

THE

C.L.S.



BULLETIN

(Organ of THE CHARLES LAMB SOCIETY, founded 1935)

President: LORD DAVID CECIL.

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Hon. Secretary: E. G. CROWSLEY, 37 Tavistock Sq., W.C.1.

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ERNEST FREDERICK LEWIS MEMORIAL

A few weeks ago I was privileged to pay a tribute to the memory of Ernest Frederick Lewis and then suggested that, as and when an opportunity presented itself, we should in some permanent form commemorate his long and devoted services to our Society. That opportunity has now come.

Our Society possesses a notable library of books by, or pertaining to, Charles Lamb which has for some years been hospitably housed at the Edmonton Public Library. But the distance of that institution from Central London has seriously minimised the usefulness to our members of our collection. By the kindness of the Trustees of the University Hall we can now rectify that disadvantage. By installing it at the Hall our members will be able to consult or borrow all but the rarities of our collection and these latter will be at hand for the service of Elia students from the provinces or overseas. A Bookcase alone is needful to fulfil these plans and we invite our members to join with us in contributions towards purchasing it. A fund has been opened for this purpose and you are desired to send to our Treasurer, Mr. S. L. G. Huxstep, at 37, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, a contribution to this worthy project.

The Bookcase will be inscribed and dedicated to the memory of our late Treasurer. The splendid services of Ernest Frederick Lewis to our Society are known to each and all of us. That you will wish them to be commemorated in a manner at once worthy and useful gives us confidence that this appeal will be enthusiastically supported.

On behalf of the Officers and Council,

WALTER FARROW, *Chairman.*

HAYDON'S GRAVE

By A. F. BISHOP

A leading article in the issue of *The Times* of 22nd June last, dealing with the centenary of the death of B. R. Haydon prompted me to write a letter to the Editor, calling attention to the derelict state into which the grave of that distinguished man had fallen. As members of this Society will hardly need to be reminded, this friend of Elia's was buried in Paddington Green Cemetery close by the tomb of Mrs. Siddons, who had given the cachet of her great reputation to the painter by visiting the public exhibitions of his canvases which his early quarrel with "that coiled snake" the Royal Academy, reduced to the status of one-man shows. But while the great actress's descendants have preserved her tomb from Time's effacing hand, that of her contemporary has, like his reputation, fallen into unmerited decay.

The wording on the headstone is nearing complete obliteration; but the curious eye can still make out that B. R. H. "devoted 42 years to the improvement of the taste of the English people for high art and died broken-hearted" from pecuniary distresses. Then follows the paraphrase from "Lear" with which he brought his great autobiography to a pathetic termination before making "assurance doubly sure" with the knife and the pistol. "Upon the rack of this tough world stretch me no longer."

Some interesting letters reached me in reply to my own. One gentleman making the pilgrimage to Paddington, unable to identify the grave, enquired at the neighbouring Town Hall only to find that "the officials knew nothing and cared less" about its whereabouts. His letter suggested that Sir Walter Lamb at the Royal Academy might be induced to open a fund for the renovation of the headstone—a suggestion which would give that august body the opportunity for burying an ancient hatchet.

Another correspondent wrote of living as a child in Haydon's Paddington house "which was undoubtedly haunted" as demonstrated by a dog's inexplicable terror, weary footsteps on the stairs, and the thud as of a falling body in the tragic bedroom.

Mr. Gillie Potter writing from Hogsnorton threw some additional light from Barnum's dairy on the chagrin which royal patronage of "General" Tom Thumb roused in poor Haydon's breast when the unenlightened public rushed past his exhibition to see "the American abortion"—and finally overtopped his reason.

A generous lady writing from Thames side, Richmond, tendered a substantial donation to start a fund to make amend to the memory of a neglected worthy. Her kindly offer was, however, made unnecessary by Mrs. L. Boyd Carpenter, Haydon's only surviving grandchild, who has magnanimously offered to have the headstone reconditioned at her own expense. As a curious commentary on the mid-19th century point of view she mentions that in her family circle her artist grandfather "was only mentioned with a lift of the Victorian eyebrows; and indeed, for some time, regardless of dates, I imagined he had eloped with Kitty O'Shea, the other hush-hush member of an otherwise respectable family! Subsequently I gathered that Parnell was the happy man and not grandfather Haydon."

I feel that the members of the Charles Lamb Society will share my gratitude to B. R. Haydon's granddaughter for her kindness in saving his resting place from oblivion.

REPORT OF JUNE MEETING

William Hazlitt and the Challenge of Our Time

The meeting on Saturday, June 22nd, was the occasion of a very arresting lecture by Dr. CATHERINE M. MACLEAN, M.A., on "William Hazlitt and the Challenge of our Time."

