



# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1966

**OLD MERCERS' CLUB**  
**GRESHAM COLLEGE**  
**BASINGHALL STREET**  
**LONDON - E.C.2**



P. J. S. SQUIRRELL  
PRESIDENT, OLD MERCERS' CLUB, 1966-67

## CLUB OFFICERS 1966-67

**PRESIDENT :** P. J. S. SQUIRRELL

**Vice-Presidents :** P. Nailor  
G. C. Ives  
C. D. Archibald  
E. S. Wilkins  
R. H. Cousens

**Trustees :** K. M. Scott FCA  
L. Clifton Crick  
G. Milne

**General Secretary :** P. Nailor

**Treasurer :** N. S. Fosh

**Honorary Auditor :** W. H. Wright

**Entertainments Secretary :** P. J. Clayton  
12 Tewkesbury Terrace  
London N14

**Records Secretary :** I. M. H. Williamson

**Past Presidents :** D. G. Searls  
H. M. Eade  
J. F. Gray  
G. H. Parker  
H. G. Andrew

**Ordinary Members of Committee:** K. F. Holmes  
C. D. Fidge  
F. J. Robinson  
B. D. Percy  
L. T. Allen  
J. Morgan

**Magazine Editor :** R. G. Dawson  
15 Brookmead Avenue  
Bickley Kent

## THE YEAR 1965-66

Looking back on Jimmy Gray's year of office, one remembers a number of enjoyable occasions all enhanced by Jim's genial presence, yet, behind the scenes, it has been a year of great activity; the Committee, led by the President, deliberated at great length on the questions of finance and of the general future of the Club. The General Secretary has summarised admirably in his report of the Annual General Meeting what conclusions have been reached; a sub-committee to look at the general financial situation has been set up. The annual wastage of members is inevitable and it is obvious that, in a period of inflation, costs of even the Club essentials, printing stationery, postage, must rise steeply. What, then, do members expect from their Club? The attendance at the Commemoration Service and at the A.G.M. was disappointing; the numbers at the Christmas Dance, enjoyable occasion though it was, have forced the Committee reluctantly to cancel the Hayes' Dance in the spring. The Cricket Section has decided that 1967 must be its last season but the footballers continue to run two elevens, whose average age is, however, ominously high. The golf meetings seem to have fallen by the wayside due to lack of support. Old Boys' Day, despite a new date away from Henley, Wimbledon and the Lords' Test, was not particularly well supported.

All this would suggest an air of gloom and despondency which is, however, relative. The Annual Dinner was a resounding success, with members who applied late getting their money back. It was indeed a memorable occasion and a triumph for the President who, in his speech, roundly rebuked those who would like to bury the Club here and now. 137 at a Dinner suggests that there is "life in the old dog yet". The Dramatic Club continue to produce shows of excellent quality; there are ideas abroad for new activities, boating and bridge to name but two. The Committee are deeply conscious of the situation and are much concerned that, so long as Old Mercers want their Club to continue, it will do so. Again the question is posed; what do members expect of their Club? Perhaps we are approaching the time when, like so many other Old Boys' Clubs, we shall restrict ourselves to an Annual Magazine, an Annual Dinner and one function at which the ladies may join us.

In 1964, in his notes, the then Editor remarked that he was putting the Magazine to bed "for the last time". Force of circumstances has meant that he has found himself nursing the baby yet again; he apologises for the lateness of this issue, but as his responsibilities increase in other directions, the time for the Magazine, pleasurable though he finds it, must, of necessity, be less; he would welcome a successor.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

1. "LORD ARTHUR SAVILLE'S CRIME". O.M.D.C. CHANTICLEER THEATRE, MARCH 8th, 9th, 10th. E. S. Wilkins, 7, Crescent Court, Park Hill, S.W.4.
2. F.C. SUPPER, "WESTMINSTER ARMS", PAGE STREET, S.W.1. MARCH 31st. P. G. Wainwright, 45, Cancell Road, S.W.9.
3. GOLF MEETING. DULWICH AND SYDENHAM G.C. APRIL 5th. F. J. Robinson, 49, Clarendon Way, Chislehurst, Kent.
4. ANNUAL DINNER. MERCERS' HALL, APRIL 27th.
5. OLD BOYS' DAY. GROVE PARK, JUNE 24th.
6. C.C. SUPPER, "WESTMINSTER ARMS", PAGE STREET, S.W.1. OCTOBER 6th (provisional). R. S. Dean, 76, Greenway Avenue, E.17.
7. COMMEMORATION SERVICE AND A.G.M. MERCERS' HALL, NOVEMBER 3rd.

The Honor Deo Lodge are holding a Ladies' Night at the Zoological Gardens Restaurant on JUNE 17th. They would be delighted to welcome members of the Club to this function—with their ladies, of course—and those interested should get in touch with Hartley Campbell at "Cairo", Colne Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21.

## PETER SQUIRRELL

In the 1930's, Mercers' School, thanks to the sagacity of a school-master father, was fortunate enough to recruit not one but three Squirrells. After distinguished careers at school and in the services they became stalwart members of the Club and it is our good fortune to have as our President for 1966-67 the eldest of the three, Peter, who has served the Club in many ways over the years. Having given up cricket—because brother John needed the kit—Peter went on thundering down the Third Eleven wing for a number of years and one can still hear the cry of “with you, man”, as he waited for the pass which would allow him to unleash that lethal right boot. Recently he has given great service as Entertainments' Secretary, the most thankless job in the Club, dealing cheerfully and patiently with the whims of members who never answer circulars and who regard the Entertainments' Secretary as a mind reader. Let us hope he will be supported in the way he deserves during his year of office as President.

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1966

The Club Annual General Meeting was held in Mercers' Hall on November 4th, 1966, with thirty members present, the lowest number since 1939. Ten apologies for absence were received.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read, approved, and signed by the President.

Introducing the *Treasurer's Report*, the President explained that G. H. Parker had acted for the Treasurer during the greater part of the Club year, as OM N. S. Fosh had been out of the country on business. Parker circulated copies of the accounts and commented on the principal features. Expenditure had been reduced from £377 to £267; the cost of the magazine was down and all running expenses, with the exception of the rates for the Committee Room at Gresham College, had been held at their previous level or reduced. The most significant change, however, was on the entertainment account, where a loss of £80 the previous year had been changed to a profit of £2. Subscription and investment income had remained about the same, but donations and subscriptions had gone down. Six life subscriptions had been received during the year, and were held as uninvested Life funds.

There were no questions and the accounts were adopted unanimously.

*General Secretary's Report* : Club membership now totalled 810, with 570 Life Members. The number of members removed for debt during the year was smaller than usual, at eleven, but just as irritating and needless as ever. Eight members had died during the year; there had been four resignations and three new members.

The Club year had been a full one; the Magazine was now published at a different, and more convenient, time, but the Magazine Secretary, C. D. Robinson, had had to resign because of the pressure of his business commitments. R. G. Dawson had kindly agreed to resume a responsibility he had only recently been able to relinquish.

The usual functions had been held and, perhaps with the exception of the Hayes Dance which had only been moderately supported, they had all been very popular and successful. The Dinner in particular had been excellent. The dates for the comparable fixtures in 1966/67 were announced.

At the previous A.G.M. the incoming President had referred to the need to review the Club's finances. In general terms, the Treasurer's report demonstrated a part of the work that had gone on. In addition, the Committee had established, through enquiries that the President had set in train, what the correct and legal method for amending the Trust Deed would be; it was that the terms of the Trust could be varied in Club General Meeting, in the method provided for. Nailor emphasised that the Committee had no intention of invoking this procedure at the present time; but it was an issue that was bound to recur from time to time and the Committee had felt it prudent to establish finally what methodology would be correct.

Nailor then described in detail the report of the sub-committee on the future of the Club, which had been rendered during the year. The report had analysed the present state of the Club, had determined that the problem of survival was the central issue which had to be grappled with, and had suggested various possibilities which they thought might contribute to a longer Club life. As a consequence of the Committee's deliberations on the report, a number of actions had already been taken, or views put on record. Among the more important were:

- (a) the unwillingness of the Committee to recommend an extension of the qualifications for membership of the Club at the present time;
- (b) the London Old Collyerians were being invited to attend the next Christmas Party, as a start towards developing joint, or shared, functions;
- (c) the Club calendar, for constituent club functions as well as for central Club functions, was being co-ordinated, in order to avoid clashes;
- (d) new general Club activities should be encouraged; specific members of the Committee undertook sponsorship.

