COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13th

Her Excellency Madame Honorine Dossou-Naki was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Gabon to the Court of St James's.

Monsieur Dossou-Aworet was also received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Nuncio and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen held a Council at 12.30 p.m.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Baroness Blatch (Minister of State, Home Office), the Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP (Secretary of State for Health) and the Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

At the Council The Queen pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of England (other than Cornwall and those in the Duchy of Lancaster) and Wales.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

After the Council, the Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP had an audience of The Queen when Her Majesty pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13th

The Prince Edward this evening attended a Concert given by the Gloucester Academy of Music and Performing Arts and the English Symphony Orchestra, followed by Dinner, at St James's Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13th

The Princess Royal this morning launched the First World Shire Congress at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau, later opened the new Citizens Advice Bureau Service at HM Prison Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March, Cambridgeshire.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception for the International Crisis Group at the Reform Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 13th

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this morning chaired a meeting of the Court of Advisors at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Regiment of Canada, this afternoon received Major General Reginald Lewis (Colonel of the Regiment) to receive a briefing on Regimental matters.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 13th

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon opened the hydrotherapy pool at Acorns Children's Hospice, 103 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness opened Yardley Green Medical Centre, 75 Yardley Green Road, and later opened Heartlands Hospital Education Centre, Bordesley Green, Birmingham.

YORK HOUSE
March 13th

The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, today attended the Senate Meeting, at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, London SE1.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, The Macmillan Nurse Appeal, will attend a concert in aid of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund at the Royal Albert Hall, SW7, on March 20.

A memorial service for Lord O'Brien of Lothbury will be held today at 11.30, seats to be taken by 11.15, in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, the Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Lord Keyes is 77; **Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe,** former Chief of Defence Procurement, MoD, 74; **Sir Kenneth Alexander,** Chancellor, University of Aberdeen, 74; **Mr P.J. Elton,** Chairman, Alcan (UK), 1967-76, 72; **Lord Marsh,** company chairman, 68; **Sir Richard Parsons,** former diplomat, 68; **Mr J.S. Tysoe,** Chairman, Yorkshire Electricity, 1992-94, 64; **Mr Michael Caine,** actor, 63; **Sir Gavin Laird,** General Secretary, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, 1992-95, 63; **Gen Paul A. Rader,** Salvation Army, 62; **Mr Anthony Smith,** President of Magdalen College, Oxford, 58; **Miss Rita Tushingham,** actress, 54; **the Earl of Halifax** 52; **Mr Justice Wall** 51; **Miss Pam Ayres,** poet, 49; and **Miss Tessa Sanderson,** Olympic javelin gold medallist, 40.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

The Queen pricked the names of the following High Sheriffs on the Lites for the Counties of the Duchy of Lancaster yesterday at Buckingham Palace:

Lancashire, Mr Timothy Roy Henry Kimber, of Whittington, near Carnforth; **Greater Manchester,** Mrs Mary Flora MacKinnon Firth, of Grasscroft, Oldham; and **Merseyside,** Mrs Jennifer Anne Grundy, of Roby, Liverpool.

WEST GLAMORGAN LIEUTENANCY

Mr Thomas James Jones has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for West Glamorgan.

LUNCHEON

Her Majesty's Government

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Carlos Amat Fores, Minister of Justice, Cuba.

SERVICE LUNCHEON

Royal Auxiliary Air Force

Air Vice-Marshal Tim Jenner, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, was guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Swire House for Honorary Air Commodores, RAuxAF. Sir Hector Monro, MP, Inspector-General, was in the chair. The Honorary Air Commodores present were:

Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael Beetham, Air Vice-Marshal R. Riseley-Prichard, Air Commodores Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Sir John Graham, Sir Mark Norman, Sir Adrian Swire and Judge Neville.

DINNERS

Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers

The Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, Mr Peter Sparks, presented the Coachmakers' Motor Centenary Bursary to Mr Matthew Beaven at a dinner held last night at Skinners' Hall. Mr Michael Davis and Mr Christopher Woodwark also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held by the Foundation for Science and Technology last night at the Royal Society. Mr Duncan Matthews, Dr Bob Bishop, Mr Richard Drury and Mr Mike Powell spoke on "Investing in Growth Issues for Technology Based Firms."

