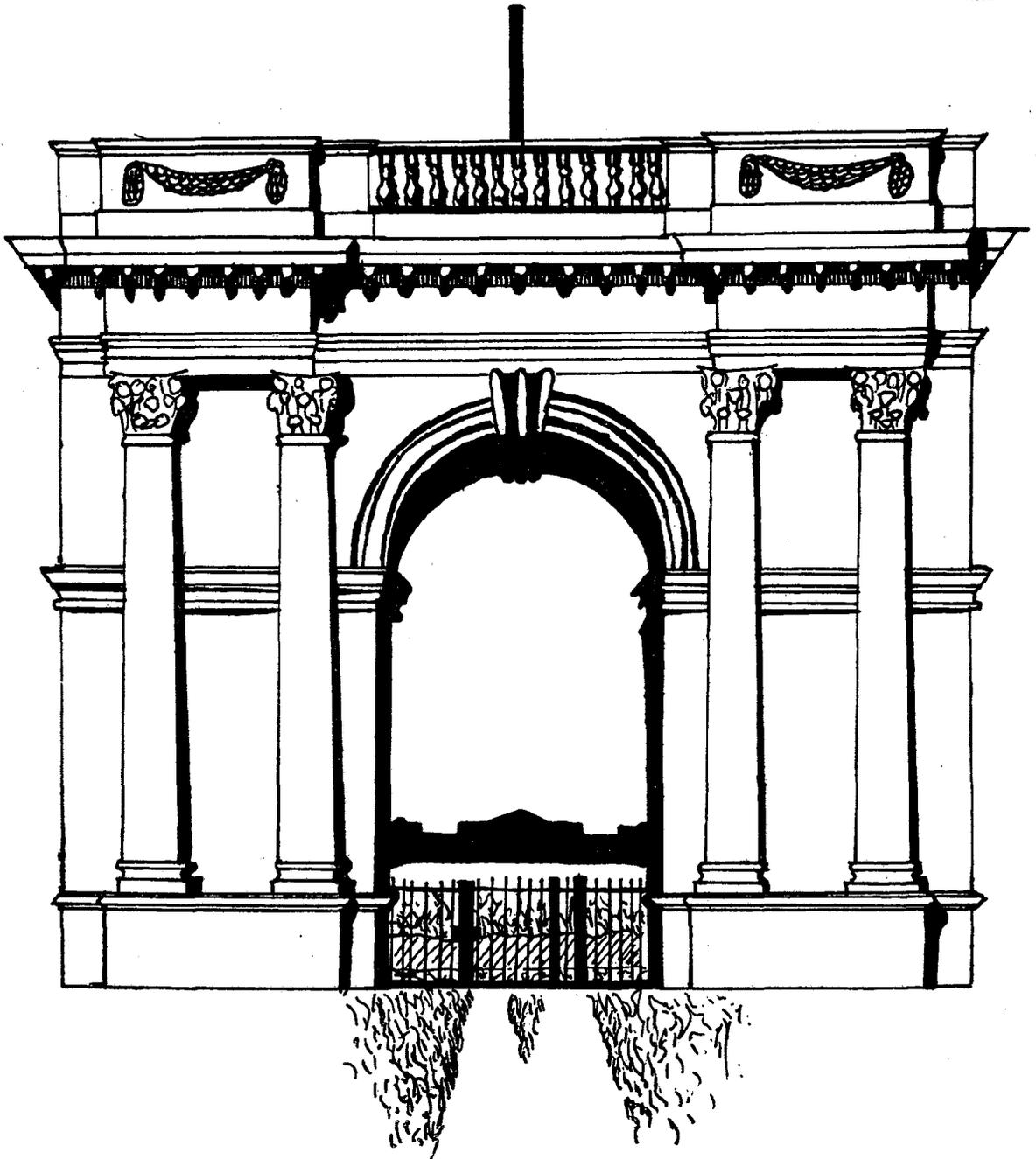


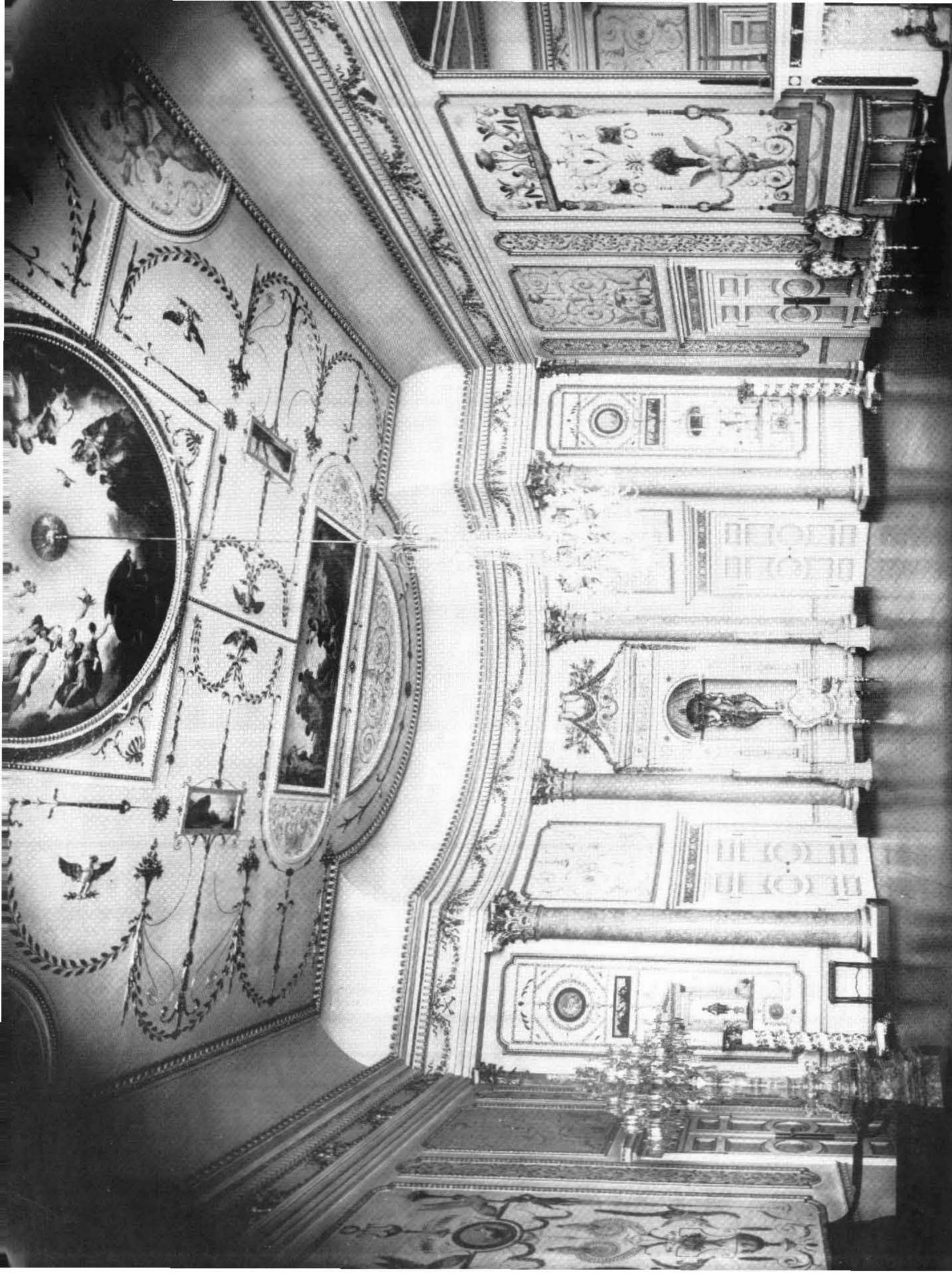
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THE STOIC

December 1975

Number 156



Vol XXVI
Number 5
December 1975

THE STOIC

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Jonathan Carr
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Jonathan Kreeger

Frontispiece:

EDITORIAL

A society and institution such as Stowe has many regulations which although necessary are often trivial. Few people would deny that ultimately many aspects of a boy's behaviour do not matter, but when considered within the environment of a school they have to be maintained if that society is to function adequately.

The hierarchical system at Stowe ensures that the staff guide the boys, and the senior boys guide the juniors. To safeguard the machinery of the society, officials at every level have to enforce what are often trivial matters when considered outside the context of the school.

I do not contest the necessity for these rules to be enforced under the present system, but I do feel that people can often become so involved in this system that they lose their sense of perspective. An official must never be blind to the ultimate triviality of much that he has to do, while remembering its necessity in this particular environment. It is sad to see some individuals so devoted and so involved in their duties that they consider them both inherently necessary and valuable.

This blindness applies to both the staff and the boys because it can infiltrate unconsciously into the mind of every official. An individual can often only maintain his sense of proportion by the realisation that what he is doing is necessary for the society of the school, but that beyond that it does not matter in itself.

It is indeed true that on the return to Stowe after a break one can see things in a clearer and more rational light, and everybody must be capable of observing this if he is to gain as much as he can by living in this necessarily artificial society.

Gibran suggests a friend can often see the essentials of his relationship from a distance; may Stoic and master alike in a similar fashion observe the environment at Stowe.

"When you part from your friend you grieve not; for that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain."

JONATHAN CARR

The Music Room in about 1920

AUTUMN 1975

This term opened in an unusually sad way. We were shocked by the news of the motor cycle accident in which Martin Aran was killed on the 14th September. He had an exceptionally cheerful and generous nature which is missed by all who knew him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his parents in their tragic loss. We have also been without Dr Priday for much of this term. He suffered a serious stroke and is still very ill, but we wish him a speedy recovery. On a happier note, we welcomed Mr Wynne-Jones, who replaces Mr Nicholl as chaplain. This change-over has gone very smoothly, and we wish Mr Wynne-Jones and his wife a successful time at Stowe. Another new member of staff is Mr Lovelock, who has joined in Stowe life very fully. He teaches English and helps with rugby, sailing and Community Service. He has also published several books on English literature. Mr Bone, who is now in charge of P.E., and Mr Small, who helps with P.E. and Art, have also joined us this term.

Mr Simons left us three weeks before the end of term. He originally planned to stay for one year, but remained an extra 12 months before returning to Australia. He has been of great help to the Chemistry department. As well as being Under-Housemaster of Grenville, he has assisted Mr Hudson with the swimming team. We are also sad to see Mr Pomphrey leave us at the end of this term, to become head of the physics department at Tabor School, Braintree. He will be greatly missed for his work in the Physics department here, and for all he has done on the rugby field and cricket pitch, as well as the Roxburgh Hall stage.

Along with the new masters, 14 new girls came this term, bringing the total up to 18. These include several boarders, who stay at masters' houses. The number of girls here will gradually be increased to 30, which is the maximum that Stowe can accommodate at present.

This year, despite rather poor A level results in the summer, there is an unusually large number of Oxbridge candidates—31 to be precise.

To put it kindly, Stowe has had an average rugby season so far. Although the 1st XV have won five out of ten matches to date, they have not really lived up to expectations. The Under Fourteens are the only team to have had a successful season. Individually, though, several boys have represented Buckinghamshire at both senior and junior levels. Various senior boys are pairing up to play three-legged rugby against the girls.

At other sports we have been more successful. Mr Hudson put on a swimming sports which was greatly enjoyed, even if it was rather one-sided. The bridge team is still unbeaten over the last two years.

The Congreve Club put on a production of "Becket" by Anouilh. Mr Potter, as producer, coped with his enormous task very efficiently, and the performance was highly polished in all respects. There have been the usual large number of concerts at Stowe this term. Many Stoics do not realise how lucky they are to be able to hear top orchestras and bands so easily. Especially notable were the concerts by the Salomon orchestra, which visited Stowe only two years ago, and the Black Dyke Mills Band, which won this year's National Brass Band championships.

Amongst the host of other activities, the National History Society is flourishing. A new duckery is being built next to the pumphouse by a team of enthusiasts, and over £300 was raised in a sponsored swim, for the Thames Counties Wildlife Appeal.

We are having three House dances this term; there have also been two dances at neighbouring girls' schools which Stoics have attended. These social events are necessary in a school with only 18 girls, and it is a pity that some houses never hold them.

On the 7th November, the School and some outside visitors attended a meeting at which The Rt Hon. Edward Heath, M.P. spoke. His speech was a cut above the average politician's ramblings, and he was well appreciated by the audience.

This term the Bursar and the Governors have continued in their efforts to economise, and so keep the fees down to a minimum. Major savings, in both time and money, will be produced by a new laundry, which is under construction in the powerhouse yard. This should be operational next year. The successful holiday lettings have allowed £4,000 to be spent on renovating the Bruce and Grenville changing rooms, and creating a very necessary passage from Plug Street to the South Front. Chandeliers have been installed in the Music Room.

It is, then, clear that much thought has been given to the economic problems that face the School—along with everyone else—without in any way reducing the quality of our education at Stowe.