There were no questions on the General Secretary's report.

*OM Athletic Association:* OM Archibald reported on behalf of the General Secretary of the OMAA. He reviewed the activities of the Football and Cricket Sections; the footballers were still very active in spite of being gradually transformed into veterans, the cricketers were a gallant but very small band who had recently decided that 1967 should be their last active season. Both sections would like to acknowledge their continuing gratitude to the Company and to the ground-staff for the facilities at Grove Park.

There had been no meeting of the Golf Society this past year; the Spring meeting had been drowned and the Autumn meet stillborn.



The Society was not as flourishing as it had appeared it might become a couple of years ago.

In spite of that, there was, as the President commented, a lot of evidence that the OMAA was continuing to provide good sport for its members in a cheerful and robust fashion.

*OM Dramatic Club*: OM Wilkins, as President of the OMOC, reviewed the year's activities. The autumn production in 1965—which had so unfortunately clashed with the last A.G.M.—was “The Entertainer” by John Osborne. In February, 1966, the Club had put on Sartre’s “In Camera” and in October, 1966, Melville’s “Dear Charles”.

They had all been enjoyable and good productions, and it was a reflection of the continuing vitality of the OMDC that they could easily cope with “Dear Charles” which has a cast of twelve and back-stage support roles for nearly another dozen. The Club had a membership of about eighty, of whom some 65 were Old Mercers. They had a good corps of keen, young, active members, and their only sense of disappointment was in the relatively few Old Mercers who attended the plays. But the OMDC were hoping to arrange a “special OM Night” for some of their future productions, and to provide, to the extent possible on a modest outlay, an Old Mercers’ Glyndebourne in South Kensington.

The next item on the agenda concerned the election of the Club President and Officers. OM Gray briefly outlined the highlights of what he had thought a happy and satisfactory year, over which he had been very proud to preside; the Club had a lot of life in it. He then proposed the election of P. J. S. Squirrell as President for the ensuing year, referring particularly to Squirrell’s long service for the Club in the most thankless of Club offices, the Entertainments’ Secretaryship. The proposal was greeted with applause, and carried unanimously. OM Gray then invested OM Squirrell, who took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. The other Club offices were duly filled by election, and a full list appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The President then proposed that a cordial vote of thanks be accorded to J. F. Gray for his very valuable services in the office of President for the Club year 1965-66; this motion was greeted with acclamation and passed unanimously. Votes of thanks were also passed to Canon Atkins and Dr. Lloyd Webber who had officiated at the Commemorative Service preceding the AOM; and to the Mercers’ Company for allowing the use of the hall.

Under Any Other Business, OM Wilkins referred to the publicity that was being arranged for Old Mercers interested in sailing to contact him, with a view to a combination of efforts and interest.

The meeting was closed at five past eight, and the majority of members adjourned to the “Bow Bell” in Cheapside.

P.N.

## ANNUAL DINNER, 1966

The fiftieth Annual Dinner was held at Mercers' Hall on April 28th when a full house, some 137, attended to support Jimmy Gray on the occasion which provides the climax to the President's year of office. We dined and wined in good style after that pre-prandial sherry which gives the first opportunity of meeting old friends and making new acquaintances.

The meal finished, the President proposed the toast of the Worshipful Company of Mercers to which the Master, the Hon. Robert Palmer, M.C., replied felicitously. OM Peter Nailor, in proposing the toast "Our Guests" entertained us with lurid stories of the problems of astronauts in orbit and of the wonders to be seen in flight. In replying, Dr. W. J. Burgess, an old friend, showed us some aspects of the President's life which were entirely new to us.

The immediate Past-President, R. G. Dawson, spoke nostalgically of the pleasures which that club had given many of us over the years and outlined how the constituent clubs were striving to keep going. He paid tribute to the President who had been a pioneer in the early days of the Football Club and who had worked so hard in his year of office to keep the club alive. In his reply, Jimmy Gray said that his concern was with the future; it was stimulating to find that so many had come to the Dinner—he hoped this would silence those few faint-hearts who believed that the club had no future.

And so, with the formal part of the evening over, we returned to private conversation over a glass of beer. It was, indeed, a highly successful evening. A number of members were disappointed because they applied too late for tickets. The moral is there for all to see; apply early this year, preferably with the money, and so make the job of the Entertainments' Secretary, always a difficult one, a little easier.

## OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The notes below speak for themselves; the A.A. are doing a fine job in difficult circumstances. Do support the golf meeting on April 5th—and come to Old Boys' Day in June.

## FOOTBALL SECTION

Results for the 1965/6 season were :—

1st XI : Played 21 Won 9 Drawn 3 Lost 9

2nd : XI : Played 24 Won 14 Drawn 2 Lost 8

The season started in a most unusual way in that, instead of the normal hot summer conditions, we were greeted with and played through such torrential rain that most of the Old Mercers' side were tempted to remove and wring out their shirts at half-time. This proved to be a tactical error for our apponents, who had appeared to be well beaten, discovered what had previously been

concealed beneath those voluminous claret and gold colours and proceeded to draw the game with ease.

The 1st XI kicked off the season with a very good 3-0 win over a strong Foresters side but lost touch the following week when heavily beaten in the A.F.A. Junior Cup by Old Bromleians Reserves. Several regular members of the 1st XI were not available during the earlier part of the season, including "skipper" David Griffin who was entering into a marriage contract which, we understand, contains the "Saturday Afternoon off for Football" clause.

Mickey Cato took over most capably in David's absence. After a very good away draw against Old Brentwoods III the middle of the season was somewhat spoiled by a spate of "scratched" games caused by frozen pitches before Christmas and an excess of water afterwards. However, grounds dried out later and the 1st XI particularly enjoyed a game against new opponents, Stock Exchange Veterans, which was lost 4-5, and the following week Michael Houghton registered a personal triumph with five goals in the defeat of our old friends Norsemen Nomads.

The 2nd XI have had a very good season, as their results shew, and under the hirsute and phlegmatic "Dixie" Dean a great team spirit has been built up. The two occasions when this showed most particularly were when playing away against Norsemen Exiles and being 0-3 down at half-time we eventually won 5-4, Dixie of course scoring the winning goal with a minute or so to go. The other occasion also involved a Dean goal but this time he followed his vice-captain's example and put the ball into his own net to give those dangerous opponents, Old Brentwood Veterans, a two-goal lead within ten minutes of the kick-off at Grove Park. Goal-keeper Gordon Evans's expression had to be seen to be believed but the 2nd XI eventually won 3-2 and the match continued in the Chinbrook.

The section has been particularly well served in goal this season and the competition between Stuart Grant and Gordon Evans for the 1st XI spot has been fierce but fairly friendly. On their day both are quite brilliant and the section is fortunate indeed to have two performers of their calibre. In reserve Mick Manning is quite happy to turn out on the field and play a "blinder" at right-back or outside-right and Neville Watson has travelled down from Liverpool to play when required.

A team was again entered in the six-a-side tournament organised by the Royal Exchange Assurance and, having obtained a bye in the first round, proceeded to beat Old Harrovians 2-1 before losing to Old Aldenhamians in the Quarter Finals.

A very enjoyable Football Club Supper was held at the "Victoria" on the 25th March when we were delighted to welcome the President of the Club, Jimmy Gray, renewing old and, we trust, making new acquaintances among members of the section.

At the Annual General Meeting preceding the supper the following Officers were elected for the season 1966/7 :—

Hon. Secretary : P. G. Wainwright

Hon. Team Secretary : C. Locke

1st XI Captain : M. J. Cato

1st XI Vice-Captain : C. Locke

2nd XI Captain : R. S. Dean

2nd XI Vice-Captain : R. G. Corfield

David Griffin has stepped down from the Captaincy and has the gratitude of the section for all that he has done during his years in office.