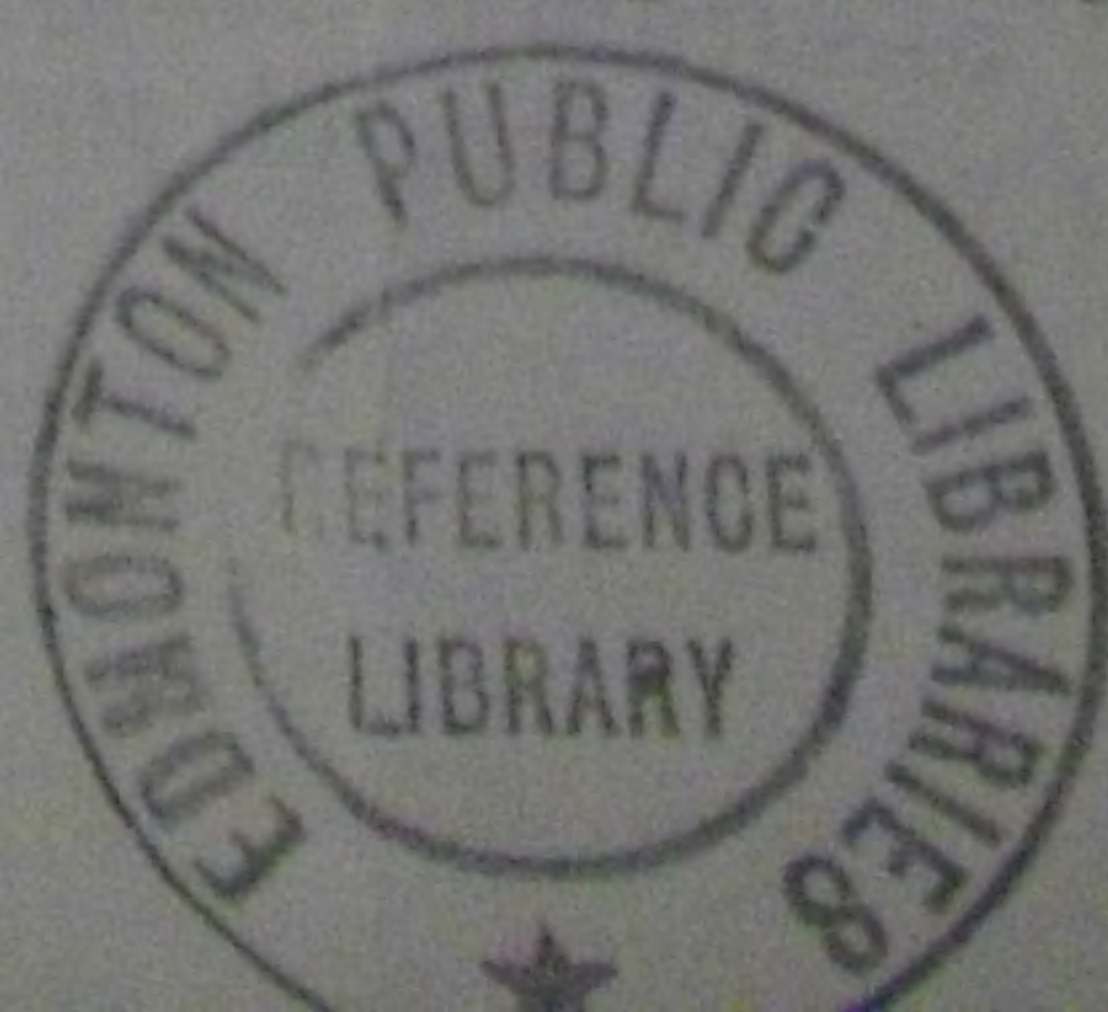
Mr. L. RAYMOND as CHAIRMAN spoke of his persistent efforts for a talk on Hazlitt which happily had now been rewarded with the presence of Dr. Maclean, whose recent book "*Born under Saturn*" was a compelling study of that remarkable personality William Hazlitt.

DR. MACLEAN in opening spoke of the wonderfully genial atmosphere she had noticed when present at a previous meeting of the Society, a friendliness which reflected the tone of Lamb's "Wednesdays." Hazlitt was one of Lamb's great friends and his "dog" which used to accompany him to his lectures at the Surrey Institution often proved troublesome there; but at Lamb's Wednesday Evenings Charles saw to it that Hazlitt, welcome guest though he was, arrived unaccompanied. John Scott, when comparing the spirit of *The Quarterly Review* with the spirit of Hazlitt wrote that they were the two utmost extremes the age had produced "what we should most like to cull from *The Quarterly* is its *sale*; what we should decline robbing Mr. Hazlitt of, are his *politics*. We do not think we need have any scruple to mention these latter, for the author does not scruple to introduce them everywhere, and on all occasions: they come, like a mastiff, by his side, into all companies he frequents."