RICHARD LORD

M.P.P.

M.P.P. came to Stowe in January 1972 having first graduated from Newcastle University, then joined de la Rue as a computer programmer and then become a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy. This diverse background combined with his genial personality formed a rare blend from which the School has benefitted for the last four years.

There is no doubt that M.P.P. has been one of the most committed men at Stowe. Third Form hot air balloonists and Oxbridge scholars alike have benefitted from his teaching expertise. Second XI cricketers in the summer, Colts hockey players in the Easter term and, of course, 1st XV rugby players in the winter have been lifted by his coaching ability and infectious enthusiasm. As if a full teaching programme and the running of two top clubs were not enough, he has been equally active behind the scenes—literally so in the case of the Roxburgh Hall where he stage managed several productions and has been responsible for the administration of the building. He has also been Grafton's under housemaster, i/c the Signals Section, Secretary of the M.C.R. and, perhaps most onerous of all, compiler, proof reader and on occasions almost the printer of the Blue Book.

Tabor High School, Braintree, will certainly be the richer in January when M.P.P. takes up his post as Head of Physics. Tabor's gain is our loss and we will miss his efficiency, dependability, his calm but firm approach to all the tasks he has undertaken, and, most of all, his company. Our best wishes go with him and his wife and family for a happy and successful future in Essex.

THE MYLES HENRY PROJECT 1975

A VIEW OF CANADIAN RANCHES

I was out in Canada for six weeks, five of which were spent working on various ranches, and the remainder travelling, seeing some of the major cities and tourist attractions such as Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. I also managed to cross the U.S. border twice. The prospect of visiting Canada, a land of great expanse and beauty, had always stimulated my taste for adventure; I was not disappointed. The variation in climate and relief, illustrated by the sudden change from the flat prairies to the mountain ranges of the Rockies means that there are many different types of ranches spread from east to west, to which I had to travel in order to gain a complete picture of Canadian Ranching.

My first three weeks were spent working on a typical Canadian dairy ranch of seven hundred acres about eighty miles south of Montreal. I quickly learnt how to ride a horse bareback as I soon found myself rounding up one hundred head of cattle twice a day for milking. I was given many jobs, including having to plough an eighty acre field; but I was also allowed a couple of days off work to go and visit a mink farm where eight thousand minks were kept. Throughout my stay at this wonderful place, all the people took great pains to assist me in any way they could and were extremely hospitable. I immediately found myself at home amongst them.

I then spent a few days in the tobacco belt of Canada, being shown all the different types of work from picking tobacco to observing the management of the tobacco farm.

Next I moved across to the West to work on a three hundred square mile cattle ranch near Calgary. Here they reared over ten thousand head of beef cattle, mostly longhorns with a few Friesian but I was required to mend sections of the quarter of a million miles of fencing, rather than tending the cattle. Other ranch hands were engaged in the slightly more skilled job of rounding up the vast amount of cattle, and gathering food for storage and preparation for the winter. On occasions here the temperature reached 102°F. making working conditions, to say the least, uncomfortable.

The mere size of this ranch is difficult to imagine and the jobs I was given entailed far more responsibility, and consequently I enjoyed my work far more.

Once again I was on the move, this time to what is known as the 'Feedlot' ranch where two thousand cattle are enclosed in a corale, an enclosure of about five hundred square yards in area. Most of my time was taken up feeding these animals, who are much more prone to disease than open range cattle, being in such a tightly packed community. For the feeding, I had to cut silage, a full time job, because of the sheer amount of cattle. I finished here after one week, working ninety-eight hours in all.

In addition to my work, I visited the Niagara Falls, the Rocky Mountains, the Banff Jasper National Park and some of the major cities mentioned previously, all of which impressed me enormously.

It was impossible to see all the various aspects of Canadian life because they were so numerous and because of my limited time schedule, but I obtained a vivid impression of what little I saw. All the Canadians I met throughout the country, were friendly and extremely generous people, which, combined with the beauty of the country, made my visit to Canada one of the most interesting and challenging holidays I have had.

BRUCE ROBINSON

SOCIETY

CHAPEL

We have welcomed the following as preachers in Chapel: The Revd F. M. Argyle, Vicar of Aynho; The Revd P. T. Ashton (C 1935), Rector of Avebury; The Revd R. C. Lucas, Rector of St Helen's, Bishopsgate; The Revd J. McCulloch, Rector of St Mary-le-Bow; Martin Muncaster, Esq. (O.S.) on Remembrance Sunday; The Revd The Hon D. C. M. Fletcher of Scripture Union Staff, who also preached at the New Boys' Service in Stowe Church; and The Very Revd D. R. MacInnes of Birmingham Cathedral.

Two parties have visited Oxford to see the multi-media presentations 'Strangers to Love' and 'Yesterday, Today, Forever'. At the time of writing, we look forward to the Carol Service and the Chapel play 'The Business of Good Government'.

We have begun to hold occasional evening Communion Services which we hope will provide opportunities for a freer form of worship with more participation by those who come.

N. W. WYNNE-JONES

THE CHAPEL CHOIR

The year's progress culminated in a first equal placing in the Church choir class at the Buckingham Music Festival. The credit for this remarkable metamorphosis from previous years is due entirely to Mr Drayton. His words of wisdom and 'wit' have enhanced the enjoyment of both listener and singer.

The choir has expanded its membership to about fifty, including four sopranos. Despite the numbers, the Christmas round of hospitals and old peoples' homes will continue.

PAUL RIVALLAND

THE STUDY GROUP

Study Group is an informal meeting every Sunday designed to give helpful guidance for those to whom 'Christianity' suggests more than just a chapel service.

Last term, Study Group began to attract considerably more people and interest has been sustained over this term too. The Psalms were chosen as theme for the term and speakers have included the Revd Dick Lucas, Rector of St Helen's, Bishopsgate, the Revd David Fletcher of Scripture Union and the Chaplain.

We should like to thank Mr Vinen, who very kindly continues to let us use his flat, Mr Marcuse, who organises the meetings with great administrative flair, and Mr and Mrs Nicholl, who played hosts at the usual tea-meeting.

CHRISTOPHER PETO
MICHAEL TOBIN

STOWE COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Christmas term is customarily the most busy for boys involved in the Community Service. We usually expect difficulty in recruiting new members to fill the positions of the summer term leavers. This term, however, has proved to be the exception with an encouragingly strong response from the new boys, many of whom we have been able to allocate areas to manage immediately. We have also been very busy with the Annual Christmas Party and the Hamper Campaign.

This year, the Hampers have been under the control of Peter Taylor, who has run the campaign very professionally. At the time of writing we seem well on the way to surpassing previous records in our fund raising, with a target of more than £2,500. Our thanks must here be recorded to the people of Buckingham and the surrounding districts, local industry and commerce, but above all to the parents of contemporary and Old Stoics who have contributed so generously towards the success of this venture.

Beside the Hamper Campaign and the Party, we have encountered a deeper type of problem, a problem perhaps not as apparent in Buckingham as in other parts of the country. A couple crippled with arthritis and living in the most appalling conditions was brought to our attention. Our decorating team, under the direction of Jonathan Wheeler have painted much of the house and have made it a far more congenial home for them. Not only have they redecorated, but they have repaired much of the roof which formerly leaked badly. We wonder how many senior citizens in our area live in such conditions.

Oliver Colville has run the Sunday Outings which play such a vital rôle in our campaign against loneliness with efficiency. The outings included excursions to Woburn and the Cotswolds and with several shopping expeditions to Aylesbury and Oxford.

Finally, I'm sure that everybody involved in the Stowe Community Service would wish to join me in recording a vote of thanks to Miss Craig who, in her retirement, has joined us to run much of the routine office work, hence relieving most of the time consuming work previously carried out by the boys. Our thanks to her.

JAMES BURTON-STEWART

THE PINEAPPLE CLUB

Much interest has been added to the Club visits by the presence of Steven Mackay (L 1974) who, in return for accommodation in the Club, spends two nights a week actually working. It has been arranged so that Steven should be working there when the party from Stowe comes up to London. He is then able to organize their programme throughout the evening.

Although we have not been able to send a group every week there remains an enthusiastic response to the opportunities that the Club provides. Perhaps most important of all (alongside the various activities which the Club organizes) is the possibility of mixing with those less fortunate than ourselves.

This extract is from an account of a trip to the Club by Mark Horlock:

"After our meal we were shown around and then left to enjoy ourselves. The facilities included table tennis, darts, billiards, football, volley ball, basket ball and colour television. We all enjoyed sharing these games with boys less privileged than ourselves, and especially talking with them. During our short visit to the Club we experienced a new aspect of life and a very different way of life. I feel sure that all the work there is worthwhile, and should be supported in every way."

C. R. HASLAM
JOHN SMITH

THE XII CLUB

The Club met with several new members on 10th October to hear Mr D. W. Manly, former Modern Languages tutor at Stowe, expound on the Common Market—a talk deferred from last term. Mr Manly spent much of his time debunking the myth of political and moral union within the market. The purpose of the community was to grant commercial and economic concessions and Britain, he added, would be a chief beneficiary thereof. Commendable realism; but it was widely felt that the talk could have been more evenly planned.

Soon after exeat, a joint paper on the contemporary crisis was given by James Cunningham and the Secretary. The economic plight of the West was deepening despite limited recovery in some quarters. In a cleft-stick situation, wherein measures aimed at restoring prosperity were prejudiced by opposing factions, was not moral decline to blame? This suggestion was hotly contended by those who felt that an economic cure could still be found.

We look forward to a dissertation on the existence of God nearer the end of term. Topics recently debated have tended to be rather abstract or general in character: perhaps the Club would be better advised to choose narrower subjects with which to stimulate the intellectual faculties of its members.

CHRISTOPHER PETO

THE ENGLISH SOCIETY

Two meetings have been arranged for the English Society this term. On 12th November Richard Carr spoke on various aspects of Chaucer, with particular reference to the Knight's Tale as currently concerning most members. Declaring initially his preference for a discussion rather than a lecture, he put forward various ideas on the literary and theological points of the Tale which he hoped would be taken up later, as indeed they were. We were grateful for the opportunity to link School and University studies on this theme, and look forward to the second meeting of the term on 1st December, when Tim Lancaster will talk on Jacobean tragedy.

B. S. STEPHAN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society has met three times this term.

Dr Paul Hyams, Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford, spoke about Trial by Ordeal. In the twelfth century, he explained, trial by fire, water, and battle were regularly used to establish guilt and innocence. The idea was that God would use the ordeal to declare the truth. But one problem was that a merciful God might allow a repentant sinner to come successfully through the ordeals of fire and water. So some men, anxious to maintain social order, preferred to rely on trial by battle. It seemed an effective way of putting God on the spot. Even if a man had repented God would have to ensure his defeat, for otherwise he would be allowing an innocent man to be killed. It may now seem a strange way of looking at things, but it is worth remembering that even today we still invoke God's influence in legal proceedings.

Roger Lockyer, Senior Lecturer in History at the Royal Holloway College, London University, talked about George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham. Buckingham, he said, has been misjudged. He was a statesman who believed that Spain wanted to swallow up the World and he therefore wished to construct an anti-Spanish alliance. This meant that he was prepared to ally with Catholic France. But the English Parliament was so violently Protestant that it would not accept French Catholic support. It wanted total war against Spain and Catholicism, and it wanted it at sea and without paying for it. Buckingham knew that it was necessary to fight on land to drive Spain to negotiate, and he knew that this would cost money. Of course his policy was a failure, but it was consistent, and it was based on a realistic appraisal of the power struggle in Europe.

Father Aelred Watkin of the Order of Saint Benedict and formerly Headmaster of Downside spoke to us about the writing of essays. Use black ink, he said, write legibly, and underline foreign names and quotations instead of putting inverted commas round them; it all helps to lend an air of scholarly precision to one's work. Secondly, reduce all knowledge to skeletal form; it makes it easier to remember. Third, bear in mind that all history reduces itself to this formula: "What were the problems? How were they dealt with? With what results?" And finally, cross-fertilize your knowledge: when writing of William Rufus remember the parallel with the Red King in "Alice through the Looking Glass".

D. J. ARNOLD

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The Geographical Society has met twice this term. The first lecture was by Dr N. Pollock, a distinguished Geographer, on African affairs. He gave an interesting and revealing talk on White Settlement in Rhodesia, that was useful to many 'A' level geographers. The second lecture was by Mr B. Crittendem who gave a most enjoyable account of Inland Waterways in Great Britain.

There has been a trip to the National Geographical Building in London, to hear Dr Johnson lecture on the Rurban Fringe, which was enjoyed by most.

With 'A' levels approaching, next term's lectures by Dr R. Morgan on Soil Erosion and Mr P. Howard on Aspects of the Geography of East Africa, should be extremely useful.