Our sincere thanks go to Pat and Charlie Parker for their continued efforts on our behalf at Grove Park and also to our referees, including new recruits Jim Bailey and Chris Garrett. Without their help we should not be able to enjoy our Saturdays as we do.

The section is having to run two sides again in the 1966/7 season and fixtures are now complete. Any Old Mercer who feels that he would like to play out these last few seasons would be most welcome and should contact the Secretary immediately.

## CRICKET SECTION

At the Cricket Section Annual General Meeting in October, 1966, it was decided to wind up the section at the end of the 1967 season. While this decision is extremely sad, it is unfortunately inevitable. For this last season, R. G. Dawson will be captain, with R. Vanhegan taking over as vice-captain, while the secretarial tasks are being retained by R. S. Dean and G. Hargrave-Smith.

The results of the past season were as follows :—

Played 16    Won 4    Tied 1    Drawn 5    Lost 6

With our very limited numbers these results can be classed as very creditable. The writer cannot remember a season where the dressing room humour has reached such a high level. Now we are down to a hard core, it may be stated that the cricketers have retired but the comics, we are glad to say, still remain. But returning to cricket, there was last season a general lack of consistency in the batting, it must be a number of seasons since Graham Ives and Dickie Dawson did not aggregate a hundred runs each. However, the innings of the season belongs to John Lucas with his undefeated hundred against St. Johns. The brunt of the bowling was borne by groundsman Charlie Parker and Graham Hargrave-Smith, who both returned steady performances and these would have been better with more agility from our fielders. This bowling was backed by formidable all-rounders, Messrs. Manning, Lucas and Dean; the latter two, it can be said, all-rounders in shape, size and performance. The wicket-keeping problem, which was mentioned in the previous report, still continued this last season with the following Old Mercers being sentenced to do duty behind the stumps: Messrs. Whiteland, Pearson, Manning, and Dean.

Particular highlights of the season were the last wicket partnership between G. Hargrave-Smith and C. Parker, who added an unbeaten thirty runs which won the day against the Old Cholmelians; the five overthrows which caused the loss by one wicket against Shamrock Sports and finally, with the scores level against St. Johns, a tail-end batsman who tried to "sweep it" and was bowled.

The knock-out seven-a-side competition was continued on Old Boys' Day with the cricket section providing two sevens, the dramatic section one, and a fourth side of former players. Again the former players seven were triumphant. Old Boys' Day for 1967 will be 24th June and as this will be the last year of the cricket section it is hoped as many Old Mercers, families and friends as possible will visit Grove Park on that day. We shall continue to organize an Old Boys' Day at Grove Park for as long as it seems feasible after the 1967 season. A committee for this purpose will be elected at the final cricket annual general meeting.

This year's cricket supper took place at the Westminster Arms on Friday, October 7th, and forty-one Old Mercers and guests were present. We were very pleased as usual to welcome three of the ex-masters of the school, i.e. Messrs. George Andrew, Jim Fairbairn and George Cowan. There were four speeches: G. Hargrave-Smith proposed the toast of the guests to which Dougie Harvey of the Old Cholmelians replied. Peter Squirrell proposed the toast of "The Club" with Graham Ives replying from the Chair. Guests representing the following cricket clubs attended: Old Bancroftians, Old Cholmelians, Lloyds Bank and Edenbeck.

The secretary would like to express his thanks for all the support he has received from the retiring club captain Graham Ives. Graham must take all the credit for keeping the side reasonably efficient in these last three difficult seasons.

As ever, our thanks go to Charlie Parker and his helpers who do so much to make our afternoons at Grove Park so enjoyable—and often so hilarious.

R. S. DEAN.

#### HONOR DEO LODGE No. 3562

The fifty-fifth Installation Meeting of Honor Deo Lodge was held on 4th November, 1965, when Bro. Peter Burrell was installed as Worshipful Master. During his year of office two new members were initiated, namely Hugh Cochrane (1927-1931) and Fred Robinson (1941-1945).

Two members were honoured during the year by Grand Lodge: W.Bro. Jack Gauntlett (1904-1913) was appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and W.Bro. Norman Atkins (1915-1918) was appointed to London Grand Rank.

The Lodge has lost three of its older members in the deaths of W.Bro. Ewart Lohmeyer, O.B.E., D.F.C. (1910-1915) on 13th

November, 1965, Bro. G. F. Robinson (1900-1903) on 3rd March, 1966, and Bro. F. E. White (1912-1919) on 15th August, 1966. Ewart Lohmeyer joined the Lodge in 1927 and his services to the Lodge, especially over the past fifteen years when he was Almoner, will be long remembered. All these brethren will be sadly missed.

The Ladies' Festival was again held at the New Ambassadors Hotel and a very happy evening ensued. These annual dinner-dances are not restricted to Freemasons and their ladies. All Old Mercers and their friends are welcomed.

The Master-Elect for 1966-1967 is Bernard Rollinson and a happy and successful year under "Rolly's" Mastership is assured.

With the School so tragically closed for over seven years, it is gratifying that old boys are still coming forward for initiation into the Lodge. But the time is bound to come when the flow will lessen and eventually it must dry up completely. Meanwhile initiates will be increasingly older. What can be done about it?

One solution to the problem would be to open the Lodge to old boys of Collyer's School. Mercers' has shared the closest association with Collyer's in the past and there is a strong bond of friendship between the Honor Deo and Richard Collyer Lodges. Richard Collyer, meeting at Horsham, would welcome a London Lodge for the benefit of Old Collyerians who find Horsham too distant and an Honor Deo Lodge, extended to admit old boys from both schools, would fill the gap. An attractive feature of such a scheme would be the preservation of Honor Deo as an Old Boy Lodge.

Other solutions exist, such as the admission into the Lodge of sons and other relatives of Old Mercers; but there is much to commend a union with friends from Collyer's apart from the reasons already stated.

R. G. WILLIAMS,  
Lodge Secretary.

#### HONOR DEO CHAPTER No. 3562

The Chapter enjoyed a happy year with E.Comp. J. E. Seear as First Principal, E.Comp. R. G. Williams as Second Principal and E.Comp. J. L. Roberts as Third Principal.

One new member was welcomed.

In the coming year beginning October, 1966, the following have been elected :

E.Comp. R. G. Williams as First Principal.

E.Comp. J. L. Roberts as Second Principal.

Comp. A. C. Winn as Third Principal.

Old Mercers who are already Freemasons and who would like any information concerning joining the Chapter should contact E.Comp. F. W. Yardley, Scribe E, at 5, Gloucester Road, Hampton-on-Thames, Middlesex. (Tel. MOL. 1454).

## CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

The Civic Guild was founded in 1947 by OM Major Stanley Wells and the late OM Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury Beer, as an association of Old Mercers who were Freemen of the City of London or Liverymen. The main purpose of the Guild was, and still is, to encourage Old Mercers to become Freemen and to take up the Livery of one of the City Companies. The Guild is conducted on Livery Company lines and acts as a training school in Livery Company procedure. Like a Livery Company, its affairs are managed by a Court of Assistants consisting of a Guildmaster, Guildwardens and Guild Assistants. Guildmen are elected to the Court on a rota system. At present the Guild comprises 81 members, 21 being Liverymen and 60 Freemen.

At the mid-summer Court 1966, the Court was constituted as follows:—

*Guildmaster* : J. B. T. Bird

*Guild Renter Warden* : H. H. Crane

*Guild Junior Warden* : A. C. Winn

*Guild Assistants* : All past Guildmasters and H. W. Kingsbury,  
H. F. Cochrane and G. F. Parker

*Hon. Clerk* : A. H. Hall

*Assistant Hon. Clerk* : K. H. Neville

*Apprentice Warden* : M. J. Herniman

Past Guildmaster Raymond Smith resigned his office as Hon. Clerk after nearly 20 years service to the Guild in that capacity. The Court recorded in its minutes its sincere appreciation of this long and efficient service. At the Installation Dinner which followed the Court, further tribute was paid to the great services that Raymond Smith had given to the Guild.

