COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

YORK HOUSE April 3rd

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, today received Colonel Trevor Minter on relinquishing command of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the Southampton Oceanography Centre, Empress Docks, Southampton on April 17.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sir John Beith, former diplomat, is 82; **Col Sir Bryce Knox,** Lord Lieutenant for Ayrshire and Arran, 1974-91, 80; **Earl Jellicoe** 78; **Mrs Margaret Dupont,** former Wimbledon Champion, 78; **Miss Maya Angelou,** author, 68; **Dame Catherine Tizard,** former Governor-General of New Zealand, 65.

Lord Inchyra, Director General, British Bankers Association, 1988-94, 61; **Mr Trevor Griffiths,** playwright, 61; **Mr Peter Attenborough,** Headmaster of Charterhouse, 1982-93, 58; **Mr Ian Robertson,** Director, National Army Museum, 53; **Prof David Melville,** Vice-Chancellor, Middlesex University, 52; **Mr Barry Reamsbottom,** General Secretary, Civil and Public Services Association, 47; and **Mr Gregory Knight, MP,** Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household and Deputy Government Chief Whip, 47.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Lt-Cdr J.M.F. Bilson, RN, and Miss M.E. Leighton

The engagement is announced between John, only son of the late Mr Bill Bilson and of Mrs Monica Bilson, of Bracknell, Berkshire, and Megan, only daughter of Mr Bernard Leighton and Mrs Marie Leighton, of Wilmington, North Carolina, USA.

Mr J.J. Williams and Miss K.M.M. Leach

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Colonel and Mrs F.J.K. Williams, of the Wirral, Cheshire, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Leach, of Kew Gardens, Surrey.

Mr R.J.H.McL. Corrie and Miss N.J. Lascelles

The engagement is announced between Roderick, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Corrie, of Wineham, West Sussex, and Nicola, daughter of Commander and Mrs Oliver Lascelles, of Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire.

Mr S. Paine and Miss S.E. Stewart

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of the late Dr and Mrs David Paine, and Sophie Emma, daughter of the late Major Peter Stewart, MC, and of Mrs Freddie Higham, of Winchester.

Mr S.J. Paine and Miss C.H. Denison

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Dr and Mrs Robert Paine, of Yealand Convers, Lancashire, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr George Denison and the late Mrs Jessie Denison, of Langham, Rutland.

Mr W.J. Staunton and Miss S.J. Ibbotson

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Edmund Staunton, of Staunton, Nottinghamshire, and Suzanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Gerald Ibbotson, of Bamford, Rochdale, Lancashire.

Mr T.P.C. Raven and Miss G.C. Miller

The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Raven, of Pound Ridge, New York, and Lismore, Co Waterford, and Gabrielle, elder daughter of Mr Harvey Miller, of Tenafly, New Jersey, and Mrs Joan Miller, of Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania. The marriage will take place in Woodstock, New York, in September.

Mr R.I. Clarke and Miss K.E. Smith

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mrs Mary Morrison, of Otterbourne, Hants, and Kim, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Smith, of Ruthin, Clwyd.

Mr A.J. Down and Miss S.J. Cucksey

The engagement is announced between Anton, son of Mr and Mrs P. M. Down, of Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. D. Cucksey, of Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

Mr C. Wemyss and Miss D. Gleditzsch

The engagement is announced between Colville, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Wemyss, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Dagmar, elder daughter of Herr and Frau Steffen Gleditzsch, of Frankfurt, Germany.

Mr J.I.H. Macdonald-Buchanan and Miss J. Crossley

The engagement is announced between James Iain Harry, second son of Mr A. J. Macdonald-Buchanan, of Hawkslaw, Coldstream, and Mrs F. Macdonald-Buchanan, of Inverlair, Poolewe, Ross-shire, and Julia, younger daughter of the late Mr Anthony Crossley and of Mrs Gillian Crossley, of Mulimia, Gympie, Queensland.