SERVICE DINNER

HMS Victory

Adml Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and C-in-C Naval Home Command, was host at a dinner held last night on board HMS Victory in Portsmouth. The guests included Rear-Adml J.E.N. Welch, Chief of Naval Staff, New Zealand, Prof H.J. Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, and Mr W.G. Morrison, Chief Scout.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr Frank O'Shanohun

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Frank O'Shanohun was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Mr Gavin Cochrane read *The Press* by Rudyard Kipling. Mr Anthony Bush, Editor, *The Officer*, read the lesson and the Earl of Scarbrough *Do not go gentle into that good night* by Dylan Thomas. An address was given by Viscount Slim, President, Special Forces Club. Those present were:

Mrs O'Shanohun (widow), Mr Jeremy O'Shanohun, Mr Matthew O'Shanohun (sons), Mrs Bridget Morrow (daughter), Thomas Morrow, Sam Morrow, Jemima Morrow (grandchildren).

Viscountess Slim, Marshal of the RAF Lord and Lady Craig of Radley, Dame Felicity Peake, Friends of the Imperial War Museum; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight, Chairman, The Air League, with Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough; Sir Ian Morrow, the Hon Susie Craig.

Mr Roger Dalzell, Proprietor of *The Officer*, Mr Michael Wilde, National Westminster Bank, Mr Terry Cox, Al Khaleejiah Publishers, Mr Alan Brothers, Lockheed Martin, Mr Murray Green, Mr John Baker, Mr Madhav Sharma, Mrs Lavinia Startin, Mr Adrian Hawksley, Mrs Mary Rayner, the Rev David Harding, Mr Claude Evans, Mr James Dreaper, Mr John Whittingdale, Mr Edward Hasted, Mr Richard Gordon, Mr David Hands, QC, Mr and Mrs Derek Wood, Mr Ronald Payne, Mr Brian McConnell, Mr James Morrow, Mr Richard Peirce, Mr Tom Keohane, Mr P.J. Duffy.

Mr and Mrs John Grenville-Robinson, Mr Alan Brooker, Mr Toby Grenville-Robinson, Mr Ian Takats, Dr A. Muir, Mr R.E. Thomas, Miss Jill Price, Miss Mary Hopwood, Mr E.R. Heron, Mrs Marilyn Pruden, Mr John Bean, Mr Michael Daniels, Mr and Mrs J. Tucker, Mr Andrew Crossley, Mr Michael Donne, Mr Donald Bennett, Miss Ann Tilbury, Mr Peter Staheli, Mr K. Thorogood, Mrs M. Beauchamp, Mr C. Moorson, Mrs Barbara Payne, Mr John W.R. Taylor, Mr David Mansell-Lewis, Mrs Naomi Crossley, Miss Annie Boslem, Miss Helen Green.

Mr Ian Thomson, Mr and Mrs Peter Brierley, Mr Brian Nicholson, Mr Frank Robson, Mr George Macarty, Mr and Mrs Reg Turnill, Mr Edward Bishop, Dr Michael Price, Miss Rebecca Simpson, Mr Christopher Dobson, Mr Mike Carey, Mr Robert Bush, Mr Jonathan Bush, Miss Caroline Whitlock, Ms Celia Haddon, Mr Jeremy Lee, Mr Simon Parkes, Mr and Mrs Andrew McNair, Mr E. Kai, Mr M. Makki, Mr David Harrison, Mr Chris Miller, Mr Dihabi Idrisi, Mrs Patricia Connell, Mr A. Whittaker, Mr Robert Bailey, Miss Mandy Hills and Mr Peter Fairley.

RECENT WILLS

Recent wills include:

□ **Susi Hush,** of London W4, the television producer, who died last October, aged 49, left estate valued at £186,696 net.

□ **Mrs Patricia Coke,** of Bentley, Hants, who died last August, left estate valued at £8,037,520 net.

□ **Mr Tresham Edward David Green,** of Edlesborough, Bucks, who died last October, left estate valued at £3,357,892.

□ **Mr Kenneth Alfred Lamport Parker,** CB, of Kew Gardens, Surrey, Reciever for the Metropolitan Police District 1967-74, who died last September aged 83, left estate valued at £276,450 net.