JOHN HORROCKS

THE NUCLEUS

Ever since the much celebrated centenary of the Club in July 1974 its activity has become almost non-existent. The last proper meeting was in fact held over a year ago when James Abelson delivered a paper on Photography—The Science. Since then, however, many members have left without being replaced and the number of members has dwindled way below the normal quota of twelve.

Maybe it is that scientists have no time for talking; but it would be sad to watch one of the more distinguished Clubs sink, without a trace, into a sea of scientific apathy! Thus it is hoped to revive the Club after 'Oxbridge' examinations and put it well on the road to recovery. The time for revival is especially right when considering the quality of talented and articulate scientists in the sixth form.

JAMES ABELSON

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Science Society has had a wide range of films this term on such topics as The Planets, Physics and the Engineer, Materials for the Engineer, Cough and you'll deafen thousands and Principles of Diving.

The first lecture of the term was on the Catastrophe Theory. The lecturer was David Fowler of Warwick University and he produced a well illustrated and interesting talk.

Later in the term we hope to have Ron Lancaster, a licensed pyrotechnist, who will be talking about fireworks.

JAMES FITZHERBERT

THE LIBRARY

In the four years from the Autumn Term 1971 to the Summer Term 1975, 14,540 books were borrowed from the Library, of which 174, not recorded in the Register, have not yet been returned. People have been known to keep books for up to three years, so some of those missing may yet re-appear. We never give up hope in the Library!

In the same four years 695 books were acquired, of which 173 were gifts.

At the end of the Summer Term 1975 the Lending and Reference Catalogues together carried 6,192 titles. This figure does not include the old books at either end of the Gallery, which are catalogued separately.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks a most generous gift of the first eight Volumes of "The Diary of Samuel Pepys", edited by R. C. Latham and W. Matthews, presented by Mrs M. P. Breakell on behalf of her sons, Mark Kneeshaw (B 1972) and David Kneeshaw (C 1975). "The Iliad of Homer" translated by Lang, Leaf and Myers and "A History of Greece" by J. B. Bury, were kindly given by Mrs H. F. Hodge from her husband's library.

A collection of documents relating to the Stowe Estate, which were bought by Mr H. M. Temple at the Stowe Sale of 1921 and presented to the School Library, have been lodged on loan at the County Records Office, Aylesbury. They are available there for anyone to study and the Library has a full descriptive catalogue of the items.

Recent acquisitions include six more volumes in the "Kings and Queens of England" series, which now complete the series in the Library.

Finally a word of thanks to the Prefect of Library, G. J. A. Bell, ma. (G), and to all the Library Monitors for their efficiency and valuable help in the day-to-day running of the Library.

H. D. MARCUSE

Monitors: D. A. Bowman, ma. (B), N. C. De Salis (T), J. H. Walford (G), A. P. M. Prince (C), J. D. Boldero (C), R. F. Grove (C), N. J. Phillips (G), R. J. C. S. Mitchell, ma. (W), T. J. Beevor (L), I. G. Campbell (N).

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This term the Natural History Society has been as active as ever despite the fact that animal and plant life slows down to a minimum; perhaps it is the mild weather, perhaps an increasing interest in the subject.

Monday extras have provided introductory studies of particular aspects, including fungi, lichens, pondlife, ecology, moles and other small mammals, bird-boxes, bird-watching and the Duckery. Progress in the Duckery has been immense, boosted by an enthusiastic work-force (report appears elsewhere).

Thursday Societies have been efficiently run by Dr Hornby, Stephen Wild and Patrick Wilson. Many films have been shown including the excellent B.B.C. production 'The Private Life of the Kingfisher' and we look forward to 'The Making of a Natural History Film' (also a B.B.C. production). It seems a pity that we have such a small contribution from speakers within our Society. It is true to say that "a society is only as good as its members" and the more we communicate between ourselves the stronger the Society will be.

Outside the School we have made visits to listen to Philip Wayre, who talked about his pet owls and the County Trust appeal, and we made the annual excursion to see the new R.S.P.B. films at Bletchley. They proved to be most authoritative and interesting accounts of gulls, bird migration and the R.S.P.B. A large group spent a Sunday looking around Whipsnade. It was an excellent chance to see foreign animals in a more realistic situation than most zoos.

The Nature Reserve has been under the careful management of James Hanks, although this term much attention has been diverted to the instalment of the Duckery. Nevertheless flight pools have been cleared and cut back, fences have been put up to keep invading animals out of the top field, the lake overflow has been temporarily patched up and routine clearing has been carried out along the main rides. On Field Day another visit was made to Gibraltar Point in Lincolnshire.

The most prominent event of the term was a Society-organised sponsored swim in order to raise money for the B.B.O.N.T. to buy new nature reserves in the Thames Valley region. The members of each house sponsored and collected sponsors for a chosen house swimmer, who then proceeded to swim a hundred lengths (2½km). Grafton excelled themselves by collecting a third of the total. The support from the School was most enthusiastic and a total of at least £300 was raised.

Being a member of the Society should never be easy, but it should at the same time be very enjoyable, for it requires enthusiasm, whole-hearted support, and communication. The Society is such that what you put into it, you will get out of it.

CHARLES SHACKLETON

THE FORESTERS

Our energies have been concentrated on two main projects. The first was to remove four yew trees, stumps and all, from above the Grotto, an essential prelude to any repair of its structure. Though it was easy enough to lop off the branches, undercutting the stumps without endangering the vault below was a delicate business which took several weeks of patient work with trowels and saws. It was more like archaeology than forestry, and we were intrigued to dig out several shells from the rubble placed beneath the trees when they were planted two hundred years ago. These shells must, we think, have come from the earlier rococo decoration of the Grotto or from the nearby rotundos when they were demolished.

The other project was a siege-like operation against the stump of the beech tree felled on the North Front this summer. By keeping a fire smouldering for a month we managed to burn out the centre of the stump and were then left with the hard wood round the edge. Reducing these outworks one by one takes time, but the destructive power of fire can be increased by cutting slits through the wood, and we hope to complete the demolition soon enough for the ground staff to level the site and turf it over before the spring.

G. B. CLARKE

THE DUCKERY

We have made a lot of progress with the basic plan this term and despite one or two setbacks are nearing completion of the main enclosure. About an acre has now been enclosed with a fence that is, hopefully, animal proof. Six foot high netting with an overhang and two feet more horizontally underground at the foot should deter all but a 'super-fox'! Two small ponds have been excavated which are filled by a spring happily within the enclosure. One of these has been lined with heavy plastic so that at least one pond should hold water in even the driest of summers.

We still have seventeen Mallard which we bred last term as a nucleus of the collection. We plan to add to these by purchasing a few Carolina, Mandarin, Pintail and Tufted Ducks. With luck some of these may breed next spring.

Mr C. J. Marler (© 1950) very kindly showed us round his extensive wildlife park and in particular his large collection of wildfowl. We are very grateful for this and came away full of ideas and enthusiasm for the future. We are continually grateful too for the support of Mr Martin, Clerk of Works and all his staff without whose support we could not have got this far.

TIM MALLETT

THE TROUT HATCHERY

This year saw the end of the most successful season for the hatchery. During the five years in which I have been involved, disasters have struck with sickening regularity on batches of ova; alevin and fry have died and frustrated efforts of enthusiastic Stoics. The causes have been varied: heat, cold, hunger, over-feeding, flooding, leakage, disease and a number of other such unpredictables. Each consecutive calamity was regarded as a lesson and led to correction eventually indicating the very straight and extremely narrow road of trout survival.

With these precedents in mind, the system was constructed with automatic feeding, heating and ventilation. As a result some brown trout survived for more than eighteen months and grew to lengths ranging from five to nine inches, while two thousand rainbows, a year younger were growing well in the trays, to the length of around one and a half inches. Then once again the fickle finger of Fate struck one further blow.

At the very end of the summer term a power cut switched off the pump so the water was no longer flowing when the temperatures reached the ninety mark on the following day, causing asphyxiation and death to all the large browns and all but a very few of the rainbows. This tragedy will serve as a lesson above all others to future hatchers.

At the end of term I confidently hand over the hatchery to Matthew Yorke and Nick Chapman who have ordered fifty three-inch rainbows with which to restart. I wish them luck and thank Mr Lloyd and Mr Dobinson for their continuous moral and practical support.

EDWARD CORBETT

THE BUSINESS GAME

This term the Stowe Business Game Board under the capable guidance of the "Major Share holder" Mr Rawcliffe has scored a decisive victory over the other three companies in our group, making more money than the other three put together.

Hopes for the second round which begins next term are running high, but in the absence of the "Major Share holder" success will rely on the ability of the board.

JOHN SMITH

THE FILM SOCIETY

This term the Society has seen three films, and awaits another. To open the season, Hitchcock's "Frenzy", with its grisly murders, had the Roxburgh Hall completely silent for most of the evening—a demonstration of enjoyment, one hopes. In very different mood, "The Little World of Don Camillo" (an unfortunately dubbed version, with the voice of Orson Welles as Narrator/Jesus) was very well received, its gentle humour winning over even the most hardened members of the Society. "On The Waterfront", Marlon Brando's tour-de-force, speaks for itself in that most of the audience were in a stunned silence at the end. A superb variety of films so far; we look forward to Bunuel's "The Exterminating Angel" in late November.

JONATHAN KREGER

THE POLITICAL CLUB

The Club has only had one meeting so far this term, when we were most honoured to have Mr Heath as our speaker. Mr Heath spoke to a packed Roxburgh Hall for forty minutes, and then skilfully answered questions on a wide variety of topics for a further hour.

Mr Heath started by speaking on world affairs. Britain, he said was still too insular and inward looking, in spite of the opportunity presented by the Spring Referendum. He spoke of the need for a good relationship with the United States, and of the opportunities of a well led, united Western Europe. This, he felt, could be helped by having direct elections to the European Parliament.

He talked about our internal difficulties in Britain, our unemployment problem, our balance of payments deficit and our stagnant production. "If we can't do it economically, we can't succeed politically," he declared. He did not blame anyone for our present mess, but talked of the need for understanding between the two major parties, between the Trade Unions and Government and between the Trade Unions and Industry. What Britain urgently needed was a wide consensus of opinion he said, referring to a 'Them and Us' picture in Britain.

He finished by saying minority views must be heard and that choice must exist in education and the Health Service.

We look forward to hearing Jonathan Aitken, M.P. speak to us later on in the term on "Politics and the Press". We also hope to launch a public speaking competition in the School, and subsequently enter a local contest.

JONATHAN ROSE

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The senior team has this term won matches against St Edward's, U.C.S. and Bedford and now has an unbeaten record for two years. The Juniors have not lost this season and have beaten St Edward's and U.C.S.

In the Banbury heat of the Oxfordshire open pairs, Barwood and Osborne, and Rose and Gray, ma. played well to qualify for the semi-final next term.

Later on this term there are the Bucks. and Berks. School Pairs, the Oxfordshire Men's Pairs and also the House Pairs Competition.

DAVID HINDS

The following have represented the School this term: G. G. F. Barwood (G), N. A. G. Butt (C), N. A. Coates, ma. (C), P. M. Cooper (C), E. R. Freeman (C), H. N. J. Gray, ma. (C), D. R. H. Hinds (Secretary) (T), R. D. Lord (T), A. E. S. Osborne (G), J. H. Rose (Captain (L), T. P. H. Stephens (L).

Junior Team: T. N. F. Durdin (B), N. D. J. Gray, mi. (C), G. G. R. Paine (T), N. D. Wright (C).

THE CHESS CLUB

Chess has had a keen following this term and there has been no lack of competition for places in the two School teams. Both the School first and second teams are still in the *Sunday Times* School Tournament at the time of writing.

In the Inter-House knock-out competition, the holders, Grenville face the strongest competition from Bruce, led by last year's captain Nasatir, and Chatham. Temple and Walpole have a number of able junior players.

Captain: P. M. Cooper; Secretary: P. R. T. Graves.

G. D. SALTER

Results: v. Sponne School	Won	5½—½
v. Quarrendon School	Won	4—2
v. Kimbolton School	Lost	4½—3½

STOWE SOCIETY OF CHURCH BELL-RINGERS

"Look two, treble's going, she's gone." One of the many examples of the bell-ringer's patois. Words which for many years have only been heard in the context of an over-enthusiastic ringer trying to do something he couldn't. It seemed almost a jinx. No matter how hard we tried it became increasingly difficult to reach the ultimate goal of five ringers.

To make ringing at Stowe worthwhile requires dedication because we have a lack of expert tuition. Primarily the road to ringing is all give and no take, but once the basic techniques have been grasped a new field of bell-ringing is open, in the form of change ringing.

Change ringing presents the capable ringers with an opportunity to test their skills with others, but, it has for the past four years been inoperable because of the lack of enthusiasm and competent ringers (there must always be five ringers). For the first time in many years we have been able to get together a reasonable group of about six ringers and this system is working surprisingly well. We have a special practice on Monday to accommodate this new type of ringing, which is available for the more experienced members only.

