leisure, and many will readily recall and miss the warmth of his welcome and the stimulus of his conversation.

When time will have absorbed the shock of Donald Strong's death, we shall both mourn the passing of the scholar and friend and remember with gratitude what he so gladly gave us—himself!

ἄνδρῶν ἐπιφανῶν πᾶσα γῆ τάφος.

A.P.D.

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