□ **Mrs Agnes Gray Campbell Pilbeam,** of Chipstead, Surrey, who died last November, left estate valued at £1,176,382 net.

She left £100,000 each to the Royal Marsden Hospital, for the purchase of equipment, and the RNLI, £50,000 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and £5,000 each to Chipstead Bowling Club and Purley Reform Church.

□ **Rt Hon Desmond Llowarch Edward Flower,** 10th Viscount Ashbrook, KCVO, of Northwich, Cheshire, chartered accountant, a member of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1957-77, and Vice-Lieutenant of Cheshire 1961-67, who died last December aged 90, left estate valued at £191,094 net.

□ **Other estates** (net before tax):

Mrs Jean Evelyn RIDLEY, of High Garrett, Essex £797,547
Ms Gwyneth Joan ROWELL, of New Milton, Hants £777,928
Mr Leonard TUCKER, of Torquay, Devon, late chartered accountant £844,518
Mr Neville VINCENT, of London NW3 .... £1,534,383
Mr Michael Harold WRIGLEY, OBE, of Scarborough, North Yorks £968,145

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr J.S.E. Lynn and Miss S.L.M. Birtwistle
The engagement is announced between Julian Stirling Emmet, son of Mrs Graeme Hamilton and stepson of Mr Graeme Hamilton, of Eastling, Kent, and Sophia Louise Mary, youngest daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Anthony Birtwistle, of Rogate, West Sussex.

Major N.D. Garrett and Miss C.M. Swan
The engagement is announced between Major Nicholas Garrett, The Life Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Garrett, of Windsor, and Catherine, daughter of the late Mr Noel Swan and of Mrs Brenda Swan, of Hatfield Broad Oak.

Capt R.J.W. Durrant and Miss T.A. Wakerley
The engagement is announced between Captain Robert James Warren Durrant, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th Foot), eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs G.R. Durrant, of Taunton, Somerset, and Tracy Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Wakerley, of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Capt J.P. Foster and Miss H.G. Moon
The engagement is announced between Captain John Foster, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.P. Foster, of Andover, Hampshire, and Heather, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.J. Moon, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire.

Mr D.M. Wright and Miss T.H. Coville
The engagement is announced between David, son of the Very Rev Michael and Mrs Wright, of Peasedown St John, Bath, and Theresa, younger daughter of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs Christopher Coville, of Biggin Hill.

Mr A.S. Coward and Miss M.S.U. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Commander and Mrs B.R. Coward, of Little Milton, Oxon, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.T.U. Taylor, of Gatcombe, Isle of Wight.

Mr R.W. Sommers and Miss A. Kemp
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs John Sommers, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, and Anna, daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Kemp, of Ditchling, Sussex. The marriage will take place in England next year and the couple will reside in Hong Kong.

Mr J.A. Buchanan-Michaelson and Miss N. Keller
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Buchanan-Michaelson, of Chelsea, London, and Nadine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Keller, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr A.J. Gittins and Miss A.C. Carmichael
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Gittins, of Brent Green, Worcestershire, and Annette, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Carmichael, of Minard, Argyll.

Mr D.J.I. Cousins and Ms R. Garnham
The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Deryck Cousins and of Mrs Pauline Cousins, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, and Rosemarie, daughter of Mrs Grace Anderson, of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Mr M.A. Rockminster and Miss L.M. Kneebone
The engagement is announced between Mark Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Rockminster, of Long Crendon, Bucks, and Lucy Morwenna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Kneebone, of Great Milton, Oxon.

Mr R.R. Watts and Miss E.M.P. Pringle
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs Q.R. Watts, of St Ives, Huntingdonshire, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.D. Pringle, of Pogmoor, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

Mr G.F. Kilner and Miss A.E. Walker
The engagement is announced between ffinlo, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Kilner, of Holmfirth, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Walker, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Mr R.A.H. Smart and Miss H.J. Burbidge
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs Adrian Smart, of Reigate Heath, Surrey, and Harriet, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Burbidge, of Wasperton, Warwickshire.

Mr C.A.L. Brock and Miss A.M. Bolton
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Brock, of St Saviour's, Guernsey, and Anita, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bolton, of Penrith, Cumbria.

Mr C.H. Sulzburgh and Miss J.T. Dover
The engagement is announced between Craig, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Sulzburgh, of New York, USA, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mrs Jennifer Dover, of Soberton, Hampshire.