Further particulars regarding the Guild, which is now open, not only to Old Mercers, but also to such others as the Court may approve (especially sons of Old Mercers), from the Hon. Clerk, A. H. Hall, 23, Uvedale Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

## THE OLD MERCERS' DRAMATIC CLUB

### THE PAST

May I first define the past as being to the writer's own knowledge which begins immediately after the War with the Club's Production of "French Without Tears" by Terence Rattigan at the Cripplegate Theatre, Aldersgate.

This production consisted of a single performance directed by a semi-professional producer who tried rigorously to instil into some of the younger members, the writer included, a small knowledge of the "Dramatic Art". The Club hired a professional make-up man and left the intricacies of Scenic Design, Lighting and Stage Management to the employees at the Theatre. So that all that was

required of the Club Members was to learn "their lines" reasonably well enough to keep going and "strut upon the stage". The Athletic Association in those days volunteered to assist with the Front of House Management by serving as Stewards.

This system continued for a considerable number of years but many of us felt that it was entirely inadequate. We wished to appoint our own Producer from our members, have our own Stage Management and Lighting Technician, do our own make-up and, above all, to play for more than one Performance together with a competent Dress Rehearsal.

Ultimately this was all achieved when Ron Parrott produced "Angels in Love" at the theatre of The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and we played two performances. But, unfortunately the Theatre was too large for us to fill for two nights and, after a further three Productions, we moved to our present home at The Chanticleer Theatre in Kensington.

Mention must be made of "Sweeney Todd" played in the School Hall on the closure of that noble establishment. We did absolutely everything ourselves including constructing Todd's "deathly" Trap Door. All chaos reigned at The Dress Rehearsal and at two in the morning we wearily retired with the rehearsal unfinished. But with the help of Audience Participation, Beer and Mrs. Lovatt's "human" Pies for the four performances it proved a notable success.

At The Chanticleer Theatre a contrasting group of plays have been produced over the past five years, those requiring special mention being :

*The Deep Blue Sea* by Terance Rattigan (Producer Eric Wilkins)

*Candida* by G. Bernard Shaw (Producer Richard Landsdown)

*My Three Angels* by Sam and Bella Spewack (Producer Eric Wilkins)

*Monserat* by Robles (Producer Ron Parrott)

*The Proposal* by Chekov (Producer Eric Wilkins)

*Simon and Laura* by Alan Melville (Producer Ron Parrott)

*Rattle of a Simple Man* by Charles Dyer (Producer Eric Wilkins)

*The Entertainer* by John Osborne (Producer John Newman)

*In Camera* by Jean-Paul Sartre (Producer John Newman)

*Dear Charles* by Alan Melville (Producer Eric Wilkins)

Also we must not forget Ron Parrott's notable production in St. Botolph's Church at Aldersgate of "The Prototype" by Stuart Jackman.

## THE PRESENT

We are now an "open Club", that is to say, our membership is not restricted to Old Mercers. This had to be if we were to maintain a reasonable acting and active strength. Nevertheless we are still strongly backed by a non-active Old Mercers' Membership. Long may they continue to support us.



Details of membership are as follows :—

Subscription 30/- per annum which entitles the Member to four tickets (value 8/6 each) Free. Two for each of the two annual Productions.

Participation in all our Activities—Acting, Back Stage Work, Play Readings, Motorised Treasure Hunts and Garden Parties. (We even act at playing cricket at the Annual Function of Old Boys Day at Grove Park). Anybody interested in joining should contact E. S. Williams, 7, Crescent Court, Park Hill, Clapham Park, S.W.4. Phone Tulse Hill 4053.

We much appreciate the liaison between ourselves and The Old Colfeian Dramatic Club whose plays both parties attend regularly in good numbers.

### THE FUTURE

The Dramatic Club will shortly meet and amongst other things that will be discussed will be :

(1) The possibility of producing the Jean Anouilh play "Poor Bitos" for our Spring Production on March 8th - 10th. Margaret Wilkins will direct this play.

(2) The question whether to increase the number of performances to four as "Dear Charles" sold out on two evenings and we had a three-quarter house for the third.

(3) The plan to make one performance a Special Old Mercer Evening with the possibility of an inclusive Theatre and Dinner ticket to enable Old Mercers to meet each other regularly at our shows.

(4) Another Production at St. Botolph's Church in 1967.

(5) Increased co-operation with other suitable Dramatic Clubs in the exchange of audience and actors. -

In conclusion, it must be admitted that the Club has great plans for the future and is not at all hesitant in making every effort to carry them through.

### "THE ENTERTAINER"

One trouble with watching a John Osborne play is that if one is not careful, one thinks more of the playwright than the play. Remembering, I suppose, the Press outbursts, it is too easy to feel that he is making an onslaught on the audience. And he specialises in the "When did you stop beating your wife?" approach. Any reaction is the wrong one. All through "The Entertainer" I felt I was being grilled. "Do you agree?" "Do you approve?" "Are you flinching at this story, this conversation, this person? What a dull, hypocritical lot you are!" The direct audience approach of Archie's music-hall interludes does this, of course, but it's not a feeling that I, as audience, enjoy. I cannot remember wondering whether I approved of Antigone, or Charley's Aunt, or Hester in the "Deep Blue Sea". I felt for them, and with them. For me, the effect of Archie's direct approach was alienation.

From which it will be clear that I did not much enjoy "The Entertainer". There is plenty on the credit side; an interesting and original structure; wonderfully expressive dialogue; characters which are capable of surprising us. And in most cases the OMDC cast served the play well. Margaret Wilkins as Phoebe Rice was completely satisfying. Absolutely inside her part, she moved us to laughter and pity while allowing us to see with justice what a maddening creature she was. I also enjoyed Michael Popham's Grandad. The technical problem of portraying age was not allowed to dim the force of the character, and Derek Complin's Frank Rice provided a convincing echo of grandad's sprightliness—his little burst into song and dance was admirable, and he was quiet without being ineffective. The part of Jean Rice was taken over at the last moment by Sandra Buchan who made a most capable job of it, and it is probably impossible to guess how much this late change affected the balance of the play. I can only say that the force which the character has in the text did not really come across. She was a voice rather than a person—probably inevitable in the circumstances.

However, the play stands or falls by Archie Rice, and this is a part for which "challenging" is a mild word. Archie is furnished with all the least appealing qualities. He is selfish, irresponsible, dishonest, cowardly—and miserable with it. I am still not sure whether we are supposed to be disarmed by his recognition of his own faults, or by his rejection—on principle?—of his brother's bourgeois virtues. But he is allowed plenty of eloquence and by and large the family scenes work very well. The real problem lies in Archie's act. This is supposed to be bad. It *is* bad. Watching a bad variety act can be offensive, embarrassing or merely dull. How is the actor to cope with this? For it isn't just a snatch of a couple of minutes; we have repeated doses. I have seen Brian Percy give some first class performances, and this one had been really studied—there wasn't a sloppy or careless thing in it. But he wasn't at *ease* in it.

I felt the same mixture of boredom and embarrassment during the final scenes. What message the playwright intends to convey truly escapes me. There is plenty to dislike, but what to admire? Billy Rice, because he is a better performer than his son? Everybody's determinedly articulate honesty? They all hang on to their own protective fallacies. Yet one seems to be asked to judge. I finished the evening feeling thoroughly cross, so perhaps Mr. Osborne would have been pleased.

In this instance, and regretfully, for I always applaud the OMDC's courage in the variety of plays they present, I thought they had caught a tiger by the tail.

B.M.D.