We hope that by the end of the term we can be ringing some of the more basic rounds, for example "plain hunt". Thanks must go to Mr Nicholl for allowing us to use the facilities in the Parish Church and also to the Yates family for watching over us and the bells.

JOHN SMITH

THE MOTOR SPORT CLUB

This year has seen comparatively little activity. We began with a film of the 1974 Le Mans 24-hour endurance race, and although the commentary was in French, the colour and quality made it a worthwhile experience.

We had three motor cycle films covering a wide variety of the sport—track racing, scrambling and T.T. and thus the Motor Sports Club had lived up to its name by covering all aspects of the fastest growing sport in the world.

We took a party of 50 boys to Silverstone for the final of the Formula 5000 championship—where they were fortunate enough to see some spectacular, though harmless, shunts. A party of 50 boys also visited the Diamond Jubilee Motor Show at Earls Court.

On writing this we, would also like to mention that we have been offered visits to Williams, Shadow, Hill, Hesketh, Surtees, Brabham, March and McLaren formula one motor racing factories and are having a lecture from top American racing driver David Hobbs.

In closing we wish to thank Mr Adams for his praiseworthy and patient service to the Club, the new President, Mr Meredith, a very loyal and willing founder, the staff at the A.V.R. Centre, and James Burton-Stewart, whose patience with the only available equipment saved many a face at the film shows!

SIMON HARRIES
SIMON FOSTER

B.P. BUILD-A-CAR COMPETITION

For the past two terms a small number of boys has been trying to build a "town car" for the B.P. Build-A-Car Competition, which will be judged in October 1976. So far the team has collected and stripped an old Morris Minor down to the floor pan. The 850 cc Morris engine has been stripped, repaired and rebuilt. The body, which has been designed by one of the boys is to be built next term with glass fibre.

The group has been sponsored by the school shop and has spent £15 on materials and equipment so far. One of the team is seeking to raise the additional money needed to complete the project through sponsorship by local firms.

The group has visited the Cowley assembly plant of British Leyland and next term plans to visit Aston Martin.

The team would like to thank Mr B. K. Simons for all his help and guidance without which this project would have been impossible.

PETER TAYLOR

THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Trips have been made this term to the working Railway Museum at Quanton Road, near Aylesbury, to a Model Railway Exhibition at Oxford, and to the British Rail Carriage Works at Wolverton, where a guided tour was arranged around the workshops.

In common with Mr Edward Heath, B. A. Martin chose Friday, 7th November as the evening on which to address the School; his very lucid talk on Model Railways, entitled "Scale, Gauge, and Space" was very well attended.

G. D. SALTER

STOWE IN EAST SOMERSET

Freshly painted oil lamps, carefully weeded flower beds, hand written sign boards, slatted wooden fencing, litterless gravel, Victorian buildings, and the smoky odour of burning coal, make a visit like a journey backwards in time.

Such were my first impressions of the East Somerset Railway; the long awaited dream of wild-life painter and Old Stoic, David Shepherd.

Having been a railway enthusiast since his time at Stowe, David Shepherd, has become famous as the 'Man who loved giants'. And both a documentary and an autobiography have borne the title. For not only is he interested in locomotives, but his artistic skills have led him to painting wildlife, especially elephants. This does not mean he has not painted locomotives. On the contrary, two of his best paintings are of engines, at the end of the era of steam. However, these he will not sell. Only his wildlife ones are sold, as the others are just part of his hobby.

The main factor contributing to the realisation of his dream was his painting; for through the sale of his works he has not only been able to support a family, but also to buy many locomotives. These include the famous 'Green Knight', 'Black Prince' and 'Stowe', one of the Public Schools Class locomotives. This 'giant' is one of just three remaining Public Schools Class locomotives; all that most of our 'competitors' can boast is the name-plate off their locomotive in the head-master's study, such was the fate of most. But 'Stowe' and two others have been preserved for posterity.

The atmosphere of relaxation on the line shows from the entrance to the car park, right through to the engine shed. For, although it has taken much hard work to change a decaying dis-used freight line, into a quiet 'new Victorian' railway, the greatest hurdles are now overcome.

For since he first arrived at the line, David Shepherd has had the station totally redecorated and tidied, and the engine shed almost fully refashioned. The new shed would, the railway believes, please any self respecting Victorian architect.

This relaxed atmosphere enables one to view without prohibitions, to see the engines from almost every angle, whether above or beneath, inside or out, and it enabled me for the first time to gain just a glimpse of the thrill of controlling a train like 'Stowe'. Surely we should be proud of such a 'personification' of our school!

MICHAEL TOBIN

(A member of the East Somerset Railway)

LA SOCIÉTÉ GASTRONOMIQUE

So far this term the Société has only been able to meet on one occasion, in view of the academic work of the members. The meeting took place at Mr and Mrs Rawcliffe's house and the cooks were Stephen Fraser and Charles Rolls. Their hors d'oeuvres was L'ananas Gervais which was extremely good. The second course was Moussaka which was quite delicious, and was followed by Gâteau du Raisin. With the meal we had Mouton-Cadet 1970. The whole meal was well balanced and liberal portions were served to our host and hostess, Mr Suttle, who is now President of the Société and all the members present. It was a most enjoyable evening, and the two members who cooked upheld the high standard of the Société.

VIVIEN SLYFIELD

ZYMASE

The Society has been fairly active this term, and there seems to be a renewed enthusiasm for wine-making.

The highlight of the term must, I think, be the trip by several members, to an English vineyard at Chilsford. For this visit, the Society is very grateful to the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Alper. During this visit we were shown the correct methods of picking, pressing and brewing the grapes we had picked.

Among other interesting occurrences during the term, we did manage to have a mini-explosion, which sent a certain amount of elderberry wine onto the floor, but this was not of great consequence and the members have now got a successful wine brewing.

Our thanks must once again go to Dr Hornby who has helped, advised, and purchased throughout the term for the Society. We look forward to having a few more prospective brewers in the New Year.

JAMES ROWNTREE

C.C.F.

As a result of a change in School policy we now admit recruits in September instead of in January, so the contingent has had a very young look to it this term and, for the first time for many years, there is at present neither N.C.O. Cadre nor Advanced Infantry nor Special Training Sections. In their absence Mr Nicholl has turned his attentions and enthusiasm to the new Assault Course which is growing rapidly in variety and in the challenge it offers.

Unhappily for the C.C.F. Mr Pomphrey's departure will leave a serious gap in the post-Proficiency Sections. He has been running the Royal Signals Platoon for three years, making his mark not only by obtaining excellent results in Classification Tests but also by the Night Exercise/Field Days he has organised with the Canoe Section. It has not been possible to find a permanent successor for Mr Pomphrey so far but it is very pleasant to report that Mr Bone and Mr Wynne-Jones have volunteered for the C.C.F. Mr Bone is at present engaged in reviving the Canoe Section, which has been dormant since Mr Brangwin's return to Australia, and Mr Wynne-Jones is working with the Proficiency platoons.

For annual training last holidays the R.N. Section sent cadets on courses that covered sailing, diving, helicopters and going to sea, the Army Section went to Capel Curig for nine days, and the R.A.F. Section to Central Flying School, R.A.F. Little Rissington. All of these visits had their high spots but the most noteworthy must surely have been the tireless labours of Miss Craig, our retired caterer, who went with the Army Section as caterer, cook and general booster of morale. We fed, when at base, as fighting cocks are reputed to feed, even if one or two of the less skilled suffered near disasters with compo rations in the field, and Miss Craig's presence in the cookhouse cheered everyone, Stoics and regular soldiers alike.

M. J. FOX

PARACHUTING ON THE RHINE

Falling from an aeroplane at 3,000 ft with nothing but two packs for survival, may not be everyone's idea of fun but I can assure you that the sport of free-fall parachuting is thrilling beyond the imagination of anyone who has not experienced it.

Naturally the first time that you sit cramped in the Islander aircraft rising higher and higher with the wind whistling past the non-existent door, you are full of apprehension, but this disappears very fast as you leap in the form of a star from the plane and count to six before

the parachute springs to life, breaking your 120 m.p.h. fall and bringing out the total beauty of Sennelager lying some 2,000 ft below you. Slowly then you glide down turning left and right with the aid of your steering toggles before arriving over the sand-pit target and turning into the wind to hold. The ground now seems to rush up at you and people become more life-like as you rapidly fall downwards into the pit.

Bang! I'd landed for the first time ever and my leg hurt like nothing before. Staggering to my feet I began to pull in the 'chute with the intense pain ringing behind my right knee. Slowly and carefully I walked towards the controller's hut and soon, to my amazement, the ghastly pain disappeared and I was back in the plane having packed my parachute ready for this second drop. Usually eight of us (plus the jumpmaster) went up in one lift, and three jumped out at the first pass and five at the second, splaying the air full of orange and white canopies. Having had to pack our own parachutes, we learnt the intense skill involved if a safe descent was to be made, while Ken Mapplewick, our instructor, kept on stressing his motto "tidiness is safety!" Finally at the end of the course, I was rated as a grade 3-4 parachutist, meaning that any time in the future I could do this free-fall parachuting from 3,200 ft with a six second delay, by just showing my log book.

In conclusion, I would advise anyone who has any inclination towards parachuting, to try and get on next year's course in Germany with the Royal Artillery. My eight days cost me £25 for jumps and accommodation in the Officers' Mess including excellent food and service. Personally, therefore, I had the greatest fun and will take any opportunity of parachuting in the future whatever the location.

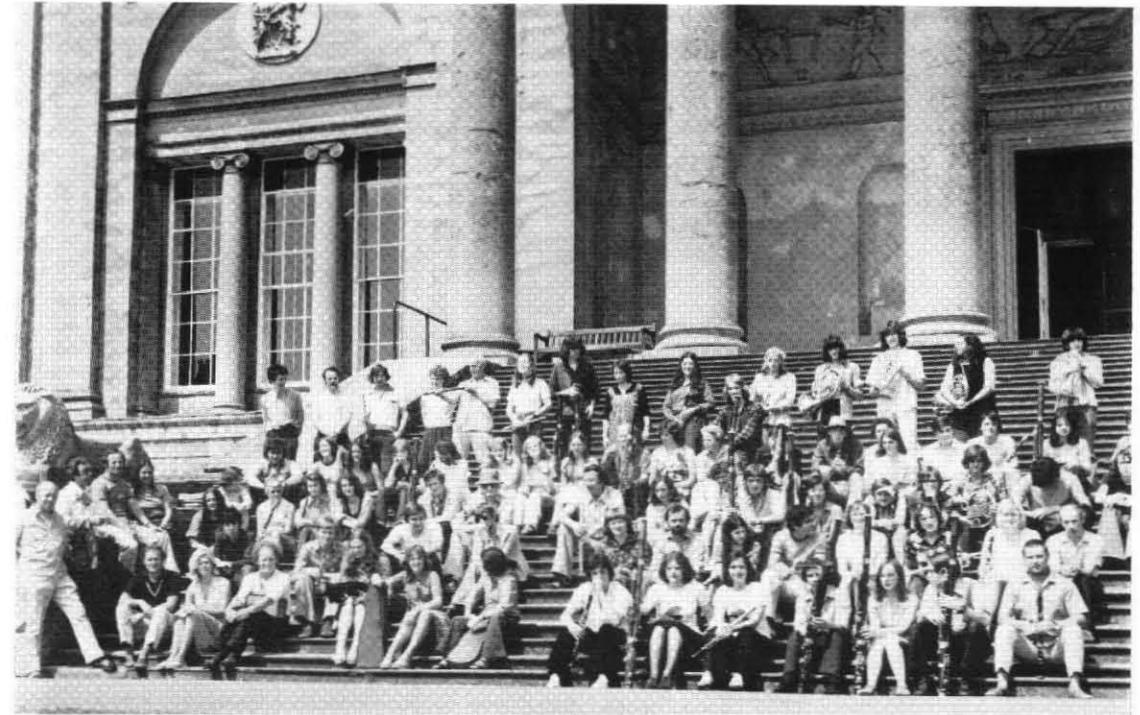
RODDY HAMILTON

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The summer camp was highly successful, partly because of good weather and partly because we were camped by the delightful Loweswater well away from the main tourist tracks in the Lakes. Most Expeditions were completed without incident, but one Silver group (them again!) went astray on the hills in low cloud. They sensibly retraced their steps when they realized that they were off course and set up camp in Ennerdale rather than in Wasdale. It was most reassuring for H.Q. that the boys did precisely the right thing. Nevertheless, we had a worrying couple of hours while they were mislaid. Non-expedition activities included boating, canoeing, fishing (totally unsuccessful) and mountaineering. Scafell Pike, Helvellyn and Great Gable were all ascended. Andrew Wild and I were able to take parties of boys rockclimbing on two days. A number of them found it to be an interesting and surprisingly unfrighting pastime. The D. of E. has invested in some climbing kit and we hope to go out on a more regular basis during the year. In September, for example, we took a small group to Stanage Edge in the Peak District and were able to give them several climbs up to Severe in standard.