Mr T.R.N. Webb and Miss J.M. Beith

The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Webb, of Maidenhead, Berks, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Beith, of Easton, Suffolk.

Mr M.A. Smith and Miss A.K. Adams

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Norman Smith, of Sanderstead, Surrey, and Antonia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Adams, of Beckford, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.P.W. Licence and Miss R.J. Denham

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Licence, of Orpington, Kent, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.C. Denham, of Harbledown, Canterbury.

WEDDING

Lt J.P. Kyd, RN, and Dr K.L. Mead

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 30, at St Luke's Church, Grayshott, of Lt Jeremy Kyd, RN, and Dr Karen Mead. The Rev Bill Meyer officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Dr Anna Mead, Dr Anjana Murugason and Miss Amanda Powell. Dr Robert Fraser was best man.

A reception was held at the Tithe Barn, Loseley House, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

LUNCHEON

Manchester Consular Association

The annual spring luncheon of the Manchester Consular Association was held yesterday at Manchester Town Hall. The President, Mr Ernst Keller, Consul General for Switzerland, welcomed the guests with the Secretary, Mr David J. Fox, Consul for Chile, and the Treasurer, Mr Brian Carroll, Consul for Liberia.

DINNER

Company of Makers of Playing Cards

The Master, Mr R.A. Howells, presided at a Livery dinner held last night by the Company of Makers of Playing Cards at Cutlers' Hall. The principal guests were the Common Serjeant of London, Judge Denison, QC, and Mr Willie Rushton who presented the Company with a pack of playing cards of his own design. Other speakers were the Senior Warden, Mr M.H. Goodall, and Mr J.G.B. Watson. Guests included the Masters of the Fanmakers', Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Wheelwrights' Companies.

RECEPTION

Lord Sudeley

Lord Sudeley, a member of the Governing Council of The Manorial Society of Great Britain, was host at a reception held last night in the Cholmodeley Room, the House of Lords, for members of the Society. Mr Robert Smith, Chairman of the Society, presided. Among those present were:

The Marquess of Hertford, Earl and Countess Temple of Stowe, the Earl of Shannon, Viscount Gormanston, Lord and Lady De Freyne, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, Sir Colin Cole, Lady Grundy, Mr and Mrs R. Abbots, Mr J. Brown, Mrs J.H. Burnett, Mr M.J. Burton, Miss M. Corder, Mr D. de Aspey, Mr N.J.A. Deva, MP, Mr and Mrs W.J. Dougan, Mrs E. Downer, Dr and Mrs M.N. Eakins, Mr J. Hardwick, Mrs J. Harris, Mr G.R. Horne, Mr P. Jennings, Mr Y. Kawai, Mr R.A. Lescott, P. Liddle of Gilsland, Dr P. Magarian, Mr A.R. Maudsley, Dr M. Morgan, Mr D.J. Nicholson, MP, Mr M. Orr, Mrs C. Robinson, Mr R. Rozario, Mr W.G. Rumley, Mr and Mrs H. Selman, D. Sharpe of Twynehame, Mr D.L. Shaw, MP, P. Sleigh of Cannary, Miss Sherena Spargo, Dr D. Starkey, Mr M. Stephen, MP, G.D. Teall of Huntly, Miss J. Tokley, Mr. R.D. Turrall-Clark, M. Urquhart of Leyny and Mr K. Wallis.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

The Victoria and Albert Museum will be closed on Good Friday, April 5.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr Derek Tanner

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Derek Tanner was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Henry Tanner (grandson) read from *If* by Rudyard Kipling and Mr Bruce Tanner (grandson) read the lesson. An address was given by Mr Stuart Morris (son-in-law). Among those present were:

Mrs Tanner (widow) and other members of the family, together with representatives of the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens and many other friends.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Queen's Life Guard mounts, Horse Guards, 11; Queen's Guard mounts, Buckingham Palace, 11.30.

