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OBITUARIES

PHILIP H. BLAKE

Philip Haslewood Blake, a long-standing member of the Society and member of council since 1982, died on 3rd June, 1994.

The son of Frederick Blake and Josephine (née Sloss), Philip was born in Belfast on 3rd May, 1907, and educated at Campbell College in that city. He went on to study music at the Royal College of Music, South Kensington, and, although he never became a professional musician, music, and particularly opera, continued to be a great interest throughout his life.

Another hobby was vintage cars, particularly a Bentley, of which he was very proud and of which he retained photos.

As an archaeologist his main subjects were heraldry and genealogy, in both of which he was a great expert, and of which he amassed an extensive library, including every edition of Burke (*Peerage and Landed Gentry*), almost the complete Harleian Society publications, every book by or about the Dering family, from whom he was descended, and a vast collection of the most important books on those subjects.

His articles in *Archaeologia Cantiana* and other periodicals show a vast knowledge, and his most recent article on the Dering family in *Arch. Cant.*, cxii (1993), 299–308, which was issued after his death, was a masterpiece of careful heraldic research.

Philip lived for some years at Mystole in Chartham, then moved to Barham Court, but he lost almost all his capital in an unfortunate property speculation in Ireland, and on returning to Kent in reduced circumstances he lived in Folkestone.

He inherited the Lordship of the Manor of Barham and was buried in the Dering vault in that church.

BRYAN GIPPS

BERNARD JOHN WIGAN, M.A. 1918-1994

Bernard Wigan was a member of the Wigan family of Clare Park, East Malling, a family which played a significant role in the founding of this Society in 1857.

Educated at King's School, Canterbury, and St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, Bernard Wigan followed a vocation for the priesthood and was trained for the ministry at Cuddesdon. Several members of his family had served the community through priesthood and Bernard was to do so faithfully all his life. Entering the ordained ministry of the Church in 1943 Father Wigan served in a number of parishes in the Oxford diocese before being presented to the family living of East Malling in 1949.

Being a delving and discerning scholar Wigan soon joined the Kent Archaeological Society, retaining an interest in its affairs until the end of his life. For many years he lent his colourful personality to the annual general meetings where his lively wit and keen, albeit dry, sense of humour made him popular. He served as a member of the Society's Council from 1972-76.

It was during his years at East Malling that Bernard became known to an increasingly wide circle as an authority on architectural, historical, and archaeological matters in Kent. For a number of years he was a member of the Rochester Diocesan Advisory Committee.

In addition to his pastoral duties and important work as a member of the Archbishop's Liturgical Commission, Father Wigan spent much time working on manuscripts in the Kent Archives Office and in the collection of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester. In the latter he rediscovered a considerable quantity of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century sheet music long lost sight of. His work on the *Customale Roffense* was not published.

On leaving East Malling in 1957, a particularly exacting parish, Father Wigan held a number of livings in fairly rapid succession until increasing ill-health forced his early retirement from the full-time ministry in 1965. He was an honorary canon of Rochester Cathedral from 1968-83.

During his retirement, Canon Wigan was active in founding the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group in 1969, being a valued member of its building recording section. In his quiet way he encouraged many young people to develop their architectural and historical interests. He was also able to revive his interest in researches in the manuscript collections at the County Archives Office. Never one to court publicity of any kind Canon Wigan, at this time, was a generous benefactor to several libraries.

OBITUARIES

For a number of years Bernard Wigan acted as secretary of the Henry Bradshaw Society, publishers of rare liturgical texts. His own contribution to the general study of the Anglican liturgy *The Liturgy in English* was, and remains, an important contribution to this area of church order.

Bernard wore his scholarship lightly but always imparted knowledge as 'one having authority and not as one of the scribes'. His lectures on churches and nineteenth-century stained-glass, on which he was an authority, were a delight to all who heard them.

With his wife Mary, who survives him, and by whom he had four children, two sons and two daughters, the Wigans were noted for their gracious, old-fashioned hospitality and friendship. Their house in Somerfield Road, Maidstone, where Mary was able to indulge her passion for gardening, was a haven of civilisation. It also contained a wonderful library, famous to all who knew it.

A loyal son of the Church of England Bernard Wigan steadfastly upheld and taught the catholicity of its position to his life's end. During the last years of his life, spent at Hurstpierpoint, Bernard suffered increasingly with ill-health but continued to serve the church at St. Paul's, Brighton and St. Edward's, Burgess Hill, and did not neglect his other interests. Bernard Wigan died on October 10, 1994. May this fine gentleman and priest in the Church of God rest in peace.

D.A.H.C.