We had a large Bronze new entry in September, swelling the numbers to an all time high of 64. This will strain all our resources. Most of the Groups have been concentrating on learning, or relearning, the elements of campcraft and of map/compass work. To help with the latter we have set up a couple of Orienteering courses in and around Stowe. Field Day on Brecon Beacons was much enjoyed in spite of a cold night and cloudy morning. As we climbed upwards we got above the cloud and were able to look down on it, even seeing small Brocken Spectres from the top of Pen-y-Fan. Silvers and Golds have been completing the other sections of their Awards, notably the Service in the form of C/S or Life Saving. First Aid and Police Courses for the new entries at Bronze and Silver will start in January.

G. M. HORNBY



Stowe Summer School of Music 1975

Robert Haynes Photography



Bruce Robinson, this year's Myles Henry Prize winner, rounding up cattle on a Canadian ranch.

THE HISTORY OF STOWE—XXIII

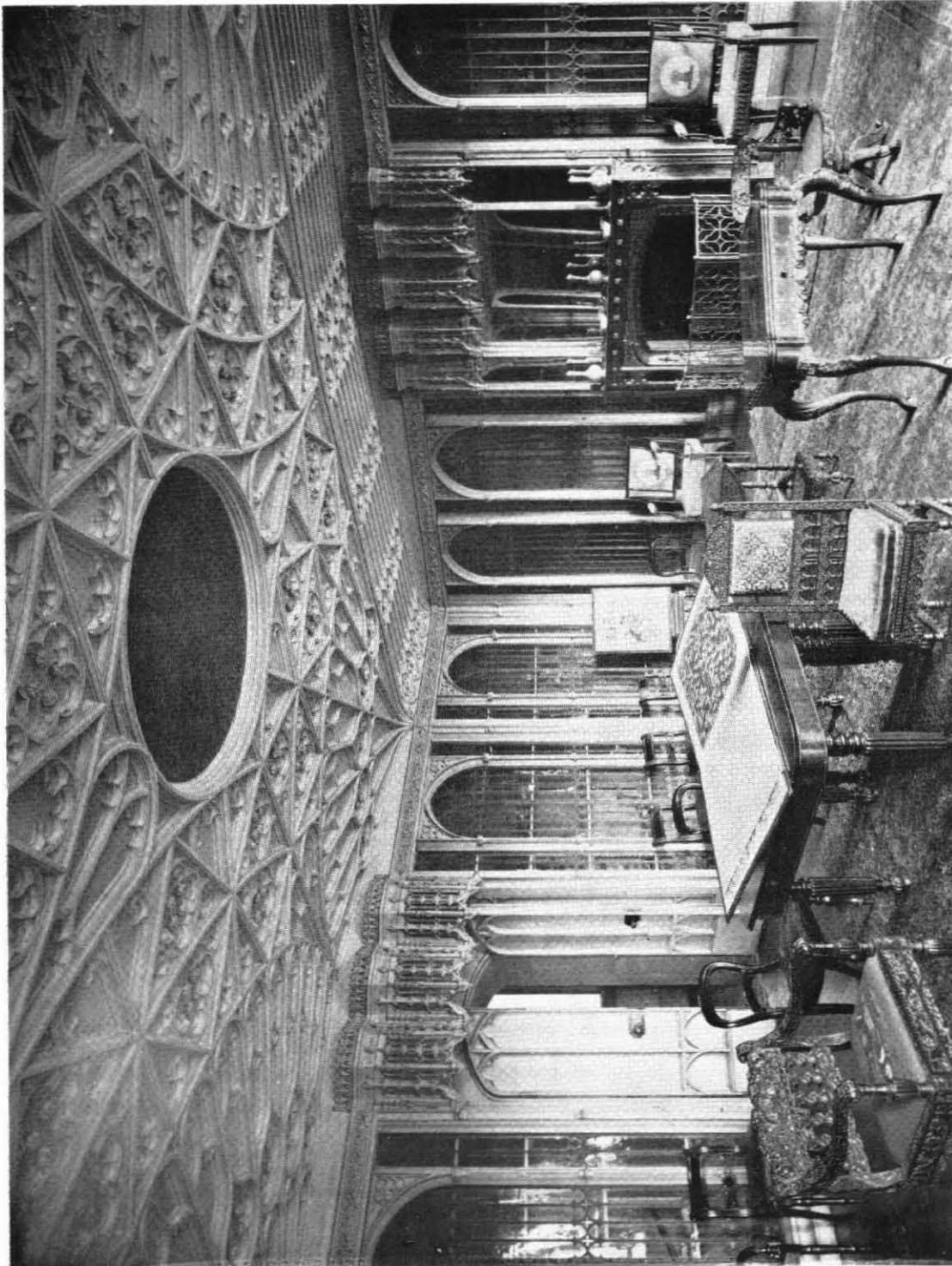
LORD BUCKINGHAM AND THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERIOR

In July 1775 Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, well known by her diary, paid a visit to Stowe.¹ She and her friends spent the night beforehand at the New Inn, which, as the reader will remember, had been built by Lord Cobham in 1717 for just such visitors. "Never were accommodations so wretched," one is pained to read, but they had Stowe to look forward to next day and luckily it was a fine one. The tour of the grounds they greatly enjoyed. The house, however, which clearly was going to be "one of the most noble in the kingdom", they saw "to infinite disadvantage, as entirely altering, a fine saloon not yet cover'd in, scaffolding around the whole building, every room unfurnish'd, all the fine pictures taken down". Two years later came the American Samuel Curwen (v. Ch. XXII). "The outside is finished," he noted, "but within is yet in hand; many of the rooms are in disorder, though enough to manifest the elegance and grandeur of the owner's taste and riches." The owner at that time was still Lord Temple, but two years later he died. Consequently, in 1779 Temple's nephew and niece, George and Mary Grenville, became Lord and Lady Temple. In 1784 (v. Ch. XVII) they became Marquis and Marchioness of Buckingham, and it will be convenient to refer to them immediately by this title. Even in 1784 the interior of the house was far from complete. Things were no doubt well advanced by the time the French Revolution broke out, but additions and improvements were still proceeding in the year of the battle of Trafalgar.

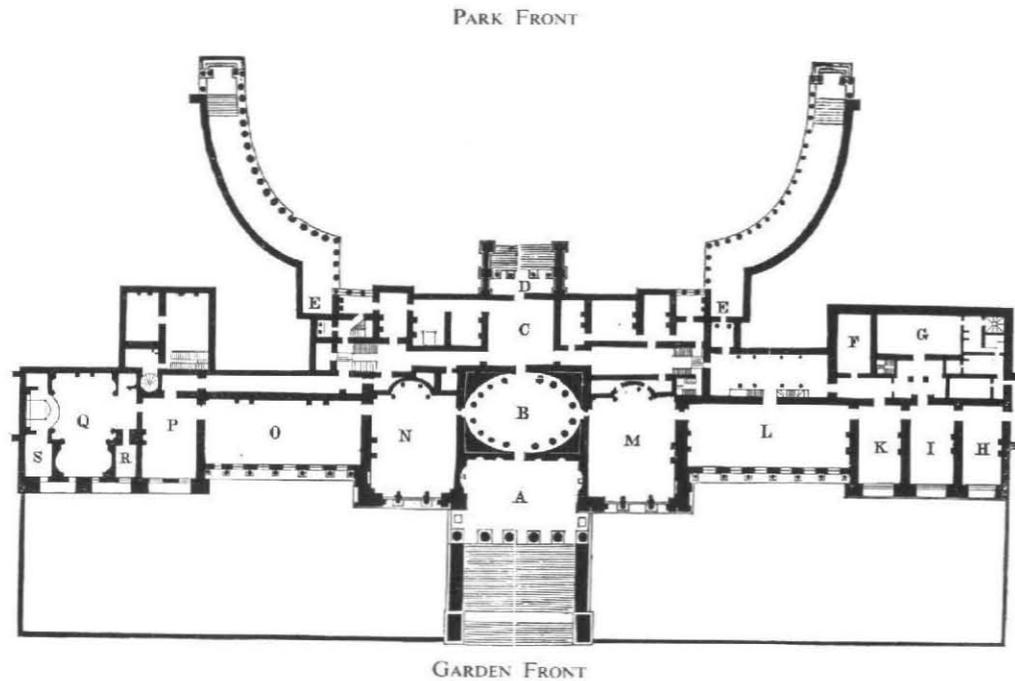
The disposition of the new south-facing state rooms had been decided upon in Lord Temple's time. The great oval saloon, "not yet cover'd in" when Mrs Powys saw it, with the music room and state drawing-room on either side of it, formed the centre block and were entirely new. Space had been made for them by demolishing the central great parlour and pushing forward the south wall. To the west of the new state drawing-room was the "state apartment", already complete. To the east of the music room were another drawing-room and a dining room which were later thrown into one to form a great library. To the east again were three more rooms, put to different uses at different times. All these rooms faced south, extending *en suite* the full length of the house. Next the chapel, facing north into the stable yard, was another large room of the period, intended as a library but probably never so used. All these rooms still exist. Their exact disposition is shown on the plan.

When he inherited Stowe, Lord Buckingham had the good fortune to inherit also a talented Italian artist who could turn his hand to pretty well anything. This was Vincenzo Valdre,² who has appeared in Chapter XXI. Valdre was resident at Stowe for many years and was the principal agent in the redecoration of the interior of the house from the last year of Lord Temple's life onward. He was born at Faenza in 1742 and at an early age was taken to Parma when his father took up an appointment there as court chamberlain to Don Filippo, the Spanish ruler of the Duchy. Vincenzo showed talent for painting and was sent to the academy of art at Parma. Here his work caught the eye of Don Filippo, who sent him on to the French Academy at Rome. In Rome, it would appear, Valdre studied architecture as well as painting. His training completed, he went in due course to England and is first heard of in London in 1774, designing scenes for the opera. As it happens 1774 is also the year in which Lord Buckingham, then still George Grenville and unmarried, made his grand tour, visiting Rome and Naples. As heir to a title and a fortune he was pestered wherever he went by English ladies who had daughters or nieces in tow. Things came to such a pass that he wrote home to his uncle to complain.³ He managed to remain free while he was abroad, but married Mary Nugent soon after his return home. In the environs of Rome he did some excavating and sent home to Stowe a creditable collection of antique sculpture. He also commissioned from the English sculptor Thomas Banks,⁴ then working in Rome, the marble relief of Caractacus before Claudius that is still in the North Hall. While at Naples Grenville visited Pompeii, of course,

Plate 1.—The Gothic Library in about 1920



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. The South Portico (or Loggia). | K. The Print Room. |
| B. The Saloon. | L. The Library. |
| C. The North Hall. | M. The Music Room. |
| D. The North Portico. | N. The State Drawing-room. |
| E. Circular Colonnades. | O. The State Dining-room. |
| F. The Chapel. | P. The Tapestry Drawing-room. |
| G. The Grenville Drawing-room. | Q. The Duchess's Drawing-room. |
| H. The State Bed-room. | R. The Shakespeare Closet. |
| I. The State Dressing-room. | S. The Japan Closet. |



