

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR R. A. CORDINGLEY, 1896-1962

Professor R. A. Cordingley, Professor of Architecture in the University of Manchester, and the immediate Past-President and the first President of the Society, died on 28 November, 1962. His lively and practical interest in the Society combined with his sagacity and steady judgment were invaluable during the early years of the Society.

A student of Manchester University School of Architecture, Professor Cordingley graduated with honours in 1922. In 1923 he was awarded the Rome Scholarship in Architecture and spent until 1926 pursuing his Italian studies. After his return he was appointed lecturer in Durham University and became resident architect of Durham Cathedral; from 1929 to 1933 he was Master of Architecture at the University of Durham and in these years he was engaged in practice with Mr Donald McIntyre. In 1933 Professor Cordingley returned to Manchester on his appointment as Professor of Architecture.

Professor Cordingley's interests in architectural history were varied and deep. In 1961 he completed the revision of the 17th edition of Banister Fletcher's *A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*, an immense and laborious task which he discharged with painstaking care and thoroughness, incorporating much new material. He had previously revised Normand's *Parallel of the Orders of Architecture* and *The Story of Architecture* by P. L. Waterhouse. The study of English domestic and vernacular architecture occupied much of Professor Cordingley's attention during the last decade, and he pursued his studies and encouraged his students with sustained vigour and interest. In this field, Professor Cordingley recently published *A Classification of British Historical Roof Types* and an article, 'The Chronology of Stokesay Castle', will be published posthumously in the *Art Bulletin*. Latterly a series of books on regional domestic architecture has been planned and the first should be available shortly. The publication of these books, inspired by Professor Cordingley's interest and research, should form the most fitting tribute and memorial to the work of a serious and profound scholar.