National Gallery, Alexander Sturgis, Susan Foister, Mari Griffith, lecture. 'Relaying the Passion,' 1.

The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square: David Edge: Arms and Armour, 1.

OBITUARIES

Lieutenant Commander 'Hooky' Walker

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER "HOOKY" WALKER, who has died aged 79, was one of the Fleet Air Arm's great characters.

The son of a dentist, he joined the Navy to avoid becoming one himself. He was one of the first pilots from the ratings, getting his wings as a petty officer early in 1939.

He flew the cruiser *Orion's* Fairey Seafox seaplane on the America and West Indies station until 1940, when the ship went to the Mediterranean and Walker transferred to the battleship *Warspite* to fly her float-fitted Fairey Swordfish.

Hooky was never afraid to tell senior officers what he thought. In 1941 he went home as an "Upper Yardman" — an officer candidate from the lower deck. But when a "fish-head" (non-flying) officer asked him whether he wanted to be a pilot or an observer when his course finished, he replied that he already *was* a pilot so forcefully that he was at once withdrawn from the course and sent to fly the battleship *Rodney's* Walrus amphibian.

When Walker and his observer eventually obtained the keys and unlocked the door of the Air Office they found newspapers there dating from 1938.

Rodney's cordite-powered catapult had been so rarely used that almost the whole ship's company turned up to watch the first launch. The acceleration was so violent that, according to the observer, he and the air gunner and the ship's company mopped their brows — "but Walker affected a lordly indifference and began to pick his teeth. We were suitably humbled."

Walker offered the observer a powerful cheroot saying: "This is the only aircraft in the Navy where you can smoke. All metal, sir." It seemed to the observer churlish to refuse, so the two men put their feet up on the dashboard and puffed away contentedly as the Walrus gained height.

When he left *Rodney*, Walker was recommended for warrant air officer's rank and went to HMS *Merlin*, the naval air station at Donibristle in Fife, as the Commodore's personal pilot. He ended the war as a flying instructor in Australia.

Hooky (inset) and his Sea Otter after it lost its propeller and crashed in a field of broccoli

Victor Alexander Walker was born on March 8 1917 and, after being expelled from a convent school for spraying a hose over a classroom of girls, went to Dudley Grammar School. In 1933 he joined HMS *Ganges* at Shotley as a boy seaman.

Hooky claimed to have flown every type of piston-engine naval aircraft; his log book records over 20, from Hurricane fighters to Sunderland flying boats.

In more than 20 years and thousands of hours of flying, he only had three accidents. The most serious was in April 1951 when he took off in a Sea Otter amphibian from the naval air station at Culdrose, in Cornwall, to join the search for the submarine *Affray*, reported missing in the Channel.

He was barely airborne when the propeller fell off. The Sea Otter, as Hooky said, "glided like a brick" and, just missing some electric power cables, he put it down in a field of broccoli. The farmer had a gun and would not let Hooky out of the aircraft until he had signed for the broccoli.

Hooky was an excellent navigator, mainly using pubs as landmarks. Once with a very nervous senior officer as passenger, he ran into thick cloud and lost his way. At last, through a small hole in a cloud he saw a house on a bend on the river Avon near Evesham where his father had a weekend bungalow.

"It's all right I know where we are," he said. "That's the Dog and Duck."

"Bloody hell, Hooky," said his passenger, who had been thoroughly alarmed. "Do you know every pub in Britain?"

He was promoted to commissioned pilot after the war, serving in various naval air stations and in the carrier *Triumph* in the Mediterranean and for the first months of the Korean war in 1950.

Hooky seldom missed a trick, though sometimes he was defeated by chance. On one trip from Spain he half-filled a specially prepared fuel tank with brandy. Unfortunately, when he landed in this country helpful ground crew topped up the tank with petrol.