GROUND PLAN OF THE MANSION AT STOWE IN 1848

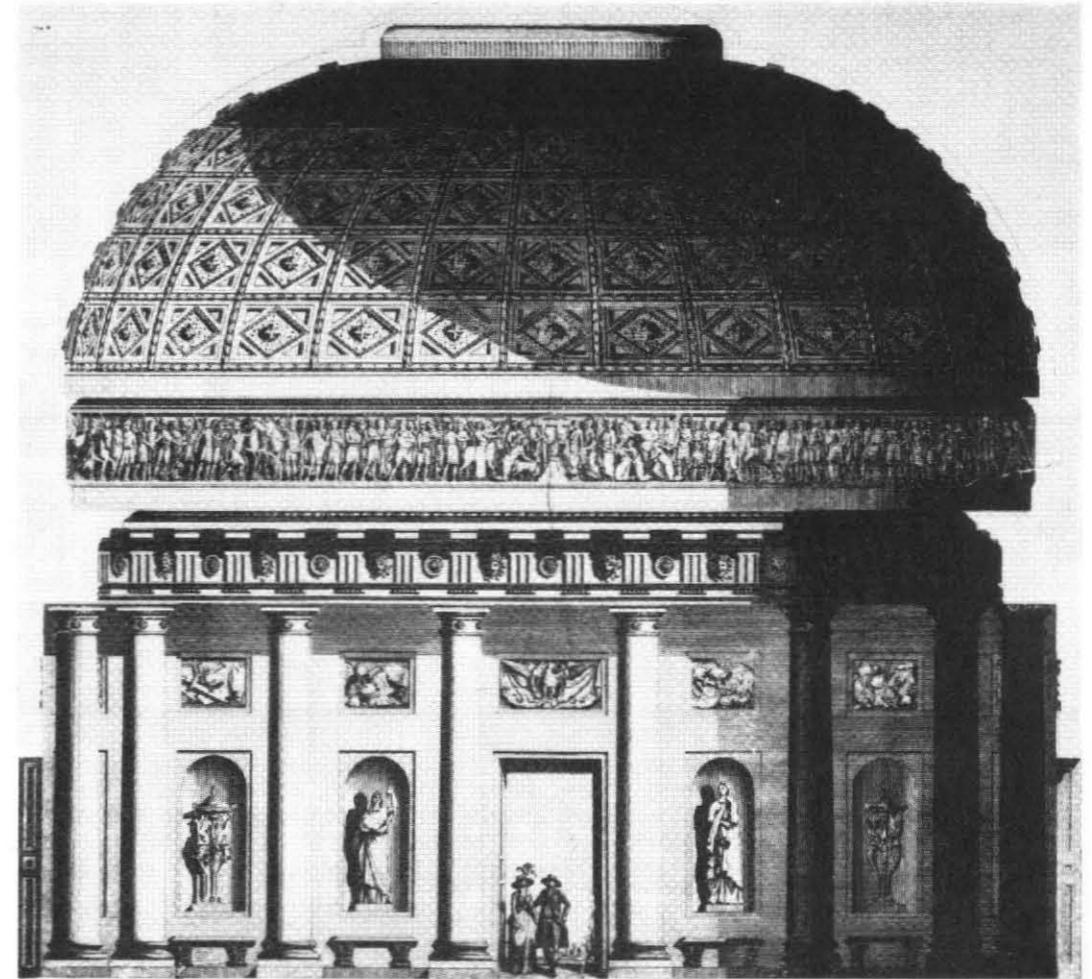


Plate 2.—The Oval Saloon, from a contemporary engraving in the School Library

and was greatly taken with the Graeco-Roman paintings then coming to light. No doubt he was on the look-out all the while for an artist to decorate Stowe, and in Naples or Rome perhaps ran across Valdre and suggested to him that he should go to London until Stowe was ready for him. At all events 1774 is the year Valdre appeared in England.

Valdre's principal work at Stowe was the designing of the three great state rooms in the centre block. Drawings for these rooms had in fact already been made for Lord Temple by Blondel (v. Ch. XXII). Blondel's bill makes this quite clear, and their decoration could very well be accepted as the work of a French Neo-classic artist, in detail as well as in general. For one thing the Corinthian columns in the music room have almost no entasis, which is a French architectural quirk of the period. Another thing, for what it is worth, is the fact that the long dimension of the oval saloon is within a few inches the same as the diameter of the drum supporting the dome of Soufflot's Ste. Genéviève (now the Panthéon) in Paris.⁵ Structurally unsound though Ste. Genéviève may have been, it was the Neo-classic wonder of Europe at

the time, and Blondel could have set out to rival it at Stowe, supporting his dome however on solid walls. In any case the Stowe dome is internal only, and being of lath and plaster must weigh very little. As to the Doric order of the saloon, with its handsome columns of pink scagliola by Bartoli,⁶ it is purely ornamental. Nevertheless, the saloon and the flanking state rooms, as we know them now, must be credited to Valdre. In the Huntington Library is a copy of Seeley's guide of 1780 much annotated, as to the interior of the house, in Lord Buckingham's hand. Lord Buckingham makes it plain that he wishes these rooms to be attributed to Valdre, and his corrections were incorporated in the guide of 1788. As Valdre must have been in the house with him when he made these corrections, this seems conclusive. It is of course possible that Valdre, who was "somewhat vain and impulsive",⁷ made use of Blondel's designs, altered them to suit his own ideas and passed them off as wholly his own work without Lord Buckingham's knowing it, or even with Lord Buckingham's agreement. Valdre made a very spectacular thing of the central saloon, but the idea of an oval saloon is pre-Valdre and belongs to Blondel. On Valdre's side, it is of course possible to account for any slight Frenchness here and there by his sojourn at the French Academy at Rome.

The Oval Saloon (Plate 2) is of course a "Pantheon", its coffered dome and central top light deriving from the famous original in Rome. The most unusual feature of the design is the procession of four hundred figures in Roman dress, all the way round above the cornice. The figures, four feet high, are said to have been taken by Valdre from originals on ancient monuments in Rome. The work itself was probably done by the sculptor Charles Peart (v. Ch. XXI). Peart was at Stowe in 1788. He had worked as a modeller for Josiah Wedgwood, and Wedgwood now wrote to ask if he would do some more work for the firm. But Peart said really he couldn't because, while at Stowe, he was obliged to work fourteen hours a day.⁸ We can scarcely account for this overwork except by supposing he was modelling Roman figures as hard as he could for the great saloon. In his letter to Wedgwood he says that "Mr Waldin, the artist at Stowe," is giving him "every assistance possible". Well might Mr Waldin do so, having imposed such a task.

Valdre's other two rooms are also very fine. The state drawing-room has a splendid Neo-classic ceiling, supported by an "antique" Corinthian order, taken almost certainly from the "Choragic Monument of Lysicrates", as that is described and illustrated in Stuart and Revett's *Antiquities of Athens*.⁹ The walls were lined with orange-coloured damask and hung with pictures. The chimney-piece¹⁰ is said to have been made in Italy and incorporated some antique low-relief sculpture (it was sold in 1921/2). The Music Room (*frontispiece*) is yet more splendid and, allowing for unavoidable damage inflicted by two centuries of use, looks still much as it did when Valdre had done with it. There is an elaborate Corinthian order, all mouldings fully gilt, and the ceiling is again magnificent. On the walls are large panels surrounded with narrow gilt frames, and these panels Valdre has covered, in the most fanciful and delightful manner, with decoration in the "Pompeian" manner. This decoration, the guide-books tell us, was copied from Raphael's famous "grotesque" decorations in the loggias at the Vatican, but this is inaccurate. Valdre's painting derives, through Raphael, indirectly from Pompeii, and perhaps to some extent directly too. But it is not copied from Raphael, nor from Pompeii either. It is original work and nothing prettier has been done in England in this manner, before or since. People at the time however, and afterwards, supposed Raphael had been copied.¹¹ The ceiling of the music room has *quadri riportati*, as it were easel pictures disposed among the gilt ornament. Unfortunately the centrepiece, a circular *Dance of the Hours*, being on canvas, was taken down and sold in the final sales of 1921/2. The chimney-piece went at the same time. This was of white marble, *rosso antico* and *ormolu*—white, pink and gold—which is the general scheme of the room. The large mirror above the chimney-piece was also sold. An exact replica has lately been fixed in place by Stowe School.

To go now to the three rooms at the east end of the house. The first (now Grenville houseroom) has a fine and elaborately gilt ceiling which looks too early in style for Valdre and may well be the work of Borra. The room corresponds to the state dressing room at the other end of the house and dates, in size and shape, from Lord Cobham's time; so Borra could have done the

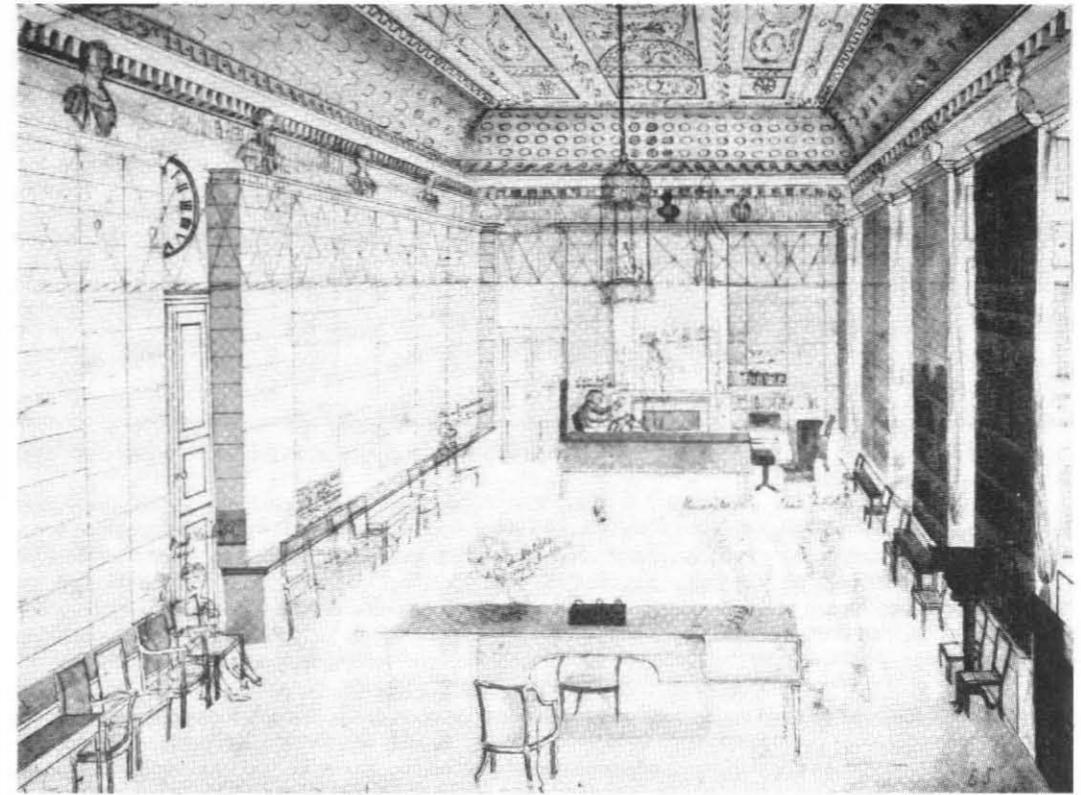


Plate 3.—The Library, from a contemporary drawing in the School Library

ceiling for Lord Temple. The plasterwork is the finest possible, and it would be interesting to know who carried it out. The other two rooms (now Chandos houseroom and dormitory) were enlarged in Lord Temple's rebuilding, and their ceilings are probably by Valdre. Both had centrepieces painted by him, one still in place, the other removed and sold. Finally there is the north-facing intended library (now a dormitory). This is a large room with a fine plaster ceiling which again looks somewhat too early for Valdre.

So much, then, for Valdre's work at Stowe, where he had been at least since the last year of Lord Temple's life. At last, about 1790, he left for Dublin, where Lord Buckingham had been Viceroy. No doubt he gave Valdre good introductions and Valdre was very successful, as painter and as architect, inasmuch that he is now regarded in Ireland almost as a native artist, with the name Vincent Waldre. He died in Ireland in 1814.

After Valdre's departure Lord Buckingham made four more considerable rooms in the house: the great library, the ante-library, the Gothic manuscript library and the small Egyptian hall. First the great Library (Plate 3). This, as a space in the house, corresponds to the state gallery but had been two rooms, which were now thrown into one. The ceiling is of white plaster, highly ornamented, a cove and then a flat. The cove was probably the same in both the former rooms and was now joined with matching work where the party-wall had been. The cove therefore belongs essentially to Lord Temple's time. The flat, however, has Neo-classic ornament of the last decade of the century and belongs to the making of the library. The white marble chimney-pieces, one at each end and still *in situ*, are a pair and yet not quite a pair. That at

the west end is subtly Rococo, in the "feel" of the carving, that at the east end austere Neoclassic, though supposed to be exactly like the other. Evidently the east was copied from the west when the two rooms were thrown together to make the library. The walls of the room are lined all the way round with mahogany bookshelves, entirely simple and dignified. The room is extremely handsome. It was "fitted up" about the year 1801.¹²

Access to the library had been from a narrow passage which ran from the east staircase-hall onwards past the door of the chapel. Lord Buckingham widened this considerably, making of it an "ante-library" with scagliola columns by Bartoli, imitating *verde antico*. Alas, these are now painted white. The large wall-spaces were decorated with paintings by "Brunyas", landscapes showing "Charaib tribes of Indians". Agostino Brunias¹³ was an Italian painter who went with Robert Adam to make drawings for him at Spalato in 1757. Adam thought highly of him and brought him back to England, where he remained some time. He paid a visit to the West Indies, in particular the island of St Vincent, where he made drawings of Carib aborigines. Brunias' paintings at Stowe are mentioned in the guide-book of 1817, but nothing remains of them now. No doubt, during the Victorian era, pictures of naked savages were thought unpleasant and were removed. They seem curious matter for decoration at any time, but by the end of the eighteenth century the Grenvilles had some West Indian property; so this perhaps explains them.

