



OBITUARY

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Trevelyan, K.G., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., O.B.E.

Members of the School will have heard with deep regret of the death of Lord Trevelyan on 9 February 1985. Appreciations of his outstanding career in the Indian Civil Service and, after 1947, in H.M. Diplomatic Service have appeared elsewhere, but it is appropriate to add here a brief record of his long association with the School and his service to it.

His interest in our work began with his posting as Counsellor to the Embassy in Baghdad from 1948 to 1951. The years 1948 and 1949 saw the beginnings of the School as we know it, the establishment of our first base in Baghdad with Miss Barbara Parker, now Lady Mallowan, as its Secretary/Librarian, and the opening of our first long-term excavation at Nimrud under Professor Max Mallowan. Humphrey Trevelyan's exceptional skills in sensitive diplomatic situations were recognized by successive appointments as Chargé d'affaires in Peking (1953–55) and Ambassador in Cairo (1955–56), and it was no surprise when he became Ambassador in Iraq in the aftermath of the 1958 revolution. The School survived in Baghdad, largely because of the relationship of trust built up over the previous ten years with our Iraqi colleagues, but it was a worrying time and the presence of an old friend at the Embassy was a most welcome support. Conditions for fieldwork in the north, especially after an abortive rising in Mosul in 1959, were far from easy and in

the countryside around Nimrud not far from anarchy. It was characteristic of Humphrey Trevelyan that when we resumed the excavations in 1960 he paid us a two-day visit, even more so that he came in his private car, having mislaid his escort, and when four police trucks finally arrived to protect him he said "Just get rid of them for me". All of us who worked in Iraq in those years have vivid memories of his tireless interest in history and archaeology in any form—a cross-country trip to Hatra to visit the Iraqi expedition, long before the building of the modern highway, was enlivened by an inquisition into the exact route taken by the Roman army on their retreat from Ctesiphon in A.D. 363. We remember, too, with great affection the warmth of the Trevelyans' hospitality at their house in Alwiyah. In an age when informality was not a dominant trait among Ambassadors, they made even the youngest of us feel at home.

Humphrey Trevelyan had accepted the customary Vice-Presidency of the School when he became Ambassador, but for him it was no formality. He remained a member of Council until his death and attended its meetings whenever he was able to do so. His wide experience and long knowledge of our affairs made his questions penetrating and his advice invaluable. His incisive style was a joy to observe, and a lesson to emulate. In 1982, after the resignation of Professor Seton Lloyd, the School departed from its recent tradition of choosing distinguished professional archaeologists as its Presidents, and elected Lord Trevelyan to that office. Sadly, his health would not permit him to continue his attendance at our meetings, and he resigned in 1983.

We owe Humphrey Trevelyan a great debt, and we offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Trevelyan and their daughters.

D.O.