

## OBITUARY

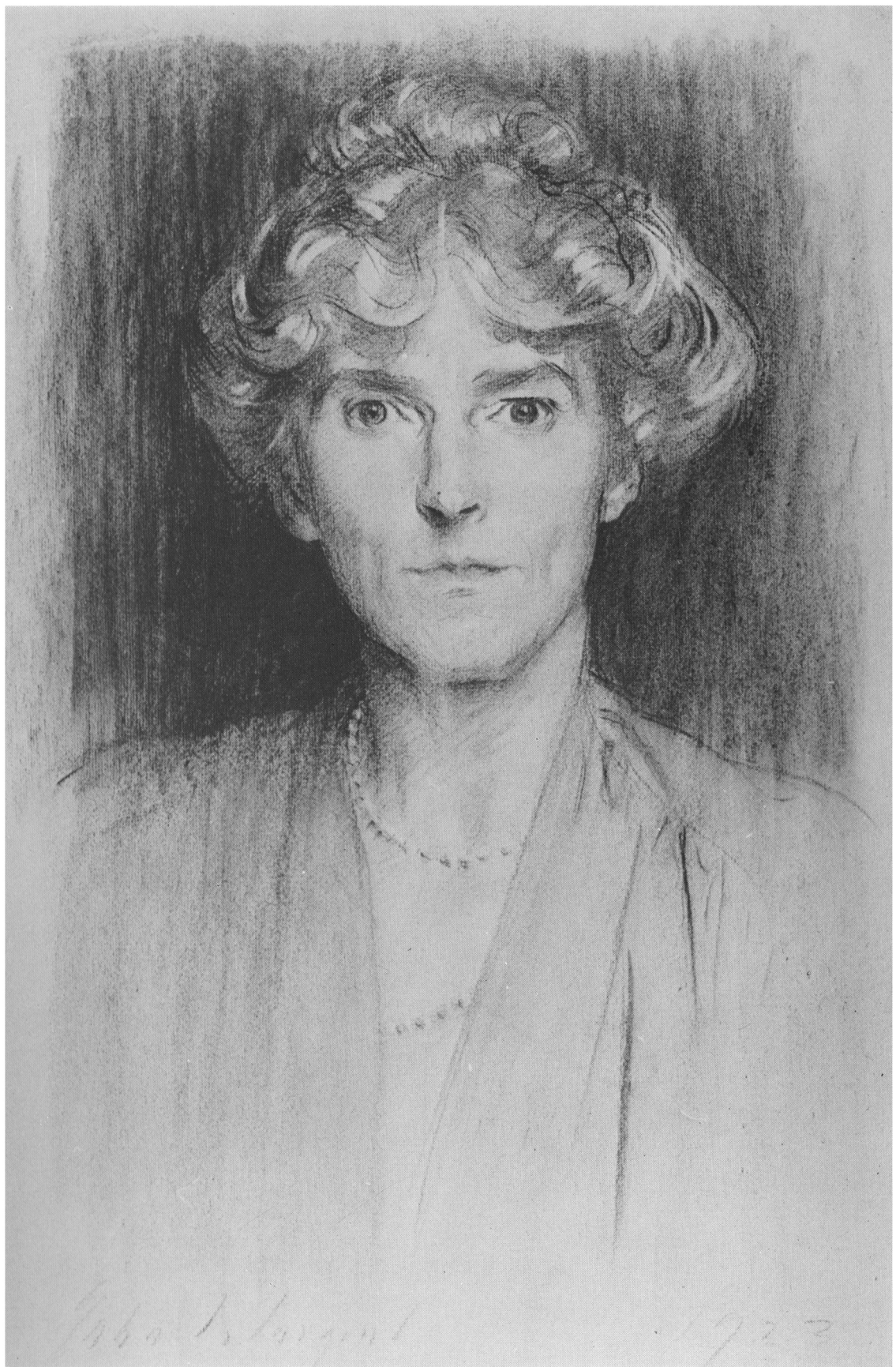
SIR MICHAEL WRIGHT, C.G.M.G.

It is with deep regret that we record the death on 10th June 1976 of Sir Michael Wright who was H.B.M.'s Ambassador in Iraq in 1954–1958 at a time when excavations at Nimrud were being actively pursued. He took a personal interest in the work of the School, visited the site and on many occasions proffered generous hospitality which was highly appreciated by his guests. His death was preceded, a month earlier, by that of his wife, a gracious and charming partner.

He had to endure during his last year in Iraq a period of revolution during which the reins of power passed to Brigadier Kassim. During that time part of the Embassy building was set on fire and damaged by a mob which became beyond control in the first few hours of the revolution, and the Wrights lost almost all their personal possessions. But this sad mishap he endured with great fortitude and dignity, a trial that must have been a sore one, for he was highly strung and nervous, but in the event displayed a marked and supreme courage worthy of the highest tradition of the Diplomatic Service.

A man of great ability, he did not always find it easy to communicate, and while his views were sometimes thought to be lacking in imagination, he was guided by a charming humour. A high sense of honour was the keynote to the man. It was said that he and Lady Wright were never more easily approachable than during their last days in Iraq, when they unbent and became happily informal. On leaving Iraq a large number of Iraqi friends came to wish him God's speed.

M.E.L.M.



GERTRUDE BELL  
Drawing by John Singer Sargent, 1923