A Broadcast by Arthur Koestler on "The Challenge of our Time," said Dr. Maclean, and on the pandering to expediency as the mortal sickness of our time, turned her thoughts to Hazlitt's political creed; for Hazlitt's life was a warfare against expediency.

Hazlitt had a spiritual ancestor in Mr. Dare-not-Lie in "The Pilgrim's Progress" who was opposed to Mr. By-Ends, the exponent of the gospel of expediency. His mortal ancestry was a non-conforming blood, his father being a Unitarian minister, his mother of a family in which Non-conformity was traditional. When a boy Hazlitt was fired by the French Revolution, giving his life a tremendous impulse towards the idea of liberty, and the American Revolution added its quota to his feelings and outlook. When he was twenty there came into his life another great influence, namely his contact with Samuel Taylor Coleridge. As described in the Essay, "My first acquaintance with poets" this influence loosened all his powers and made him what he became. Then came painting and a stay in Paris where experience served to confirm his ideas.

By 1812 Charles Lamb had become one of his firm friends, a friendship which gained him work on the *Morning Chronicle*; later came writing for the *Champion*, the *Examiner*, and the *London Magazine*, political writing occupying much of his energies. By 1826 he was regarded as a notable writer of essays. These were followed by his *Life of Napoleon*, always his hero, and then came death in 1830. Born in poverty, he died in poverty, and knew nothing of that security which men nowadays claim; throughout life he was dependant on his own efforts for a day-to-day livelihood. His hope was to convey some good to mankind rather than personal gain to himself. His pamphlet on "Free Thoughts on Public Affairs" pleaded for civic liberty and courage, both essential for the well-being of the nation as they were for individuals. With steady enthusiasm and total indifference to any ill which came to him for his adherence to such principles, he battled against the spirit of the age which, he was convinced, would only lead to further conflict among the nations. Subsequent events, all too sadly, confirmed how right he



was. That a victor should take all he could get and keep it was, to Hazlitt, quite wrong. Patriotism and the love of one's country should not be exclusive, but should have regard to the feelings and aspirations of other peoples. Let no country enslave another with impunity, he said, or liberty for both would be in danger. Despotism was to be avoided; liberty should never have to live in fear. Hazlitt protested against all exclusive conceptions of patriotism and liberty, for liberty and peace were one and indivisible. The great society of mankind was composed of many peoples, and the smaller nations ought to unite against any aggressor or common enemy, and at the same time each should recognise its own obligations towards the great society of mankind and fulfil them, or the gates of mercy would be shut against all mankind. All these ideas were regarded by Hazlitt's contemporaries as the outpourings of a freak, and when his political principles were silenced by criticism, Hazlitt lost his means of livelihood. But Hazlitt could not be silent long and he resumed political writing. When the doctrine was laid down that the peoples of Europe should be regarded as the chattles of their sovereigns, Hazlitt thought the day-star of liberty had sunk. He repudiated it with all his powers. The people were free citizens with rights to enjoy, men with desires for happiness, and the will to be free. Totalitarian power in Europe was abhorant and to be fought wherever it appeared. A few days before he died he heard the news of the Revolution of the Three Days and his old hopes were roused once more, hopes which had almost suffered eclipse; so to the last Hazlitt kept faith with the principles he had professed. He had sown the seed though realising that time was necessary for fruition.

The principles of Hazlitt, continued Dr. Maclean, have become the challenge of our time, and are to-day recognised in the United Nations Charter. We owe to Hazlitt and to men similarly minded all that we are fighting for to-day. Owing allegiance to no party they are the salt of the earth, the preservatives of the life of the nation. Hazlitt was a creature of a fiery heart and the wielder of an indignant pen. Happy are they who walk by faith and hope, and into whom the spirit of the world has not entered. They live in the midst of death unconscious of harm. The yoke of life is light and supportable to them, and they are in the world and not of it, and a dream and a glory is ever about them. Messrs. Farrow, McNulty and Emden spoke in appreciation of Dr. Maclean's eulogy of Hazlitt's work and of her vigorous defence of liberty delivered with passion and conviction and delightful wit, which Mr. Clement confirmed when proposing a vote of thanks to her. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for his admirable personal restraint and efficient control of the proceedings was moved by Mr. Basil Francis. The customary reading was given by Mr. A. F. Bishop with a passage from Hazlitt's Essay "My first Acquaintance with Poets."

