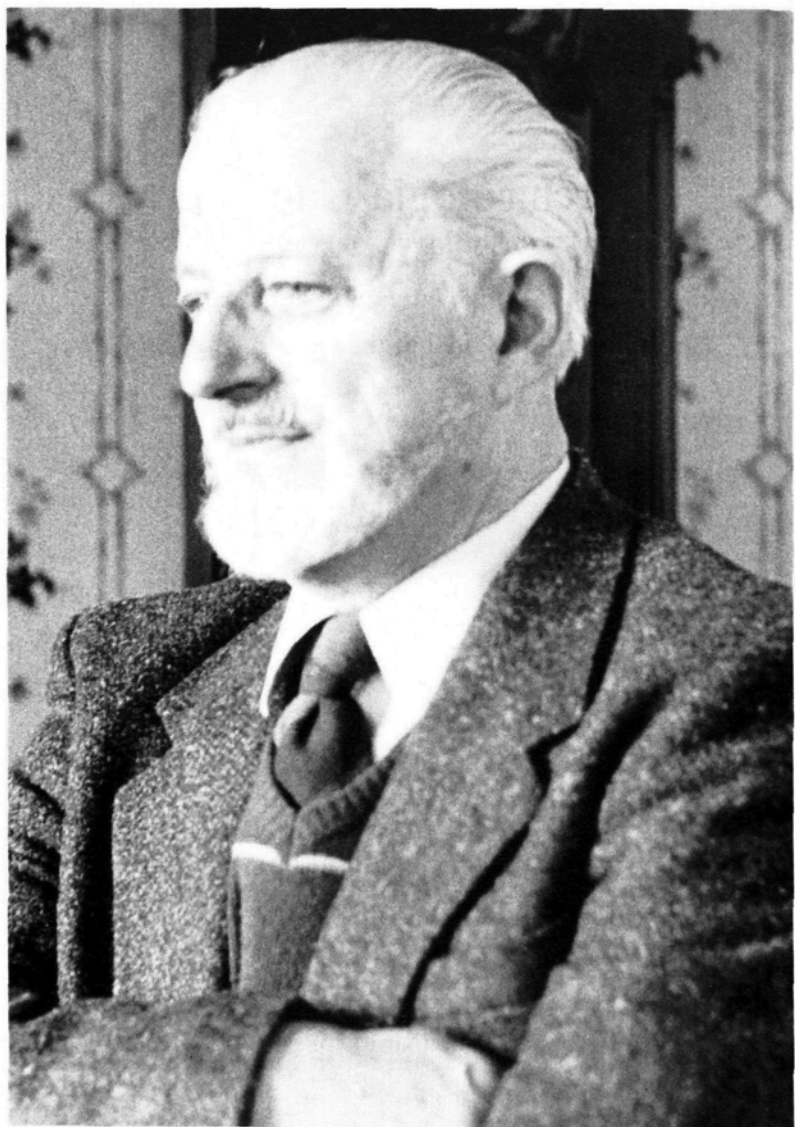




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ALLEN GROVE
(1910-1990)

ALLEN GROVE

A personal memoir

Allen Grove was everybody's friend, my privilege to be one of his!

We first met, he a Northerner by birth and I by the choice of my *alma mater*, in 1961 when Allen, a patron if ever there were one, opened his museum to an inaugural meeting of support before the first season of Eccles excavations, and since we forged a friendship that was to endure till his death, through Eva's loss, over the final years of his curatorship at Maidstone Museum, during his presidency of the Society and, afterwards, his secretaryship of its Publications Committee. One day, Allen would be rubbing shoulders with his chairman in the Library ('Come and eat Chinese!', he would say with a glint of blue in his eye), taking the minutes that he would send on written in his own version of copper-plate, then, he would no longer be with us, gone!

Already seriously ill, though to look at his ever-cheerful face you would never believe it, Allen would leave lasting memories of convivial moments in a Trier *Bierkeller* during the Society's 1989 excursion, of lunching in the sunshine of Echternach where he would cheerfully prompt his chairman into becoming an impromptu guide to a Roman villa new to both of us ('Go on, Alec, you can do it', he would say) – indomitable, his spirit released in his faith.

And so, relatives, friends and colleagues, all linked by our common bond of friendship with Allen, we all gathered one Friday afternoon, under the ancient vaulted ceiling of the church at Hollingbourne where he worshipped and played the organ, to give thanks for Allen's life, take our leave of the finite man, the latest in a litany of others, and soon to make our separate ways home, to friendly comfort and celebration of the boon of knowing him.

Allen Grove went beyond us on 21st July, 1990.

Admiratione te et immortalibus laudibus, et si nature suppeditet, similitudine colamus.

ALEC DETSICAS