Mr A.R. MacLeod and Miss E. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John MacLeod, of Wimbledon, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Clarke, of Barton St David, Somerset.

Mr S.J. Norris and Miss A.C. Kihlström
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Norris, of Brinkley, Southwell, Notts, and Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.I. Kihlström, of Uppsala-Näs, Uppsala, Sweden.

Mr B.P. Milligan and Mrs B.J. Embleton
The engagement is announced between Brian Parker Milligan, of Old Textile House, Yateley, and Barbara Jane Embleton, of Hollybush Lodge, Yateley.

HARROW ASSOCIATION

A dinner for Old Knollites and their ladies will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 1996, at 7.15 pm for 7.45 pm at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8AY, in the presence of the Head Master of Harrow School and Mrs Bomford. The House Master of the Knoll, Mr Hugh Thompson, will take the chair. Ticket application forms are now being sent to all Old Knollites whose addresses are known to the Harrow Association office. Those who have not received application forms by April 1 are invited to contact Mr Peregrine Massey, Boldshaves, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3RA.

PROF CHARLES FLETCHER

A memorial service for Prof Charles Fletcher will be held in the Crypt Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, on March 21 at 3 pm, to be seated by 2.45 pm.

LINCOLN'S INN

Judge John D. Cooke, a Judge of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities, has been made an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

PAVIORS' COMPANY

The Paviors' Company has elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J. Luff; Upper Warden, Mr J.W.A. Clugston; and Renter Warden, Mr J.H. Lelliott.

OBITUARIES

Victoria Opoku-Ware

VICTORIA OPOKU-WARE, who has died aged 66, was the senior wife of the Asantehene, Otumfuo Opoku-Ware, the King of the Ashanti.

In the modern republic of Ghana, the Asantehene wields no official executive power, but he is the traditional leader of an important constituency within the country, and he continues to maintain a court.

Victoria Opoku-Ware — "Lady Victoria" to the Ashanti people — was an influential figure at court, and used her considerable force of personality to defend the kingdom's interests.

Her nephew, Kwame Anthony Appiah, described her as the most powerful person in the kingdom. "Auntie Vic," he said, "made her weight felt around town, driven around in one of her fleet of Mercedes-Benzes, cultivating a faintly plutocratic aura."

The daughter of a Christian schoolmaster, Victoria Nana Akua Afiiriyie Bando was born in Kumasi, the Ashanti capital, on April 22 1929, and educated in Ghana at the Wesley Girls' School, Cape Coast. Her family had substantial commercial interests in the region.

Aged 13, young Victoria was betrothed to Matthew Poku, a member of Lincoln's Inn; they were married in 1945.

In 1970, shortly before he was due to become Ghana's ambassador to Italy, Poku was told of the death of his uncle the Asantehene Sir Osei Agyeman-Prempeh II. Summoned back to Kumasi, he emerged as the chosen successor to the golden stool of the Ashanti — thanks largely to his wife's adroit advocacy.

Although the Asantehene is obliged by tradition to contract a number of dynastic marriages, Victoria established herself as the "First Lady" of Ashanti. She accompanied the king on foreign trips, including one to London in 1971, when they were received at Buckingham Palace.

First Lady of the Ashanti

Much of the history of modern Ghana has been dominated by tension between the traditional Ashanti polity and the modern state, based in Accra. Even before Ghana became a republic in 1957, the Prime Minister, Kwame Nkrumah, was pelted in the streets of Kumasi; and since independence no Ghanaian government has ever willingly offended the Ashanti king and his people.

The Asantehene, for his part, is required to strike a careful balance between visible allegiance to the Ghanaian state and responsibility to the Ashanti people. Victoria helped the king to achieve this balance.

In the process the Ashanti kingdom gained in international status, and the Asantehene came increasingly to resemble a head of state. Widespread popular interest in African culture in recent years has increased interest in the Asantehene still further.

Decked out in Ashanti gold and surrounded by courtiers, the Asantehene looks the epitome of an African king, and Victoria promoted that image. But she understood the need to combine the preservation of tradition with the opening up of the monarchy to the modern world.

In 1981, she was active in arrangements for the spectacular Ashanti exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in London, at the opening of which Ashanti drummers performed in nearby New Bond Street.