H.G.S.

"AT HOME" AT FALAISE

Amid the rural surroundings of "Falaise," North Welwyn, a goodly number of members foregathered on the afternoon of July 13th at the invitation of the Chairman and Mrs. Farrow who were "At Home"—a post-war revival of a pre-war felicity. Here in an alfresco atmosphere the Dramatic Group presented their second venture, "The Wife's Trial," a dramatic poem in two acts, written by Charles Lamb in 1827, first published in *Blackwood's Magazine* and for which Lamb received £20. Lamb in a letter to Patmore described it as a tragi-comedy and said "it will be refused or worse: I never had luck with anything my name is put to."

Crabb Robinson wrote in his Diary that "it was a piece of great feeling but quite unsuitable for performance." The Dramatic Group confuted his sweeping condemnation, convincing the audience that the tragi-comedy was suitable, at any rate, for private performance. Miss A. M. Ferraro in the part of the sorely-tired wife, Mr. Roy Seammens as the husband, and Miss R. M. Budd as the widow proved excellent foils. The production was in the able hands of Miss A. Park.

Then followed tea—refreshment in widest commonality spread—after which a vote of thanks in metrical form was proffered by Mr. H. G. Smith in appreciation of the hospitality of the Host and Hostess, and also as a tribute to the sterling qualities of Mr. Farrow as Chairman, Guide, Philosopher and Friend to the Society since its formation in 1935; the latter portion was as under:

Once again Falaise enfolds us,
"Hospitality . . . run fine,"
May the Fates be kind and guard it,
May the sun for ever shine

On the "pleasant plains" of Hertford,
"Leafy lanes" by Elia seen:
Falaise shall be linked with Blakesmoor,
Both have kept Lamb's memory green.

The vote of thanks was supported in undistinguished prose by the Vice-Chairman, whose manner of leading the musical honours, although unorthodox, and far from "musical," left no doubt that the guests regarded Mr. and Mrs. Farrow as very "Jolly Good Fellows" indeed. The full cast of "The Wife's Trial" in order of their appearance was as follows:—

Susan, Miss A. M. HART. Katherine, Miss A. M. FERRARO. Mr. Selby, Mr. ROY SEAMMENS (by permission of Mr. Eric Newton). Lucy, Miss D. R. COLLINS. Mrs. Frampton, Miss R. M. BUDD.

Branches.

There are good hopes that a Branch of the Society will be formed in Glasgow and a first meeting is being planned for October. Our Glasgow member responsible for the organisation, Mr. G. D. Robertson, of 30, Hermiston Road, Springboig, Glasgow, will welcome the names and addresses of friends of members living in Glasgow or district likely to be interested in the Branch.

C.L.S. Dramatic Group:—Important.

There will be a General Meeting of the Group on Monday, September 9th, at 6 p.m., at University Hall, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1. All interested in the future of the Group should attend.

WHO WAS AT CHARLES LAMB'S FUNERAL?

By ERNEST C. ROSS

Because Charles Lamb died during the Christmas holidays of 1834 and was buried during the New Year holidays of 1835, there were fewer friends and acquaintances at his funeral than there would have been if it had occurred at some other time of the year. For example, Crabb Robinson was out of London at the time of Lamb's death and, after some vacillation, decided not to return to town and attend the funeral. If the Diarist had not been absent, it is highly probable that there would be less uncertainty about those who were present.

T. N. Talfourd, in a letter to Robinson on the thirty-first of December, 1834, wrote of Lamb's funeral, "It will be attended by Moxon-Ryle who is Exor with me—a gentleman from the India House who witnessed the will and was an old companion there—Procter—Alsop—and I believe Carey." Lamb's will (1830) had been "signed in the presence of Vincent Rice," who perhaps attended the funeral; but B. W. Procter (Barry Cornwall) and H. F. Cary, for some reason or other, did not. According to Robinson, who "chatted with Moxon" on the seventh of January, 1835, "Neither Barry Cornwall nor Carey was there."

Thomas Sadler, in his edition of the *Diary, Reminiscences, and Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson* (1869) caused some confusion by revising the pertinent sentence in Talfourd's letter to Robinson, to read as follows: "It will be attended by Moxon, Ryle, who is executor with me, a gentleman from the India House, who witnessed the will, and was an old companion there, Brock, Allsop, and, I believe, Carey." At first sight, "Brock" seems to be a misprint or a misreading for "Procter." If I remember rightly, however, Brock does appear in Robinson's diary for the first of January, 1835; but not in Talfourd's letter of the day before, which Sadler has revised with his usual freedom.