He owned dogs who, like their master, could take just so much annoyance and no more. At HMS *Condor*, the naval air station at Arbroath, where he was the Admiral's personal pilot, Hooky had a boxer called Mahler who was so irritated by the incessant yapping of the captain's dog that he got up, bit off its ear, and went back to sleep again.

Hooky was a very sociable man, tremendous company on a run ashore. He was only suspicious of teetotallers and religions, on which he blamed all the troubles of this world.

He was fond of classical music and, unexpectedly, was an expert embroiderer who made dungarees for his children with rabbits embroidered on the pockets.

He retired in 1958 to keep the Mildmay pub in Queen Camel, near Yeovilton, and later worked for Westlands as a contract engineer.

But he never really left the Navy. His funeral wake was the very last social function held in the wardroom of HMS *Daedalus*, the naval air station at Lee-on-Solent, before it closed.

He married, in 1943, Winifred Ogden, who died in 1984; they had a son and a daughter.

Dante Giacosa

DANTE GIACOSA, who has died in Italy aged 91, designed some of Fiat's most successful cars, including the much-loved *cinquecento*.

This diminutive vehicle was first built in 1936 — 20 years before Issigonis's Mini — and remained in production for nearly 40 years. More than four million were sold around the world.

In an era when an individual, rather than a committee or a computer, had total control over design, Giacosa produced a car that was not only stylish and charming but also technically innovative.

With its radiator housed behind a tiny 4-cylinder 20 hp engine, it was extraordinarily compact, yet had a synchromesh gearbox, independent suspension, hydraulic brakes and a top speed in excess of 50 mph.

With its sweeping bonnet and mudguards, large grille and mounted headlights it had a perky appearance that would not have looked out of place in Noddy's garage. Italians were quick to dub it "Topolino", their name for Mickey Mouse. This was a term of endearment, rather than criticism.

In 1957, after several versions of the old model, he produced the *nuova cinquecento*, which was even smaller than its predecessor, with an air-cooled engine at the rear.

It proved just as successful and even today is highly sought after for its ability to sneak through the congested streets of Italy's cities and to find parking spaces in the most unlikely places.

The 1936 Fiat 500, as Italian as spaghetti

Dante Giacosa was born in Rome on Jan 3 1905.

After a degree in mechanical engineering at Turin he joined Fiat as an aero engine designer but soon transferred to automobiles.

He proved so adept in his new discipline that by 1933 he was put in charge of Fiat's plans for a new small car. By 1946 he was the head design engineer and remained so until 1970.

As well as the *cinquecento* — officially the Tipo 500A 570cc coupé — he designed the 600, the 124 and the 128, all small, economical and easy to maintain.

He also designed agricultural and military machinery for Fiat, and had the chance to show his flair with the Cisitalia racing car and the beautiful Pininfarina-bodied V8 coupé of 1952.

One of his last designs was the boxy 124 which became the Lada, after Gianni Agnelli had sold the plant to Russia. Thus Giacosa was able to do the same for the Russians as he had for his own countrymen — provide them with cheap, simple and well-designed transport.

Dante Giacosa: inventive

Gad al-Haq

GAD AL-HAQ ALI GAD AL-HAQ, who has died in Cairo aged 78, was the Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar, the ancient Islamic university, a position of supreme religious authority in the Sunni Muslim world.

Gad al-Haq was noted for the conservatism of his views, which included opposition to the Islamic radicalism that has disturbed Egypt since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1980. But in recent years he also made things awkward for the Egyptian government, by supporting interest-free banking and female circumcision, and by arguing against abortion.

Gad al-Haq was born on April 5 1917 at Batra, a village in the Nile Delta. He received a traditional Islamic education in a village school and obtained a degree from al-Ashwar in 1943.

He worked as a clerk in the office of the Grand Mufti of Egypt, and studied Islamic law in Cairo. Later he was promoted to a post in which he supervised jurists in the drafting of religious rulings.