**"The Entertainer".** Brian Percy.





**"The Entertainer".** Left to right: Michael Popham, Sandra Buchan, Brian Percy, Margaret Wilkins, Derek Complin.



**"In Camera".** Left to right: Iris Ware, Margaret Wilkins, Brian Percy.

## "IN CAMERA"

On the front of the programme, in large letters of fire, we read "Hell"; inside we found that the English title was "In Camera", the French "Huis Clos" and the author Jean-Paul Sartre, the leader of the theory of existentialism in the modern theatre. What, we wondered, were we in for? So many versions of Hell exist in the minds of men. Priestley examined the possibilities in "Johnson over Jordan"; a zany comedy of years ago called "Hellzapoppin" gave us a lighter version; Milton, over 300 years ago, saw the origins of Hell in "Paradise Lost". In all these, Hell was something to be feared; but as our scene opened on a pleasant lounge, comfortably furnished, Hell seemed to have some attractions. Ushered in by a polite valet, competently played by Jeremy Beale, Garcin seemed pleased by what he found; soon he was joined by Inez and Estelle, the one hard and cynical, the other soft and feminine, and for a time all was well. But why were there no windows, no mirrors, no washing facilities? And why did the valet never blink his eyes? Slowly the truth dawned. These three people were condemned, for eternity, to live together with no sleep, no food, no books, nothing but each other's company.

Thus were their souls laid bare, Garcin the man who had wanted to be a hero but had proved a coward, Estelle the flirt who had destroyed her own child and Inez, the lesbian, also guilty of murder. It was an eerie experience as the two women struggled for control of the man, revealing their inmost desires, realised their fate and settled down to the torture of living together, never to sleep, their eyes forever open.

And yet one could feel no sympathy for any of these characters and, for me, this was the weakness of the play; one's emotions must be roused if the play is to mean anything and for these three I felt nothing—they were mere symbols of sin. Not that one could fault any of the performances—as Garcin Brian Percy gave a thoroughly competent performance, but one remembered Karis in "the Prototype" and this part seemed a waste of his talents. Margaret Wilkins too never gives anything but an excellent performance and here she succeeded in coming closest to making one feel sympathy for this feckless woman overcome by the pleasures of the flesh. Perhaps Iris M. Ware as Inez had the most difficult task and she tackled it nobly, inspiring feelings of loathing which, however, were not enough to make a human being of the woman.

If I give the impression of carping let me hasten to add that I have nothing but admiration for the Dramatic Club for tackling the unusual—and particularly for John Newman in his direction—after all many of their finest hours have been with the difficult, thoughtful play. I shall not easily forget "The Prototype" and "The Long and the Short and the Tall" to name but two. I look forward to their next venture of this sort—but hope Sartre will not be their choice.

R.G.D.

# MERCERS' SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Year ended 31st March 1966

4513	Balance 31st March 1965		4655	6	1
—	Payments on Redemption—Defence Bonds		7	1	6
173	Interest—Defence Bonds		219	13	0
10	3½% War Stock		9	19	10
—	Bank Deposit		9	9	1
<hr/>			<hr/>		
4696			4901	9	6
1	Less: Postage etc.	11	1		
	Memorial Scholarship—Final				
40	Payment	15	0	0	
<hr/>			<hr/>		
41			15	11	1
<hr/>			<hr/>		
£4655	Balance 31st March 1966		£4885	18	5

## REPRESENTED BY

	Defence Bonds				
50	£ 50 3½% (Redeemed)		—	—	—
2047	£2050 4 %		2046	12	6
300	£ 300 4½%		300	0	0
200	£ 200 5 % (Redeemed)		—	—	—
100	£ 100 5 %		100	0	0
330	£ 330 5 % Second Issue		330	0	0
220	£ 220 4½% Second Issue		220	0	0
1000	£1000 4½% Second Conversion Issue		1000	0	0
186	3½% War Stock £285 14s. 3d. Market Value £149 (Higginson Memorial Fund)		185	14	3
<hr/>			<hr/>		
4433			4182	6	9
—	Bank Balance—Deposit Account		509	9	1
222	Current Account		194	2	7
<hr/>			<hr/>		
£4655			£4885	18	5

## AMOUNTS APPLIED TO OBJECTS OF FUND SINCE INCEPTION

145	Memorial Plaque	145	0	0
630	Memorial Scholarships	645	0	0
<hr/>		<hr/>		
£775		£790	0	0

W. G. BAILEY

*Honorary Treasurer*

W. H. WRIGHT, F.C.A.

*Honorary Auditor*

A Plaque has been erected in Barnard's Inn where the original Memorial Tablet stood, which recalls the history of the School and the fact that the Memorial is now in Mercers' Hall. Arrangements are all but complete for handing over the balance of the funds to Collyers'. There has been a long delay owing to the formalities required by the Minister of Education and the Charity Commissioners. In Collyers School library there will be a Plaque which reads: "This library is to commemorate those Old Boys of Mercers' School who fell in the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45" and it is intended to put the names of the fallen on the end supports of the bookshelves.

## “DEAR CHARLES”

“Dear Charles” is another of Alan Melville’s excursions into the world of the playwright and novelist. It had a long run in London some years ago and provided Yvonne Arnaud with a wonderful vehicle for that magnificent broken English she used so exquisitely. One can always be sure of witty dialogue in a Melville play but, as in “Simon and Laura”, one feels that the last act is something of an anti-climax and the pace, so brisk in the first two acts, somehow slackens. However, there is no doubt that this was one of the OMDC’s happier evenings in every way. For one thing the production, in the hands of Eric Wilkins, was as polished as any for a long time; for another a cast of twelve is an achievement in itself and, finally, the performances were as well attended as any since the Club moved to the Chanticleer.

The story of “Dear Charles” is thin enough. Denise Darvel, novelist extraordinary, has three children who believe that they are the offspring of the gentleman whose portrait adorns the wall, “Dear Charles”. When their mother reveals that she has never married and that she has invited her three “gentlemen” to decide which shall become the “father” of her children so that they may be socially acceptable, the scene is set for a series of hilarious interviews which give the cast a wonderful opportunity of using Melville’s excellent lines to full advantage.

Clearly, the play relies on Denise; Margaret Wilkins was in her element, using her magnificent sense of timing and gesture to dominate the scene, as was only right and proper. The first act roared along at a great pace. If there was any fault to be found it was that Edward, played by Michael Poole, seemed a little pedestrian—but then he was probably the only completely sane character there. The three children, played by Chris Gerrard, John Lawrey and Susie Colby gave tremendous support in producing a magnificent first Act.

Act II introduces the three “gentlemen”. John Newman and Brian Percy enjoyed themselves tremendously with the stock buffoon of the English aristocracy and the mad foreign pianist respectively. Leslie Boorman, as the French suitor, seemed the only possible partner for the sophisticated Denise. Not for the first time in OM productions, the combinations of Wilkins-Newman and Wilkins-Percy produced the play’s best moments. This was great stuff and the pace of Act I was well maintained so that by this time the audience was completely won over and the inadequacies of the last act passed unnoticed. One last bouquet—to Iris M. Ware as Martha, the maid; this was a delightful little cameo and a pleasant contrast to Inez in “In Camera”.

One came away from the Chanticleer with very pleasant memories; looking back, this critic remembers so many hours of pleasure over the past twenty years spent in company with the Dramatic Club. “Dear Charles” was yet another example of the high standard of production they have established. Let us hope

that the idea of an exclusive "Old Mercer" night for the next production comes to fruition; perhaps many of those who were regular members of the audiences at the Cripplegate and the Guildhall School of Music will be persuaded to return.

R.G.D.

## OBITUARIES

### EWART LOHMEYER

Ewart Lohmeyer, O.B.E., D.F.C. (1910-1915) died on the 13th November, 1965. He was President of the Old Mercers' Club 1953-54. He had a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force in both wars being decorated with the D.F.C. in the first war and being appointed an Officer of the British Empire for his services in the second war. Between the two wars he built up one of the principal firms on the London Rubber Market which bears his name. He was Worshipful Master of Honor Deo Lodge 1948-49 and First Principal of Honor Deo Chapter 1954-55 and was Scribe E of the Chapter at the time of his death. Ewart was one of the kindest of men and at school, in the Old Mercers' Club and in the R.A.F. was active in helping and protecting those weaker or less fortunate than himself.