During the first few years of the nineteenth century Lord Buckingham made a "winter entry for the family" under the North Front steps. As we all know, the North Front is a cold place at the best of times, and it is surprising that this had not been done before. Now at last the ladies, in the thin muslin dresses of the period, could get into the house dryshod. What had been a minor cellar became the Egyptian hall, and the small twisting staircase was made to lead up from it to the North hall. The little hall was decorated in "le style du retour de l'Egypte", which dates it 1803 or soon afterwards. General Bonaparte's set-back in Egypt led to the Peace of Amiens in 1803, when friendly relations between British and French scholars and artists were briefly resumed. Bonaparte had taken to Egypt, besides his army, a large contingent of *savans*, to survey the place from the scientific and aesthetic points of view. One of the most distinguished of these was Baron Vivant-Dominique Denon, who, before Nelson arrived in Aboukir Bay, had had time to make a detailed examination of several Egyptian temples. On his return to Paris in 1802 Denon published his findings in two immense folio volumes,¹⁴ illustrated with beautiful etchings after the drawings he had made. This book no doubt was a major influence in setting off the brief fashion for Egyptian decoration, in England as well as in France. We do not know if Lord Buckingham possessed a copy, though it seems likely enough. However, as Seeley's guide of 1817 informs us, "the Egyptian hall is fitted up from Denon's designs of remains in the interior of one of the small temples of Tintyra". There were sphinxes, hieroglyphics in colour and everything there should have been, but all of this that was movable was sold in 1921/2. There remains however the winged sun, emblem of the god Ra, in plaster above the door, the circular sun-disc itself being formed of a large glass lens, behind which a lantern was fixed to give a mysterious dim light to the hall. It is a little surprising that so staunch an anti-Bonapartist as Lord Buckingham should fall victim to this Napoleonic style. What happened when King Louis XVIII came to Stowe in 1808? Probably his Majesty's immense complicity (v. Ch. XXI) prevented his getting down the little staircase to look at the decorations.

Lord Buckingham's *tour de force* at this later period is undoubtedly the Gothic Library (Plate 1), a most remarkable room.¹⁵ It is on the ground floor, below the great library, and was made to house his Lordship's priceless collection of manuscripts. Its designer, surprisingly, was Sir John Soane. Soane's original patron had been Thomas Pitt, by now Lord Camelford.¹⁶ Camelford introduced Soane to his cousin William Pitt who, when Premier, gave Soane the great commission of his lifetime, the Bank of England. So Soane was always ready to oblige the Pitts and their cousins the Grenvilles. All the detail of the Gothic Library, from the tracery of the ceiling down to the brass fireplaces, was carefully copied, as far as might be, from Henry VII's chapel at Westminster Abbey. The library was the only Gothic interior Soane ever

designed and he was somewhat diffident about it, calling on the antiquarian John Carter to help him with the drawing. The ceiling is of plaster but the canopies above the doors and the two fireplaces, too intricate for plaster, are of cast lead. The bookcases, all round the walls, have bronze grilles in Gothic tracery. It is remarkable how Soane has impressed his personality on this very unusual room. Certainly one would not guess his name, but having learnt it one is not surprised. The suffused light reflected from the white-painted surfaces is very characteristic. The work was done mainly during the year 1805.

Between the Gothic library and the main ground-floor passage of the house is a vestibule with a twisting staircase leading up to the *piano nobile* just outside the door to the great library. These too are Soane's work, in Gothic. Above the door from the vestibule to the Gothic Library is a curious piece of sculpture, a relief showing the Battle of Bosworth, with effigies of Henry VII and Queen Margaret on either hand. Lord Buckingham brought the relief from Gosfield Hall in Essex, the seat of his father-in-law Lord Nugent, and set it up at Stowe as a prelude to his collection of ancient manuscripts. It has generally been supposed that the relief was carved soon after 1485, but certain details suggest a later date. In particular the riding-boots of the men-at-arms, and the breed of horses they ride, suggest the mid-seventeenth century, if not something later. However this may be, the Bosworth Field relief is an interesting and very decorative work.¹⁷

One thing more remains to be said, concerning the state gallery. Even when Lord Cobham made it, a gallery was something of an anachronism, harking back to the stately days of Louis XIV. By the end of the eighteenth century such a thing in an English country house had become an absurdity. So the gallery was renamed the state dining room and equipped with an enormous table, said to accommodate a hundred persons. By this time also something had evidently gone wrong with Sleter's paintings inset in the ceiling. Damp, no doubt, had crept in through the roof. So Sleter was done away with, and the very dull set of Neo-classic decorations in monochrome, still *in situ*, was substituted. The painter was "Jones", who also did the four overdoors in the room, featuring centaurs and copied from antique pictures at Herculaneum. "Jones" was probably Robert Jones,¹⁸ principal assistant to Frederick Crace, the fashionable decorator of the early nineteenth century. Jones did a good deal of Chinesey painting for Crace at the Royal Pavilion at Brighton and this is jolly enough, but his work at Stowe is poor stuff. It is probable that this work in the state dining room was in fact done after Lord Buckingham's death, for his son the first Duke.

The Duke continued to patronise Soane, who planned for him a suite of private rooms at the extreme west end of the house.¹⁹ But by then money was wanting and the work was never carried out. From this time onwards lack of money becomes the salient fact in the history of Stowe, but this belongs to the next chapter.

This description of the interior of the house has said nothing about upstairs rooms, but that is because there is really nothing to say. Stowe is in fact an outstandingly awkward house for upstairs accommodation. Everything was sacrificed to the South Front, which allows for none but the enormous windows of the state rooms on the *piano nobile*. And floor space upstairs in the centre block is largely cancelled by the cove of the entrance hall, which reaches to the attics, and by the dome of the great saloon, which reaches to the roof. Lord and Lady Buckingham had to put up with bedrooms that were large enough for comfort, no doubt, but very far from magnificent, and not one room upstairs could face south.

M. J. GIBBON

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Acknowledgments

Once more I express my gratitude to the Huntington Library for their permission to make use of material from the Stowe papers in their keeping, and to Dr Michael McCarthy and Mr G. B. Clarke, whose researches among the papers have again been most valuable to me.

I also wish to thank Miss Dorothy Stroud for showing me letters and other papers relating to Stowe in the Sir John Soane Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Notes

1. *Passages from the Diary of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys*, ed. Emily J. Climenson, Longmans, 1899, pp. 153-5.
2. For Valdre in general see Walter G. Strickland, *A Dictionary of Irish Artists*, Maunsell & Co., 1913, Vol. II, biography of Vincent Valdre (Vincenzo Valdre); Edward Croft-Murray, *Decorative Painting in England 1537-1837*, *Country Life*, 1970, Vol. II, pp. 283-9; Michael Gibbon, "A forgotten Italian at Stowe", printed in *Country Life*, August 4th, 1966.
3. *The Grenville Papers*, ed. W. J. Smith, John Murray, 1852, Vol. IV, letters from George Grenville junior to his uncle Earl Temple, 1774.
4. C. F. Bell, *Annals of Thomas Banks, Sculptor, R.A.*, Cambridge, 1938.
5. Reginald Blomfield, *A History of French Architecture 1661-1774*, Vol. II, Chapter XXVI.
6. Domenico Bartoli, leading scagliola-maker in England at the time. See Rupert Gunnis, *Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660-1851*, Odhams Press, N.D.
7. Strickland, op. cit.
8. Gunnis, op. cit., p. 298.
9. Vol. I, published 1762.
10. Sold 1921-22.
11. Chateaubriand came to Stowe and remarked "pauvre Raphaël, prisonnier dans un chateau des vieux Bretons, loin du ciel de la Farnesine!" Did he mean easel pictures, or was he thinking of the decoration in the music room and comparing it to Raphael's frescoes in the Hall of Psyche in the Farnesina Palace in Rome? In any case an "Ancient Britons' castle" is a disagreeably inept description of Stowe House; but the family were away, the place was shuttered and seemed gloomy, and, as we know, Chateaubriand issued his memoirs from Beyond the Tomb. (Chateaubriand, *Memoires d'outre tombe*, Vol I, livre 12, ch. 5).
12. Briton and Brailey, *Beauties of England and Wales*, 1801.
13. Hans Huth, "Agostino Brunias, Romano. Adam's 'bred painter'", in the *Connoisseur*, December 1962.
14. Vivant-Dominique, Baron Denon, *Voyage dans la basse et la haute Egypte pendant les campagnes du Général Bonaparte*, Paris, l'an X (1802). See also Paul Wescher, article on Denon in *Apollo*, September 1964.
15. See Dorothy Stroud, *The Architecture of Sir John Soane*, Studio Books, 1961. Drawings, letters, accounts for the Gothic Library are at the Sir John Soane Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.
16. Thomas Pitt was created Baron Camelford in 1784 at the same time that Buckingham received his Marquisate. These creations were arranged, of course, by their common cousin William Pitt, when Premier.
17. For the Bosworth Field relief see Geoffrey Wheeler, "Bosworth and the artist", part I, in *The Ricardian* (journal of the Richard III Society), No. 37, June 1972. This article gives the date of the transfer of the relief to Stowe as 1808. It had been seen, when still at Gosfield, by George Vertue, Horace Walpole and Sanderson Miller.
18. Croft-Murray, op. cit. p. 227.
19. Plans at the Sir John Soane Museum.

Illustrations

Frontispiece and Plate 1, R. & H. Chapman; 2 and 3, Courtauld Institute. The plan is taken from the illustrated *Stowe Sale Catalogue*, 1848.

MUSIC

The Summer Term ended with two concerts for which reports, sadly, do not exist—the Trout Quintet and other chamber pieces, on a beautiful night up in the Queen's Temple, and a programme of light music by the Milne-Macdonald Band alternating with the ever-popular and extremely talented Paul Drayton Piano Trio. We await more concerts, especially the Christmas Concert at the end of term, in which Mr Drayton's "Templa Quam Dilecta" will be featuring.

Sunday, 19th October, at 3.00 p.m. in the Roxburgh Hall

THE BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

Conducted by Roy Newsome and Major Peter Parkes

It was pleasant to see the Roxburgh Hall full—overfull—for the first time in some months—for a concert by the Black Dyke Mills Band. And the expectations of a packed house were more than fulfilled. The band, in a blaze of colour, played its way through some fourteen items, filling the hall with a brilliant succession of varied and well-balanced pieces.

It is difficult to pick out individual numbers for highest praise; the "Yeomen of the Guard" overture was notable for some beautiful modulations and variations of tone. The spirit was perfect in every way. Three solos—horn, cornet and euphonium—showed off a set of displays of dazzling virtuosity which had the Roxburgh Hall rocking.

John Ireland's "Downland Suite" was frightfully British stuff, very stirring, and a perfect end to the first half of the programme. Perhaps the most interesting item on the bill was a march by Byrd; the 16th century music came across surprisingly well.

It is difficult when there is nothing to criticize in a concert—but the afternoon was an extremely successful one; the Black Dyke Mills Band certainly made a great impression in its appearance at Stowe.

JONATHAN KREEGER

Sunday, 2nd November, at 8.00 p.m. in the Music Room

CONCERT BY THE PHOENIX SINGERS, THE QUEEN'S TEMPLE SINGERS
AND THE BRAM WIGGINS ENSEMBLE

Paul Drayton's Five Seasonal Motets which undoubtedly most people had come to hear, I felt, did improve towards the end and I was particularly enchanted with his setting of 'I am the reaper'—the harvest motet. The other piece in the first half was John Cage's Three Dances for two prepared pianos. It was for the first few minutes interesting to listen to, but by the time the third was played most of the audience were admiring Valdré's fine murals. The piece appeared to lack, because of the pianos 'prepared', any semblance of dynamics.

The second half started with a beautiful rendering of Bruckner's *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus*. This was followed by Mr Wiggins' Ensemble, who played three pieces by Obrecht, Beethoven and Glazounov. The concert closed with two superb pieces by Giovanni Gabrieli, the *Buccinate* and *Omnes Gentes*. The Marble Hall into which we had moved after the interval, provided the most beautiful resonances for these pieces.

JAMES HIGHWOOD

MUSIC CLUB

Unfortunately the high-light of the spring term was excluded from last term's report. This was a lecture concerning the synthesizer by David Hewson, a final year music student from Stockwell College of Education, Bromley. He had had works both commissioned and played by

the B.B.C. With the instrument he enthralled a packed Queen's Temple audience. It was concluded by members of the audience designing their own circuits and playing the resultant 'notes'.

The only lecture this term has been given by Mr Stephan on 'Music I Enjoy'. It was a shame he did not give us an example of his piano-playing, as this would have rounded the lecture off admirably.