He was appointed a judge in 1954, and in 1960 President Nasser appointed him to the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

In 1978, President Sadat nominated him Grand Mufti of Egypt, the government's leading authority on Islamic affairs. On Sadat's assassination two years later, Gad al-Haq condemned the "sinful ideology" of the President's assassins. "The law of Islam", he said, "does not allow a ruler to be disobeyed or killed so long as he adheres to Islam and observes its teachings."

In 1982, he was appointed Minister for Religious Endowments, with authority over religious institutions and mosques. He became Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar the same year.

In this post he continued to speak out against Islamic extremism, echoing the government line that militants were not Muslims but mere criminals, and sponsoring religious seminars in villages to counteract their growing influence among the country's impoverished masses. According to a government newspaper report last year, he called for the crucifixion of radicals.

Under Gad al-Haq's leadership, al-Azhar (which had been founded in 970) was gradually de-secularised. It had been transformed into a secular institution from 1960 onwards by the Nasser government.

Gad al-Haq introduced a requirement that students of non-religious subjects take a year's religious instruction as a condition for admission.

The university now has about 160,000 students and has expanded its influence outside Egypt, particularly in the Islamic countries of Africa and Asia.

In religion Gad al-Haq followed the conservative trend that has swept the Islamic world. In 1994 he attacked the UN population conference hosted by Egypt, and last year railed against the UN conference on women in Peking, saying it contradicted religion and aimed to destroy the family by accepting premarital sex, abortion and homosexual practices. The conference's aims, he concluded, emanated from "an alien civilisation".

In April 1995, an Egyptian human rights organisation tried to sue Gad al-Haq for his advocacy of female circumcision. He said it was an Islamic duty; his critics argued that the practice was a local custom not a religious obligation.

Such rulings set him at odds with Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed al-Tantawi, a prelate of more liberal outlook. The two traded ruling and counter-ruling over such matters as organ transplants, which Gad al-Haq opposed, and Islamic banking (the practice of banking without interest), which he favoured. Gad al-Haq recently recommended severe punishment for Muslims breaking fasting laws during the month of Ramadan.

Although he was against the 1993 Oslo agreement between Israel and the PLO, shortly before his death he published an article in which he urged the international community to strive for peace in the Middle East.

Gad al-Haq was awarded the King Faisal Prize for Services to Islam in 1995.

He was married with three sons.

66 QCs named

FOUR women and one lawyer from an ethnic minority background are among 66 barristers whose appointments as Queen's Counsel are announced today.

They were selected from total of 488 lawyers, including 40 women and 14 from ethnic minority backgrounds, who had applied for "Silk".

For the first time this year solicitors were invited to submit applications. Five applied but none were appointed.

The 66 Queen's Counsel are: R J Ellis, M B Tillett, Miss S Woodley, A W Stevenson, R M Price, S Oliver-Jones, A H Jeffreys, P E Kyte, J J Coffey, H L Bentham, A R Malcolm, P C Upward, P C Rouch, N M Lowe, P P Sheats, T A Jenkins, C A Salmon, R J Kay.

R H Jones, Lord James Meston, D P Fisher, J V Pegden, J D Glen, A H Munday, E P L Jacobs, B R Weatherill, I H-D Hughes, Miss R Horwood-Smart, G E Morrow, P R Garlick, S H Bellamy, P G McCahill, S P Stewart, A T Hedworth, R D Lynagh, A J Robertson.

M H Kent, R J McCarthy, S R Crookenden, D W Hatton, D J M Aubrey, B J Browne, M J Pointer R F Owen, T V Holroyde, F G Burrell, W G S Massey, J J Acton Davis, T H Straker, T N Young, R Spearman, M R T Howe, J C S McB Brisby, D S Brandon.

Miss J M Turner, C H Pymont, D B Railton, J P Rowland, R M Sheldon, P V Boulding, A M Silverleaf, K J Lindblom, A Malek, Miss C P Montgomery, M S Howard, K J Prosser.