### CECIL MASON

Cecil Mason (1906-1909), President of the Old Mercers' Club 1931-32, died on the 3rd November, 1964. On leaving school, Cecil Mason spent a year in France and was then articled to the late H. C. Merrett. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1916. In 1920 he was elected Treasurer of the Old Mercers' Club and from then until 1949, with the exception of the years when he was President and immediate Past President of the Club, he continuously held office as either Secretary or Treasurer. In 1949 his declining health compelled him to give up active office, but he was a Trustee of the Club's invested funds until his death. He was Worshipful Master of Honor Deo Lodge in 1936-37 and Past President of the Old Mercers' Athletic Association. A spell of 29 years as one of the principal officers of the Club will no doubt never be approached by any other Old Mercer, but this alone fails to recall the enthusiasm and inspiration which he produced in the Club's affairs. Throughout his life he suffered from severe physical disability but he was at the same time one of the most cheerful and hospitable of men and his home at Oxshott was the location of many delightful Old Mercers' gatherings. He bore the principal responsibility for building up the Club between the two wars and he, together with Edward Hill and Jack Willis, preserved the Club intact from 1939-45.

### MARRIAGES

P. J. Brinck was married in 1964 and now lives at 10, Wye Road, Borough Green, Kent. His brother, P.D., followed his good example in August and has settled at 7, Douai Close, Farnborough, Hants.



## BIRTHS

To Jennifer, the wife of D. A. Beggs (1951-56), a son, Nicholas James, at Farnborough, Kent, on 12th August, 1966, a brother for Bruce David.

To Christine Jean, the wife of M. E. Lee (1949-53), a son, James Patrick Simon, on 6th July, 1965.

## CORRESPONDENCE

19, Hollis Road,  
Up Hatherley,  
Cheltenham, Glos.  
December 13th.

Dear Colin,

I expect I'm months too late for the Old Mercers' magazine, but there are one or two items I'd like to pass on. As you see, we've now moved to "rural" Gloucestershire. I'm teaching English at the King's School in Gloucester, and at present frantically busy producing the School play. We've (that is, Alison and I) just had a son, Simon Richard, born on September 24th. Finally, to add to life's relaxing qualities, I've just completed a book, "New English Comprehension", due out next month.

I wish I could see more Old Mercers, but London is expensive to reach from here! However, if any live near here, I would be only too pleased to see them—they'll need gumboots! All the best.

RICHARD DOUBLEDAY (1952-58)

31, The Brow,  
Haydon Wick,  
Swindon, Wilts.

Dear Colin,

It is a long time since we met, but when I joined the O.M.C. last year I wasn't surprised to see you are the Editor of the magazine. I still have some of the old S.O.S. leaflets you and Brian Ash printed during our last year at the old school.

I'm really writing to let you know for the records that my permanent address is now as at the top of the page, that I was married to Miss Geraldine Page at Reading on July 9th, 1966, and that I was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University on July 9th.

I regret to say that I don't seem to bump into many OM's, although I did meet Steve Morris at Southampton University while visiting my wife there. He's now gone out to Sierra Leone as a teacher with his wife.

Unfortunately I can't spare the time now to write more, although I would be grateful if you would pass on my regards to any of our mutual friends.

With very best wishes to you in all you are doing.

Your sincerely,

BILL GEERS.

Dear OM Nailor,

My father has sent me a copy of your letter dated September 6th concerning the Old Mercers' Oxford and Cambridge Dinner. As you will probably have gathered by now it will be somewhat difficult for me to be present in Oxford for the Dinner. And this state of affairs is likely to continue for two or three years, before I return to England after completing my post-graduate studies here at the University of New South Wales.

Please convey my good wishes to all those members at the Dinner. I look forward to meeting you all anew, perhaps in 1970.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID DYER.

Dear OM Editor,

It is now nearly nine years since I came to Canada, for reasons long forgotten, and I feel it is time I wrote a letter from Canada for the Mag. This will serve a dual purpose. Firstly, to let my OM friends know I am still kicking and secondly, to acquaint them briefly with our life in Eastern Canada.

As you can see we are still living in Quebec, just off Montreal Island, and despite some unfortunate French-English friction, have become enamoured with the region. Our offspring now number three, two boys and one girl, and with the latter's arrival that's how it's going to stay! I'm still at Canadair (aircraft manufacturers) but have moved from aerodynamics into marketing where I have had some interesting trips to South America, Iceland and many parts of the U.S.A. A bit of University teaching on the side helps keep the old brain active.

One of my first misconceptions of Canada, and there were many, was annihilated when I found that Canadair had a thriving Soccer club; three league teams and six inter-company teams. Of necessity this is a summer sport and anybody who believes that allowing three substitutes spoils the game should try 90 minutes on a summer afternoon in temperatures over 90°F. The winter gap we recently filled by taking up ski-ing and ice skating. Apart from the facilities in Montreal itself the whole area 50 miles north of us is devoted to ski centres in winter and fishing and hunting in other seasons.

I had visualised Canada as a land of snow. This is not so. The four seasons are quite distinct. Spring—rain, Summer—hot and dry, Autumn—English summer, Winter—cold and white. The chaos I saw on my 1962 winter trip to England is a rarity here. In general road conditions in winter are almost as good as in summer due to the use of multitudinous snowploughs and road salt. Although we do get down to -20°F., being dry, it's not uncomfortable. Central heating maintains indoor temperature over 70°F. and double glazing and insulation completely cut out draughts. The only disadvantage is to those of us who have to dig out the driveway before going to work.

With costs, other than housing, being comparable to Britain and wages 2 to 3 times higher, discretionary income is high and Canadians spend freely. Many have summer cottages, a feature which leads to mother and family departing Montreal for the summer school holidays and father joining them for weekends. Since one can average 50 m.p.h. it is not much of a chore to travel up to 200 miles after work on Friday and back Monday morning.

Those who have not seen Montreal for five years will find the city much changed. New 6-lane roads cut through and around the centre, and high-rise buildings have completely changed the sky-line. Now work is nearing completion on the St. Lawrence River islands that will house the World Exhibition in 1967. The Quebecers are determined to show the world that they can better all other nations in organising such an event. From the models and views I've seen on flights over the site I firmly believe it will surpass anything the world has yet seen. If any OM's are planning a trip to Montreal in 1967 I hope they will contact me either before or during their stay. We are not listed in the Montreal telephone directory but it's a local call (625-6302).

Finally, I send greetings to one and all and hope I shall have the opportunity to meet you again soon.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN R. DOBSON (1941-48) (679)

P.S.—Don't you dare bury the OM Club as suggested by John Murrell.

63, Imperial Avenue,  
Westcliff-on-Sea,  
Essex.

Dear Sir,

I discovered quite recently that my friend G. E. Pow is an Old Mercer and he has kindly lent me the magazine for 1960, in which I see that my name appears in the list of unknown addresses.

I have been at the above address since 1934 and I am sorry that I apparently omitted to advise the Club when I moved here.

I spent 48 years of my working life with the P. & O. Company and I was in their Cockspur Street office for a few months in 1920 before being transferred to the Head Office in Leadenhall Street. It was while I was at Cockspur Street that I sometimes went to the OM Club in Villiers Street but when I was moved to the City I am afraid I lost touch with the Club.

Yours sincerely,

W. F. L. JOHNSON (1907-12) (176).

Dear OM Editor,

Once again a magazine has come, been read avidly from cover to cover and was greatly appreciated. In common with so many other Old Mercers, my appreciation is not normally shown nor is any attempt made to ease the lot of the Editor by providing him with material for the next issue.

However, OM Murrell's letter in the last issue does, I feel, call for comment. I am sure the Club still has a part to play and its existence will give pleasure to many for years to come—it is true that the main pursuits may have to change with the passage of time. Concerning OM Murrell's point that any friendships made will continue outside the Club, whilst this is to some extent true, one can enlarge the circle of friends by taking part in Club activities as well as obtain news of others who may be no more than acquaintances.

I also venture to suggest that with the passage of the years, the School and the Club become more and more a valued part of one's life. The School is unhappily no more—let us not let the Club disappear as well!

The latest edition of the magazine seems to have an emphasis on advancing years. It does, I think, show that attention will have to be given to some less active hobbies and I had wondered if any thoughts have been given to forming clubs for stamp collectors, chess and bridge players. I should be willing to support a stamp section. I appreciate that it might be difficult to find suitable meeting places but I think that could be overcome if sufficient support was available.