E. V. Lucas, in his *Life of Charles Lamb* (revised 1921) has caused some more confusion by making the statement: "Robinson decided not to attend the funeral, at which were Talfourd and Ryle, the executors, friends from the India House, Moxon, Procter, Allsop, and Cary." In changing "a friend" to "friends" from the India House, Lucas made a plausible conjecture; but, in assuming that all those who had been expected to attend the funeral actually did so, he forgot or overlooked Robinson's statement to the contrary. He also forgot or overlooked Thomas Hood, who says in his "Literary Reminiscences" (No. IV) "It is now some five years ago, since I stood with other mourners in Edmonton Church Yard, beside a grave in which all that was mortal of Elia was deposited."

I could mention another writer about the Lambs who has not mended matters, but he is of little if any importance, and therefore shall be nameless. About such fellows Elia himself warned us long ago: "Henceforth let no one receive the narratives of Elia for true records!" (Talfourd, in some verses on the death of his little son Charles Lamb Talfourd, in December, 1835, asserts that the ground was "snow-clad and frost ribbed" on the day of Lamb's funeral. This may account for H.C.R.'s decision "not to attend" and for the absence of other friends.—ED.)

New Members.

Miss M. Gemmill, 15, Napiershall St., Glasgow, N.W.; Miss G. Moffatt, 98, Albert Road, Glasgow S.2.; Miss M. J. K. Potter, 4, Hampstead Mansions, Heath St., N.W.3.; Miss G. E. M. Philpot, 24, Cranborne Avenue, Tolworth; Mr. L. G. Ramsey, M.A., 87, Spring Gardens, Leek; Mr. S. A. Sales, 28, Burntwood Court, S.W.17; Dr. E. P. Shippen, 1120, Columbia Road, N.W.; Washington, D.C.; Mrs. J. R. Souter, c/o Mrs. Pratt, Elmbank, Dollar; Miss T. Tigg, 10, Thurlow Road, N.W.3; Mrs. A. J. Treloar, 137, Benges Street, Hertford; Mr. T. J. Tyman, 16, Eastwood Road, Goodmayes; Mrs. M. Watson, 37, Murray Road, Northwood; Miss E. L. Watson, 37, Murray Road, Northwood; Miss E. Weininger, 79, Greenhill, Prince Arthur Road, N.W.3; Mrs. R. Weininger, 79, Greenhill, N.W.3; Miss N. Wood, 81, West End Avenue, Pinner.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Monday, September 9th, 1946: William Kent on "London in the News in Charles Lamb's Time," at University Hall, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1, at 7 o'clock and not 7-30 p.m. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a General Meeting of the Dramatic Group at which anybody interested will be welcomed.

Saturday, October 12th, 1946: P. M. Young, M.A., Mus.Doc. on "Music in the Elia Circle," at the Central Club (Y.W.C.A.), Great Russell Street, W.C.1, at 2-45 p.m. Members should note that Monday meetings will commence at 7 p.m. precisely in future.

Provincial and Overseas Members are invited to submit short papers (about 2000 words) to be read after the business has been transacted at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Monday, 10th January, 1947. Papers must reach Mr. Crowsley by 15th December, 1946. They can be on any subject appropriate to the objects of the Society, and need not necessarily be type-written, although this is preferable. It is hoped that Provincial and Overseas members will respond.

Current Bibliography of Charles Lamb from February 1st, 1945 (contd.)

(b) Articles.

LOOKING AT THE CLASSICS: THE ESSAYS OF ELIA, by I.M. (*Melbourne Age*: 1.6.1946)

THE PLAY THEY HISSED, by H.D.C. (*Melbourne Age*: 20.4.1946)

CHARLES LAMB IN LITERATURE AND LIFE, by Edmund Blunden. (*Listener*: 11.7.1946)

(e) Unsigned Reviews.

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES LAMB. (*Times Literary Supplement*: 15.6.1946)

*Whole page review of the new Everyman Edition of Lamb's Letters in 2 vols. arranged by Guy Pocock.

(f) Letters to the Press.

THE REAL CHARLES LAMB. B. Tindale (*Melbourne Age*: 27.4.1946)

THE REAL CHARLES LAMB. H.D.C. (*Melbourne Age*: 25.5.1946).

EYES AND BOOKS. A. M. Hind. (*Times Literary Supplement*: 27.7.1946).

*On the small type of the new Everyman "Letters of Charles Lamb."