Six others appointed honorary Queen's Counsel are: Prof C R Harlow, Prof B A Hepple, Dr D A Thomas, M C Blair, Prof J H Baker and M L Saunders.

RECENT WILLS

Recent wills include:

☐ **Mary Kathleen Frost,** of Cambridge, who died last November, left estate valued at £172,569 net.

She left all of her estate equally between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, British Red Cross Society and National Library for the Blind.

☐ **Joan Mary Bosdet,** of Thame, Oxon, who died last January, left estate valued at £357,805 net.

She left her entire estate to the Carers Association, Clerkenwell, London.

☐ **Other estates** (net before tax):

Miss Amy BRIGGS, of Clayton le Woods, Lancs £1,892,515

Mr Jakob BRODER, of Richmond, west London £634,777

Mr James William BUTLER, of Lewes, E Sussex £616,235

Mr Subashchandra Gordanbhai PATEL, of Hornchurch, east London £558,859

George Northcroft

GEORGE NORTHCROFT, who has died aged 84, was a leading neurosurgeon with an outstanding record in the Second World War.

As one of the three surgeons in a mobile neurosurgical unit attached to the 8th Army in North Africa, Northcroft had to operate on head injuries under the most taxing conditions. Supplies (especially of water) were invariably short; and with no fixed front line, the unit had to be ready for a quick getaway.

The operating tent would be set up on a frame surrounding a three-ton truck, which carried the surgeons' equipment.

In four days during the first offensive in Libya the three surgeons were able to complete 78 operations before the approach of the enemy forced them to pack up their gear and retreat.

Northcroft later wrote a number of important articles on the care of head wounds in battle. Such was his reputation among the soldiers that three decades after the Desert War some of the veterans, including many he had operated upon, gave a dinner in his honour.

The son of one of Britain's first orthodontists, George Bernard Northcroft was born in Harley Street on June 17 1911. He graduated from St John's College, Cambridge and completed his medical training at the London Hospital.

Northcroft began his training in neurosurgery in 1938, at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, where he was the first junior house surgeon to Hugh Cairns, one of the pioneers in the discipline. It was Cairns who organised eight mobile neurosurgical units in the war, and recruited Northcroft for one of them.

After the war Northcroft joined the Neurosurgical unit at Joyce Green Hospital; he became a consultant in the late 1950s, when the unit had moved to Brook Hospital.

He helped to set up the excellent Regional Neurosurgical Unit to South East England, and developed one of the first postgraduate centres in a non-teaching hospital in London.

In addition, he organised a popular and successful primary course for young surgeons taking their FRCS.

Northcroft became a civilian adviser to the British Army and an Honorary Consultant to the Army's Royal Herbert Hospital, Shooter's Hill, where he treated service families with expertise and panache.

In the operating theatre Northcroft worked extremely quickly without ever seeming to hurry; he stressed the importance of teamwork. He loved teaching, and was always thoughtful, encouraging and kind with students, though never less than direct with his advice. With patients he strove to develop rapport and trust.

Although always modest, Northcroft was a man of many talents — a competent pianist, an elegant squash and tennis player, and a keen gardener.

When he took up ski-ing he refused to take a lesson and terrorised onlookers with his bravery. Somehow he always emerged unscathed.

George Northcroft was twice married, and had five children.

Col Richard Ward

COLONEL RICHARD WARD, who has died aged 89, was turned down by both the Army and Navy as being too old for the Second World War; despite this, he eventually succeeded in joining the Army, reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was awarded an MC in Italy.

Dick Ward served in North Africa with the 7th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, before being appointed second-in-command of the 5th Sherwood Foresters for the Salerno landings. Transferred to the 5th Hampshires he won the MC at Cava, near Naples. Later in 1943 he was severely wounded on the Volturno crossing.

Richard Ward was born at Leicester in 1905 and was educated at Stoneygate, Holyrood House Naval Academy and Tonbridge.