Now to my complaint—the Dramatic Club is always hoping for more support yet I no longer receive any notifications of their productions. A few years back I saw most of their shows which were enjoyed. When I last made some enquiries I was told that it was customary to circulate the honorary members only. Whilst I know that postages are heavy I nevertheless think that this is a short sighted policy. With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN L. COOKMAN (1938-43) (672).

Dear OM Dawson,

I have had a note on my desk for many moons—to write to you in connection with a request from Jack Dewey for some "news" suitable for the Magazine.

I hardly know what to write. Since I had this request—indeed, only a matter of days ago—I was re-elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for a second term of office. Whether or not I shall be able to do justice to this task, only time will tell.

But to deal with some connection with Mercers, possibly I can recount some of my activities during the year that has just passed.

One of the most rewarding activities has been my contact with our schools in Salisbury and District. They seem to be legion: indeed in Mashonaland, which is our northern area, there are 683 schools of various races.

During my mayoral year I addressed no fewer than 73,000 schoolchildren. Most of them seem more impressed, I think, with the Mayoral chain than with the person of the Mayor! Anyway, most of our schools are relatively young. Some of them have over a thousand schoolchildren attending them: I always gave them a "pep" talk at assembly—usually 7.45 in the morning. After that I went round the classes to see if they work as hard as I think I used to fifty years ago at Mercers.

On all occasions I have worn my OM tie—and this intrigued everybody. My talk dealt with such things as sportsmanship, loyalty to and pride in one's school. And my own tie was a practical demonstration that I myself have not forgotten what I owe to *my* old school, where I learned not only the items on the curriculum, but also important characteristics which go to make up the qualities necessary for good citizenship.

Of course the youngsters here are thrilled to know that *our* houses were named after old boys such as Wren, Whittington and so on. And whereas ours is—or rather was—steeped in history, most of the schools here are only a decade or so old.

At one school a week or so ago—an African senior school, incidentally—they were all asked to write an essay on the Mayor's visit. On the question of sportsmanship and the importance of being a good loser, one bright spark wrote "the Mayor told us always to be very careful to lose, so that someone else could win".

During my year I have had 3,100 official engagements—I am told this is without precedent. And considering both my wife and I are the oldest mayor and mayoress in the 70 years of this office, I suppose we have little to be ashamed of.

But all this comes back to the influence of Mercers and I pay tribute to it in all honesty. There we learned the value of teamwork, of sportsmanship on the playing fields, of loyalty and that sort of thing. And after a year as first citizen of a City that certainly in recent months has got on the world map, I look forward with few qualms to the ensuing year, which may well be one of the most vital in our history.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

F. GORDON HARPER.

P.S.—I have typed this myself and just haven't time to run through it. Please forgive any errors. Tomorrow I am off to Europe and may be seeing something of OM's next month in London.

Dear Dickie,

I'm afraid I must refuse your kind invitation to play cricket on Old Boys' Day. Since January of this year I have had trouble from my knee more or less continuously and have had to give up any idea of playing games now or in the future. I saw my G.P. some time ago and he arranged for me to see a couple of specialists three weeks ago. They arranged a course of ray therapy coupled with exercise which has resulted in my knee getting progressively worse. It looks as though my last athletic venture will be next Tuesday when I am due to see a specialist again, and will probably throw him out of the window.

Please convey my regards to all my OM friends and say that though I will probably not come to Grove Park on Old Boys' Day, should any of them find themselves in this part of the world during the summer they will find a welcome at my house if they drop me a card to say they are coming. Cuisine recommended, parties catered for exclusively, easy reach of buses to New Forest and boats to the Isle of Wight, no coaches.

Yours,

LESLIE JOHNSON (1943-51) (711).

Dear OM Dawson,

I must confess to being both disappointed and surprised that in the last Club's magazine only my elder son P.M.M. was given as being present at the 1965 Annual Dinner, whereas I and my younger son Richard were also there—in fact, my old friend George Andrews made special reference to the three of us in his toast list, for the simple reason that it is unique for a father and two sons, each an OM, to be at the Dinner. At least, I have attended numerous dinners at the Holborn Restaurant, Trocadero, Criterion, Rembrandt and Mercers' Hall; but do not remember any occasion when a father and two sons (all OMs) were present—other than the Mazinkes, of course! We would be naturally interested to learn if there have been other such instances, or maybe even a father and three sons!

And do not forget that the three of us were there once again at this year's 50th.

The Dinner was, by the way, inaugurated by that famous and beloved The Rev. Dr. Scott just before I left the School at Christmas term 1907—just on 60 years ago!

Paul, a very keen supporter for many years of the Football Section (so was his wife), is now a member of the West Kent Golf Club, Downe, where Fairbairn, Fred Robinson and Derek Archibald are also members. He also had a game recently with Tom Hollings, who is a member of the Sundridge Park Golf Club, nearby here.

Richard is unfortunately handicapped with asthma, so he uses brain instead of brawn for his pastime—Model Railways!

When touring Ireland last year, the first thing my wife spotted when we were looking at a beautiful stained glass window at Londonderry's Guildhall was the School badge in all its glory. The window, on the main staircase, was presented to the Citizens of Londonderry by the Mercers' Company, who were associated with Derry early in the 17th Century.

With kind regards from all of us.

Your sincerely,

CHARLES F. P. MAZINKE (1905-07).

Dear OM Nailor,

Thank you for the notice of the A.G.M. of the Old Mercers' Club, I am sorry I shall not be with you, please express my regrets but it is quite a job to get up from here for an evening in London.

I think you fellows are doing a wonderful job in keeping the Club together and I congratulate you.

It may interest you to know that OM Epps who was the Vicar of Wimborne Minster has recently retired, I wrote to him and wished him well and had a nice reply. David Bell is probably the oldest member of the Club and is also a member of the same bowls club as myself. He did not play a great deal during the past season, although he is an extremely good bowler but his age is telling, he still comes along occasionally and was a very staunch OM. He left before I went to "Honor Deo" but his brother was there with me but I regret that he died some few years back.

Kindest regards to all, especially any who may remember me.

Yours very sincerely,

NORMAN W. WILLIAMS (1902-10) (805).

#### NEWS OF OTHER OLD MERCERS

H. G. Andrew was this year the President of the London and Home Counties Section of the Association for Secondary Education and delivered his Presidential Address at Harrow School in November. He also retired from teaching at John Lyon School in July—the world of science teaching, already badly understaffed, is much the poorer.

D. Ives (1945-55) has recently been elected Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee of the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. He has also been elected Chairman of the Malden Branch of the Kingston and Malden Conservative Association and a Vice-Chairman of the Divisional Association.

F. A. Green, once a stalwart of the Football Club, is now in Mexico opening a new factory for his company, Glacier Metal Co. Ltd., Chard, of which he has been General Manager.

J. H. J. Dewey (1910-16) is this year Chairman of the Bishops-gate Ward Club; coincidentally, Stanley Wells (1897-1900) is Chairman of the Cripplegate Ward Club at the same time.

Will Latey, Q.C. (1897-1902) presided as Treasurer at a Dinner at Middle Temple in July when the Queen Mother, a Past Treasurer of the Middle Temple, was a guest.

D. L. (Sticky") Strellett (1905-09) is back in England after a lifetime of service in Hong Kong and has retired to the South Coast. He was a member of the General Committee of the Club immediately following the first World War.

D. N. Vermont (1942-50) becomes Managing Director of Sedgwick Collins (Agencies) from January 1st, 1967.

Harold Eade (1913-18) sends the following: "On Friday, 30th December, 1966, at the Guildhall (near Gresham College!) OM W. G. Lewis to Miss Ann Locket (Old Haberdasheress). Also present afterwards at The Painters & Stainers Hall (off Cannon Street), where a good time was had, OM W. R. Lewis (father), OM H. M. Eade (god-father), OM M. Q. Lewis (best man), OM Hij Thema (chief bridesmaid's father), OM R. O. Lewis (brother). For the record (and any appropriate action) the address of OM Hij Thema (who is Dutch and was born in 1913) is 54, Orchard Avenue, Heston, Middlesex, and he purchased an OM tie for the occasion!"