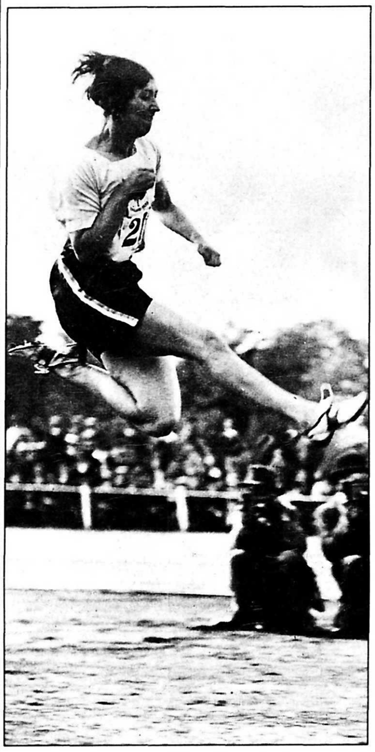
When the exhibition transferred to New York, it was widely reported on television and the Black American community thronged the streets to see the Asantehene himself.

In 1995, Victoria played a prominent role in extensive arrangements for the celebration of her husband's silver jubilee, and she continued to exert her influence on his behalf, seductive and bullying as necessary. "Never assume," Kwame Anthony Appiah wrote, "that individual women cannot gain power under patriarchy."

Recently, she was delighted when the eldest of her second daughter's children entered Eton in the same class as Prince William.

She is survived by her husband the Asantehene, a son, two daughters and 18 grandchildren.

Muriel Cornell


Muriel Cornell jumping in 1931

MURIEL CORNELL, who has died aged 89, was a long-jumper of exceptional grace and technique; she was the world record holder in the 1920s and her British all-comers record stood for 23 years.

In his book *Athletics for Women* (1946), Lt-Col F A M Webster wrote: "The finest stylist of either sex, in the long jump, was Mrs Muriel Cornell. Many have excelled the distance she jumped, but none surpassed her in pace, judgment, and mid-air balance, nor in the accuracy of her timing."

Her gift was all the more remarkable for being innate. An accomplished runner from an early age, she became a long jumper almost by accident when her club, Mitcham AC, held a members' handicap one evening in June 1926. Muriel decided to compete in both the 220 yards and long jump. Although tired after the sprint, she soared to victory in the leap.

Believing she could improve when fresh, she practised sufficiently to improve her distance by two feet in the space of a fortnight. She was observed practising by a curious athlete from another club and her distance was measured; it exceeded the world record of the day.

Her club secretary wrote to the organiser of that summer's British Games at Stamford Bridge and persuaded him to include a women's long jump so that Muriel could attempt to break the world record under the official gaze. And, although she felt unwell on the day, she did break the record, twice. Her first jump of 17 ft 8½ in, a new record, went unwitnessed by the photographers, who urged her to one more effort for the cameras. She obliged with an astounding leap of 18 ft.

Muriel was then selected for the British team taking part in the second Women's World Games at Gothenburg in August. She had only been jumping for two months and her inexperience undid her in Sweden.

Having made another enormous leap into the pit, she turned to speak to an official and made another mark in the sand, behind the mark from her jump. She thus lost her first place — and her world record — to the Japanese athlete Kinui Hitomi.

Hitomi became her great rival, and friend, and the record changed hands on a number of occasions.

Muriel Cornell's British All-comers record, set in 1930 at 19 ft 2½ in, stood until 1953, even surviving the 1948 Olympics in London. When it was broken, by the future Mrs Ron Pickering, Muriel Cornell was a grandmother.

A grocer's daughter, Muriel Amy Gunn was born in 1906 and educated at Wimbledon County School, where athletics played no part in the curriculum.

Her brother and her fiancé, Stan Cornell, were both keen athletes and founder members of Mitcham AC.

Encouraged by them, she became in 1926, a founder member of the club's ladies' section.

As well as jumping spectacular lengths, Muriel was a useful hurdler and sprinter. In the first WAAA championships in 1927, when she won the long-jump, she also won the 100 m hurdles, clearing the obstacles with alternate feet.

In the 1928 championships, she set a new world record for the 80 m hurdles in the heats. Although she lost in the final to a new record, she made up for it by winning the 100 yards and the long jump.