After leaving school, Ward joined Freeman Hardy & Willis and rose to become managing director. He was also a director of Sears Holdings and worked closely with Charles Clore.

Dick Ward was an excellent all-round athlete, who captained the Leicester hockey team and played for the county. He also collected antiques and rare books. He was a governor of the Leicester Infirmary and Ashby College Hospital.

A friend recalled that his war wounds had injured his jaw and mouth which left him with a permanently diminished sense of taste and difficulty in eating normal food; by way of compensation he consumed and dispensed the stiffest gins.

He was married twice, both wives predeceased him.

Simon Nowell-Smith

SIMON NOWELL-SMITH, the bibliophile and literary scholar who has died aged 87, was for several years Librarian of the London Library.

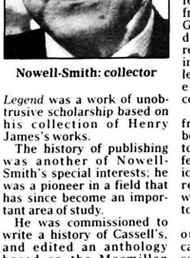
Appointed in 1950, during his short tenure he made his mark on the library's management and on the re-focusing of its collections after the disruption of the war. He resigned the post in 1956, but remained a consultant to the library for some years afterwards.

Simon Harcourt Nowell-Smith was born on Jan 5 1909, and educated at Sherborne, where his father Nowell C Smith (the editor of Sidney Smith) was headmaster, and at New College, Oxford. The family's Victorian roots were academic; the Harcourt name relates to several North Oxford family lines.

After Oxford, at the introduction of his uncle, Sir Bruce Richmond, the editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, Nowell-Smith joined the staff of *The Times*. He moved to the *TLS* as assistant editor in 1937.

During the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Division of the Naval Staff, working in Whitehall with the poet and novelist William Plomer, whose autobiography he edited very skilfully after Plomer's death.

One of Nowell-Smith's books which had commended him to the London Library's committee was *The Legend of the Master* (1947), an engaging compilation of reminiscences of Henry James by his contemporaries. Nowell-Smith's editing was deft and his learning worn very lightly, but *The Legend* was a work of unobtrusive scholarship based on his collection of Henry James's works.



Nowell-Smith: collector

The history of publishing was another of Nowell-Smith's special interests; he was a pioneer in a field that has since become an important area of study.

He was commissioned to write a history of Cassell's, and edited an anthology based on the Macmillan archives before they passed from the family firm into institutional hands.

Perhaps Nowell-Smith's most important work was an historical study, *International Copyright Law and the Publisher* (1968), which he based on a course of lectures he gave at Oxford. It provides a definitive account of a complicated but historically important subject.

He was a learned Dickensian and for some time worked on the text of the Clarendon edition of *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

Nowell-Smith was a keen collector of books. In his undergraduate days he ran up a bill at Blackwell's bookshop which shocked his father, but which was viewed more favourably by Basil Blackwell.

His interests focused on such authors as Robert Bridges and Henry James, of whose works he formed important collections now in North American university libraries.

Later he confined his collection to English poetry from Wordsworth to Robert Graves; the quality did not diminish as he gradually reduced the quantity on moving house. In 1985 the Bodleian Library put on a loan exhibition from his collections.

Nowell-Smith made many friends in the antiquarian book trade and among collectors, including a number of fellow-enthusiasts in America whose annual buying and research trips to Britain would always include a visit to Nowell-Smith's home.

Nowell-Smith was a generous donor to charitable causes, and from 1958 to 1969 served as Secretary of the Hospital Library Services Surveys.

He was president of the Bibliographical Society from 1962 to 1964, and Lyell Reader in Bibliography, Oxford University, from 1965 to 1966. He was a member of the Roxburghe Club, the senior and patrician book-collectors' association, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Nowell-Smith married first, in 1938, Marion Sinclair, who died in 1977, they had two sons and a daughter. He married secondly, in 1986, Judith Adams.

"Gad al-Haq." Daily Telegraph, 4 Apr. 1996, p. 27. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0700931689/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.