#### OLD MERCERS' OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB

The fifteenth Annual Dinner of the OM Oxford and Cambridge Club was held at Wadham College on January 7th, 1967. The date of the dinner had had to be changed from a mid-term Saturday to an out-of-term alternative, and this unfortunately affected the attendance which was down to fifteen. Sixteen other members sent apologies for their absence, so it seems highly likely that the willingness to see the Club continue its annual meetings is considerably more widespread than the unusually low attendance appears to indicate.

It was, nevertheless, a very good party. The dinner was good, and the group continued to talk and drink until quite an advanced hour.

The next dinner will, we hope, be in Cambridge on November 25th, next.

P.N.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

P. J. CLAYTON 1956-58

M. J. COOPER 1949-56

A. NORMAN 1943-48

E. Q. JOYCE 1928-34

#### TRANSFERS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

K. A. ALLEN 1951-57      Life Member 890

B. J. MOORE 1952-55      Life Member 892

D. A. BEGGS 1951-56      Life Member 891



## DEATHS:

We regret to report the death of the following members:

- E. N. LOHMEYER 1910-15 (147)
- T. F. MILLER 1922-27
- A. F. POTTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 1895-1905 (65)
- S. B. ROBERTSON 1898-1907 (117)
- G. F. ROBINSON 1900-05 (288)
- V. G. STOCKWELL 1902-05 (292)
- A. TRAIES 1902-09 (280)
- J. J. HEDLEY WILLIS 1914-17 (346)

## ADDRESS CHANGES

- D. A. BEGGS, "Little Padmall", Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford, Kent, 1951-56 (891).
- A. BLACKLER, Barton End, Horsley, Strand, Glos., 1946-53.
- W. J. BOLD, Aurora Cottage, 1 Watford Road, Crick, Rugby, Worcs., 1915-17 (135).
- F. T. BROWN, 56 Hunters Forstal Road, Herne Bay, Kent, 1900-01.
- P. M. BURLING, 11 Glovers Mead, Wyatts Green, Blackmore, Essex, 1943-52.
- S. A. V. BUTLER, Brendon, Tenterden Grove, Hendon, London, N.W.4, 1908-14 (235).
- H. P. CLEGG, 3 St. Thomas Close, Humberstone, Grimsby, Lincs., 1942-50 (722).
- P. CRAWFORD, 18 Chart Close, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent, 1953-56.
- H. F. J. CURTIS, "Wembury", 9 Oliver Road, Horsham, Sussex, 1927-32.
- E. R. DOUBLEDAY, 19 Hollis Road, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, 1952-58.
- Maj. L. V. DURKIN, Spratsbourne Farm House, Cranbrook, Kent, 1933-35.
- D. A. FOWLER, B.A., c/o 44 Oakwood Crescent, Greenford, Middx., 1943-47.
- C. E. FRIER, "Bassett Wood North", Bassett Wood Drive, Southampton, 1931-36 (486).
- M. J. GIVANS, c/o Macmillan & Co. Ltd., Flinder Street, Melbourne, C.1, Victoria, Australia, 1956-58.
- S. W. C. GOODWIN, 7 Barleycroft Green, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., 1916-23 (291).
- M. E. LEE, "Slades", The Beeches, Cobham, Kent, 1949-53.
- R. A. BIGNELL, "Cherry Garth", Albany Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex, 1915-19 (376).
- D. J. GRIFFIN, 45 Brunswick Park Gardens, New Southgate, London, N.11, 1950-56 (807)

- G. J. L. HALL, 31 Welshwood Park Road, Parsons Heath, Colchester, Essex, 1939-45 (739).
- D. J. E. HEARD, 40 Plantation Drive, Croesceiliog, Cumbran, Mon., 1948-52.
- A. C. HEPBURN, P.O. Box 272, Nassau, Bahamas, 1954-57.
- H. J. HOLMES, 10 Warwick Drive, Upper Richmond Road, Barnes, London, S.W.15, 1917-23 (471).
- Lt. N. C. H. JAMES, R.N., Royal Air Force Guttersloh, B.F.P.O 47, Germany, 1950-57.
- Dr. D. W. KENT-JONES, 18 Welsby Court, Eaton Rise, Ealing, London W.5, 1905-09 (485).
- D. F. KETTLE, 7 Cylers Thicket, Danesbury Park, Welwyn, Herts., 1909-15 (261).
- N. D. LEMON, "Willowcroft", 33 Woodhurst Lane, Oxted, Surrey, 1949-53.
- N. J. MADDOCKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 7 Amery Road, Harrow, Middx., 1943-44.
- N. P. B. MARSHALL, 15 Sheredes Drive, Hoddesdon, Herts., 1942-47 (668).
- K. MOLLER, Asgard, Littlestone Avenue, Littlestone-on-Sea, New Romney, Kent, 1953-58.
- R. J. RADFORD, 32 Maplecroft Lane, Naseing, Essex, 1945-55 (780).
- E. RICHARDSON, 46 Bassetts Way, Farnborough, Kent, 1953-56 (818).
- K. J. ROBINSON, 4 Heycroft Way, Nayland Heights, Nayland, Nr. Colchester, Essex, 1935-39 (548).
- Sir G. F. STEDMAN, K.B.E., C.B., B.A., M.C., c/o Dr. S. A. James, Longcroft, Honeyknab Lane, Oxtou, Newark, Notts., 1906-13 (75).
- M. D. JEPSON, Marl Ridge, Swan Lane, Edenbridge, Kent, 1932-39 (538).
- W. T. TEMPLE, 166 Voortrekker Street, Greytown, Natal, S. Africa, 1898-99 (233).
- R. W. WALTER, 26 Halland Way, Northwood, Middx., 1943-48 (704).
- A. E. WATTS, 96 Waggon Road, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts., 1909-12 (88).
- P. A. WHITTAKER, Holmemoor, Brookdene Drive, Northwood, Middx., 1953-58.
- I. M. H. WILLIAMSON, B.SC., 13 North Villas, Camden Town, N.W.1, 1952-58 (863).

#### CORRECTION

T. R. DESBOROUGH, 39 Oaks Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey, 1956-58.

## ADDRESSES OF NEW, REINSTATED OR FOUND MEMBERS

- S. G. BOOTH, 104 Maida Vale, London, W.9, 1956-58 (r).  
P. J. CLAYTON, 12 Tewkesbury Terrace, Southgate, London, N.14, 1956-58 (n).  
M. J. COOPER, 105 Caversham Avenue, Palmers Green, London, N.13, 1949-56 (n).  
W. F. L. JOHNSON, 63 Imperial Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, 1907-12 (176) (f).  
R. G. LINGER, 184 Adelaide Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3, 1952-58 (r).  
D. J. MONK, 132 Osidge Lane, Southgate, London, N.14, 1949-57 (r).  
A. NORMAN, 6 Barnaby Way, Chigwell, Essex, 1943-48 (n).  
A. P. STRINGER, "Saluo Chase", Upper Hartfield, Sussex, 1950-52 (749) (f).

## MISSING

- J. B. ALDRIDGE, 53 Cranley Gardens, Palmers Green, N.13, 1914-22 (323).  
Rev. R. NORMAN BISHOP, "Ivy Bank", Double Trees, Par, Cornwall, 1929-34 (624).  
H. P. BURTON, 2 Higher Laviorick, Mevagissey, St. Austell, 1931-36 (490).  
H. S. FRENCH, 190 Camberwell Grove, London, S.E.5, 1920-25 (318).  
Rev. G. K. HAWES, 228 Hangleton Road, Hove 4, Sussex, 1917-23 (418).  
R. W. LUCRAFT, Oakwood, 33 Broad Walk, Winchmore Hill, N.21, 1926-30 (338).  
A. E. NYE, "Hatchetts Cottage", Newdigate, Nr. Dorking, 1946-49 (685).  
M. T. READ, M.C., 49 Guildford Road, Horsham, Sussex, 1924-32 (398).  
E. STABLES, The Torres, Whitehill Lane, Meopham, Kent, 1905-11 (603).  
C. M. TERRY, "Beverley", George Green, Uxbridge Road, Slough, 1936-38 (618).