She married Stan Cornell in August that year.

In 1932, she took part in the Los Angeles Olympic Trials. Her poor performance was later explained when it was established that she was pregnant. She gave birth to a daughter, Lorna, in January 1933.

She was the first mother to resume high-standard athletics. Much of the medical profession was hostile at the time to the very notion of women's athletics. But Muriel Cornell confounded the doctors' prejudice.

She did, nevertheless, soon have to retire from competition when her Achilles' tendon snapped as she dashed for victory in a hurdles race: "It seemed like a shot," she said, "and the pain went up to the top of my head."

She remained in athletics as an administrator and coach, and was the manager for the women's team at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

She served for 11 years as the secretary to the WAAA.

Her 70th birthday party was attended by the great Harold Abrahams who presented her with a gold medal "From a fellow long jumper".

Stan, her husband, predeceased her.

J A Cuddon

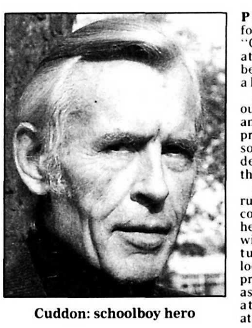
J A CUDDON, who has died aged 67, was a gifted writer and schoolmaster.

In both fields he was noted for making unexpected connections between subjects familiar to his well-stocked mind. His best known books were the *Dictionary of Literary Terms* and *The Companion Guide to Yugoslavia* (1968).

Two novels, *A Multitude of Sins* (1961) and *Testament of Iscariot* (1962), explored sinfulness and Catholicism. *The Bride of Battersea* (1967) was set in a part of London Cuddon knew well and featured a chorus of charwomen. He edited the *Penguin Book of Ghost Stories*.

His play *The Triple Alliance* figured in the Royal Court's season of Sunday evening performances in 1961. "We were in a home for cripples, each of whom had been the victim of a botched abortion and one of whom was possibly the warden's unacknowledged son," explained this paper's critic.

James Anthony Bowen Cuddon was born on June 2 1928. He was educated at Douai and Brasenose


Cuddon: schoolboy hero

College, Oxford. He joined Emanuel School, Battersea, in 1954 and taught there until he retired in 1993.

He is survived by his wife, Anna. They had two daughters and a son.

P J Kavanagh writes: J A Cuddon — for some reason always known as "Charles" — came early into my life, at Douai School, and for me he became immediately, and remained, a hero.

First there was the difference in our ages, he was three years older and such a gap, at school, is vast and precludes intimacy. But there was something about his personality, a detachment, a dashing gruffness, that set him apart.

An athlete, eventually captain of rugby, cricket and hockey, which of course greatly added to his status of hero in all our eyes, he was also, without pretentiousness, an intellectual. (When his god-like figure loomed over me, a scruffy junior, privily reading a highbrow book, he asked to see it, and raised *his* brows at me, approvingly, conspiratorially.)

When years later I bumped into him in the street at Oxford it came as no surprise that, while representing the University at all three of his favourite games, he was writing a B Litt thesis on Evil and the Devil in medieval and Renaissance literature.

He became a schoolmaster but a steady stream of novels and plays came from him. (At one stage the *Daily Express* called him, mysteriously, "the Tennessee Williams of Chelsea".) After work, "a basic stint of three hours writing a day — anything less is not enough", he said. (I was right to think of him, so early, as a hero.)

He was a passionate traveller. One of his pupils, the poet Clive Wilmer, remembers how he —

turned up late
Each autumn term — though just in
time to teach —
Tanned like a bather from a southern
beach,
Having come (went the rumour)
straight to school
From the last sleeper out of Istanbul.

His last years were spent writing, and revising his gargantuan (and heroic) *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, which is not only useful but enjoyable and, as Wilmer says in his poem, as good a bedside book as you will find.

Reginald Rimmer, GC

REGINALD RIMMER, who has died aged 93, was the oldest living holder of the George Cross, which he won as the Empire Gallantry Medal in 1931. Serving with the Indian Police in Bombay, Rimmer, who was unarmed confronted a dangerous criminal brandishing a dagger. Rimmer closed with him, receiving a dagger thrust through his right wrist in the process. Having lost a lot of blood he just had the strength to summon a taxi and say "Hospital" before losing conciousness.

When he woke up he found himself in a private room in a maternity hospital. His colleagues were looking for him in every other hospital in the district.

The citation recorded: "Sgt Rimmer was decorated not for one act of gallantry but because on numerous occasions he showed great courage and coolness. His pluck and presence of mind evoked the highest praise from his superiors and he consistently set a fine example to the constabulary under him." The EGM was translated to the GC in 1941.

Reginald Rimmer was born on Nov 21 1902. In 1918 he enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Wales as a driver. Under-age for service, he used the birth certificate of his elder brother who had been killed at Passchendaele the year before.

Posted to Woolwich he fell victim to the dangerous Spanish flu. On recovery, weighing less than seven stone, he was attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps.

At the Armistice he was discharged as "not attaining the physical standard required for HM Forces", but he soon re-enlisted in the Cheshire Regiment. He served in Ireland and was under canvas for the winter of 1920-21 during which he contracted pneumonia.

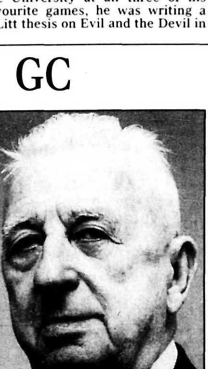
He was then posted to India with the regiment, with which he served until 1927 before joining the Indian Police. He continued to serve with the police until 1939 when he joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

In 1942 Rimmer was transferred to Occupied Territory Administration (Civil Police) initially in Tripolitania and then from 1945 to 1950 in Eritrea. In the latter he was attached to the Frontier Striking Force (Mounted) alongside the Corps Caribinieri Regimento Reale (he spoke Italian fluently).

In 1950 he returned to the regular Army and served in the East Africa Pioneer Corps, seeing action against the Mau Mau in Kenya.

In 1958 he retired and settled in Chester where he served as a court usher until the age of 65.

Reginald Rimmer was a highly intelligent, disciplined soldier, patriotic to the core, and with an eye for


Rimmer: presence of mind

detail which made him outstanding in police work. He was also a devoted family man and had a wide circle of friends.

He was a strong supporter of the VC and GC Association and attended all their reunions until old age prevented him from travelling.

Rimmer married, in 1934, Lucy Barley, who survives him. They had a daughter.

Ross Hunter. Aged 79. American film producer who made glossy, sentimental pictures designed to appeal to women. These included *Magnificent Obsession* (1954), *Tammy and the Bachelor* (1957), *Pillow Talk* (1959), *Midnight Lace* (1960), *Flower Drum Song* (1962), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967) and *Airport* (1970). "You might as well have murder take place on an oriental rug," he believed, "as on someone's dirty linoleum." Began as an actor, chiefly in "B" movies. "He had three expressions," a Columbia executive complained, "blank, blanker and blankest."

Sir William Shakespeare, 2nd Bt. General Practitioner, Aylesbury 1968-87. Hospital Practitioner, Mental Subnormality, Manor House Hospital, Aylesbury, since 1972. Member, Snowdon Working Party on Integration of Handicapped, 1974-76. President: Physically Handicapped & Able-Bodied from 1977; Restricted Growth Association from 1982. Trustee, Shakespeare Globe Trust from 1992. Succeeded to baronetcy 1980. Traced lineage back to Humphrey Shakespeare, who died at Ipsley, Warwickshire, in 1689. Heir: his son, Thomas William Shakespeare, born 1966.

Sheikh Mohammed el-Ghazaly. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, aged 78. Widely travelled Egyptian scholar, well known in the Islamic world. A preacher at the 1,000-year-old al-Azhar University, Cairo. Held senior positions in the ministry of Islamic affairs in Egypt. He wrote 94 books on Islam. In 1989, he won the King Faisal prize in Saudi Arabia for services to Islam.

Ken Vickers. Aged 71. Leading figure in the world of fisheries and an authority on all aspects of fishery biology. A civil servant in Belfast, he was the Chief Fisheries Officer in Northern Ireland when he retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1982. Responsible for an extensive programme of fisheries development in Ulster.

"Victoria Opoku-Ware." Daily Telegraph, 14 Mar. 1996, p. 19. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701272975/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.