PAUL RIVALLAND

DRAMA

BECKET by Jean Anouilh

The sheer physical scope of Jean Anouilh's *Becket* must be daunting to any producer. Its action takes place variously in Canterbury Cathedral, Henry's Palace, a forest dwelling, Becket's Palace, a camp in France, a French street, a French Cathedral, a Church, the Episcopal Palace, the Papal Palace, the French Court, a monastery cell, and the windswept plain at La Ferté Bernard. One almost needs the ability of the film medium to fade and cut at will from location to location. Accepting, though, the technical limitations of the theatre (and of this theatre, which lacks both wing and fly space), it is obvious that any attempt at naturalism is impossible; and if the pace and tension of the play are not to be interrupted, then scene breaks must be minimal. In the Congreve Club production, an abstract setting of arches, supplemented by movable rostra, flown emblems, and effective but unobtrusive lighting, provided an ingenious and successful solution to the problems. The scenes in the French street, at La Ferté Bernard, and at the final and fatal banquet, were visually especially memorable. The only weakness was in the general failure to convey the feeling of smallness when it was needed: the temptingly convenient monastery cell, for example, should surely be almost claustrophobic, as Becket's greatness, unable to be contained longer, breaks free and returns to England and martyrdom.

The play also holds peculiar difficulties for actors. The major rôles of Becket and Henry depict characters fraught with complexities and even contradictions. Becket is the wayward rake of sternest morality; the lover who does not dare to love; the man who is proud in his humility; the honourable man searching for an honour to defend. Henry is powerful because of his position, but weak because of what he is as a man; he plays with his Kingship as a child might play with a toy, yet realises exactly what he is playing with, and is afraid; he loves Becket, sees that such love is a weakness, and destroys him to preserve the royal authority. Without doubt, the evening belonged to Nicholas Duthie as Henry. There were times, perhaps, when potentially humorous lines were thrown away, when the seriousness which lies beneath Henry's loutish behaviour was lost. But Duthie's performance just captured the tortured personality of one besotted with power and conscious of his own impotence; rash and brash, but underneath pathetically insecure. He was able to rant without ever losing control, and his rendering, for instance, of that haunting refrain 'O my Thomas', angry and bewildered, guilty and betrayed, revealed a vocal range rare for a student actor. Simon Appleton coped well with, if anything, the more difficult part of Becket. I felt that his interpretation lacked a certain coarseness (he could hardly be imagined out-drinking and out-whoring the King) and that the smouldering strength which must lie just beneath the surface of the flippant courtier, and which drives Becket, as Archbishop, into open conflict with the State, was too often missing. But his playing of the more reflective passages was admirable, and his delivery of the concluding soliloquy of Act III was as moving an experience as I can remember in amateur drama.

The minor rôles present difficulties of a different nature. Here, the actors have to establish a credible figure in a very brief period. With so large a cast, it was inevitable that there would be some weak links, where caricature replaced character, where accents were forced, and move-

ment false, but it was remarkable how few these were. Henry Hall was a convincing Archbishop, old, and human, and wise; Jonathan Crosse was a determinedly naive Little Monk; Nicholas Clarke, as the Page, was exceptional in his vivid account of Becket's appearance in the Episcopal Palace; and Julie Marler and Maria Alexander impressed as an imperious Queen Mother and an indignant Young Queen. Joanna Bell, as Gwendolen, gave a beautiful rendering of the lament composed for Becket's mother: the stillness it created in the auditorium, and the applause which followed, were both deserved tributes.

It is too easy to conclude a review of an amateur theatrical production with platitudes about hard work and enthusiasm. I do not deny that these qualities were obvious in the Congreve Club's *Becket*. But here the platitudes are unnecessary; compensations and excuses are not needed. This production was successful as drama; if you like, as art. And for a school club, that is a considerable achievement.

J. C. LOVELOCK

THE LONG SUNSET by R. C. Sherriff

There could be few more apt settings for a play about Roman Britain than the Temple of Venus and the Junior Congreve certainly made the most of this splendid choice last June in its invigorating production of R. C. Sherriff's "The Long Sunset". From the very first moments the happy blend of sylvan setting with good costumes, make-up and characterisation transported the audience very swiftly and easily from Stowe 1975 to the environs of Richborough 410. Complementing the impressive temple backdrop was an auditorium of ingenuity and compact efficiency, banked by twin banks of lights, overall a deceptively simple set-up, the result of many hours' hard work.

But a good setting is not in itself enough and Sherriff's play, although written with the warmth and sincerity of a man with considerable experience as a field archaeologist in Roman Britain, nevertheless, for all its evocation of a sunset mood, lacks an underlying spark of conflict. That the producer was able, notwithstanding, to create and sustain a lively interest (come winds, come mosquitoes) was due both to his bold decision to re-write the ending and his ability to coax some really good performances from all his cast.

Simon Appleton, as Julian, the Romano-British paterfamilias, held the play together, and a part, which could so easily have been dull, came to life with his thoughtful interpretation. David Eaton too was first-class as Arthur, giving the warrior an imposing presence both physically and vocally. Gerald Winnington-Ingram (Marcus) and Charles Montgomery (Gawaine) were both convincing in their different military rôles, Giles Coates gave a very spirited performance as Otho, whilst Paul Jeffreys made the most that could be made of Lugar! Tim Terry (Serena) and James Cameron (Paula) both had the difficult job of playing the female parts—even more difficult in these days of the Real Thing in the Senior Congreve!—and they bridged the credibility gap skilfully, even if, in her more flamboyant moments, Serena might have been transplanted, without raising a glance, into a Somerset Maugham drawing room. The other two main parts saw Titus Forbes Adam and John Fladée as two very believable friends of Julian.

Masterminding the whole operation was Mr Haslam, aided and abetted by the ever-resourceful Mr Wild. Both deserve our thanks for optimistically starting such an undertaking and bringing it to such a successful realisation, whilst the many backstage workers and extras, led by Tim Gregson-Williams, must not be forgotten, though their names be unrecorded. How good it was to see one of the garden buildings, admired so often at a distance and talked of vaguely as an 'asset' which we must 'make use of', made use of in such a positive way. The most enduring memory of the whole production must surely be the superb tableau of Venus alive with savages, whilst firebrands flickered in the night air. Venus has surely come to stay as a site for outdoor drama. Parce metu, Cytherea.

A. G. MEREDITH

SPORT

RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE FIRST XV

Eighteen senior club players attended a pre-season training course at New Milton in Hampshire and made it clear at the outset that they wanted to improve (and enjoy) their rugby.

Of the previous season's forwards only three remained, but the tacit doubts of the coaches about how effective the pack might be were completely dispelled during the game against the Old Stoics. Here the scrummaging was good, and tight, and so it has remained for most of the season. Forbes Adam (who must be one of the tallest schoolboy hookers!) is to be congratulated on the way he has kept the forwards at their task. The Radley game was a particularly fine example of this, when at the start it looked as though the opposition pack would push Stowe all around the pitch, but the Stowe forwards worked and worked and worked to get themselves back in the game, and eventually turned the tables on Radley. The counter-attacking in this game was inspired and sufficiently well-finished to outplay an obviously talented opposition. Both sides in this game must be equally credited for producing such a fine display of attacking rugby.

In fact, all the matches played up to and including the Radley contest produced some spirited rugby. Some of the more senior members of the side such as Hydlemann, Cunningham, Corbett, Bickerton and Bowman had turned in some very sound performances, thereby setting some good examples to be followed—and so they were by younger players like Kelway, Cliff Hodges, Chapman and Macquaker. However, suddenly the steam then seemed to go out of the side. Against Bedford, who gave the spectators a very competent display of nine-man rugby, Stowe looked tired, ragged and even disorganised. The "fire" of the early part of the season had dwindled. Cheltenham, for example, must have returned home feeling quite satisfied with their result, and against Rugby, who were certainly a well-organised and efficient side, Stowe did not really make its presence felt until the second half. Unfortunately, the effort came too late having been 0-16 down at the break.

Initially, things looked better against Royal Latin with the Stowe pack achieving vast amounts of possession, but as the game progressed it became increasingly apparent that the finishing was lacking. A victory was secured but the scoreline hardly did justice to the effort of the forwards and Royal Latin must have felt they had been let off a real beating.

Overall, the season has been quite a good one but the comment most heard has been to the effect that several games might have been won if the luck had run Stowe's way. The writer would prefer to say that the game of rugby is very much about taking the chances that are offered and however talented a side might be (and this year's one has plenty of talent) it will only achieve real success by doing just that.

The two remaining matches will be difficult to win, particularly if the back division are unable to produce the fire-power of which they are so obviously capable. And why does one say "so obviously capable"? Because against Mill Hill, Eton, Oakham and Radley the backs ran in 12 very fine tries. Let us hope we are to be treated to some more before the season ends.

M. P. POMPHREY

Team selected from: L. J. Hydlemann (B) (Captain), J. M. Hayward (S) (Secretary), N. W. A. Bannister, ma. (L), R. W. Bickerton (T), D. A. Bowman, ma. (B), P. St J. Chapman (L), M. B. A. Cliff Hodges (W), T. M. Corbett (S), J. MacD. Cunningham (T), C. D. Forbes Adam, ma. (B), J. W. Green (W), C. M. Johnstone (C), S. D. Kelway (B), J. H. S. Macquaker (G), T. J. Maitland-Heriot (C), T. D. Outerbridge (C), G. R. J. Page (C), B. T. Robinson (W), J. M. Scowsill (T), R. G. Simpson (C), H. R. von Bergen (C).

1st XV Colours awarded to: R. W. Bickerton, D. A. Bowman, ma. C. D. Forbes Adam, ma.

2nd XV Colours awarded to: P. St J. Chapman, M. B. A. Cliff Hodges, S. D. Kelway, J. H. S. Macquaker.

Results:	v. Old Stoics	Won	12—4
	v. Eton	Won	26—10
	v. Mill Hill	Lost	8—12
	v. Oakham	Won	19—4
	v. Radley	Won	12—11
	v. Bedford	Lost	6—14
	v. Cheltenham	Drawn	4—4
	v. Rugby	Lost	9—25
	v. Royal Latin	Won	16—8
	v. Oundle	Lost	7—17
	v. St Edward's	Lost	3—8

THE SECOND XV

The side has been composed entirely of new faces this year, with the exception of the versatile Tomlin. Several members, particularly amongst the backs, had played in last year's successful Colts team and were perhaps slightly disappointed that tries were harder to come by this season. Nevertheless the list of results contains some encouragement and there has been a noticeable improvement in playing skills and team spirit in the course of the term. Two well earned victories earlier in the season against Mill Hill and Kettering (the former including ten tries) were followed by two more demanding matches against Radley and Bedford. The side rallied well but rather too late in the Bedford contest, but this more spirited and united approach was rewarded with a narrow victory over Cheltenham. The most recent result against Rugby scarcely does justice to the whole-hearted teamwork displayed, particularly by the forwards, against no mean opposition.

Knight Bruce has made a valuable contribution to the side both as captain and player, and amongst his fellow backs Green has shown a marked improvement, whilst Salour on the wing is beginning to regain his former scoring powers. At half-back Lewis and Hobson (until his unfortunate knee injury) have proved a lively and effective combination; latterly Tomlin has come back to the fly-half position, where his handling skills are shown to good effect. In the forwards, Duthie has played a most effective part as pack leader, hooker and, on occasion, try scorer. Johnstone and Guyer, the second row men, have made a vital contribution to the side with their consistent and committed approach, whilst in the back row Maitland-Heriot has been learning to use his build to better advantage and Robinson has proved an indefatigable menace to the opposition.

H. D. MARCUSE

Team from: M. A. N. Tomlin (C), N. W. A. Bannister, ma. (L), J. E. Horrocks, ma. (S), J. W. Green (W), R. Knight Bruce (C), A. P. Ward, mi. (W), N. G. M. Salour (C), N. M. Hobson (C), R. T. Lewis (B), J. L. Abelson (B), N. A. S. Duthie (G), D. H. M. Williams-Ellis (T), A. Falcon (C), C. M. Johnstone (C), S. T. G. Guyer, ma. (S), C. F. Villiers, ma. (B), T. J. Maitland-Heriot (C), B. T. Robinson (W).

Also played: S. C. Bartlett (T), N. R. Chapman (L), P. M. Hugill (C), R. L. Law (B), P. N. Nelson, ma. (T), M. J. Richards (W), A. H. Shekell (C).

Results:	v. Old Stoics	Home	Won	34—10
	v. Eton	Away	Lost	4—10
	v. Mill Hill	Away	Won	46—0
	v. Kettering G.S.	Home	Won	18—0
	v. Radley	Away	Lost	4—14
	v. Bedford	Away	Lost	14—29
	v. Cheltenham	Away	Won	6—4
	v. Rugby	Home	Lost	3—17
	v. Sponne School	Away	Won	16—3
	v. Oundle	Away	Lost	10—14
	v. St Edward's	Home	Lost	6—14

THE HUNDRED

THE THIRD XV

The team began the season in fine style by winning their first three matches, and then proceeded to lose the next four. These losses have been caused at least in part by throwing away points on such basic errors as faulty covering and persistent offside offences, yet strangely enough the tackling this year has been of high quality.

Of the three matches won, that against Eton stands as a good example of a team having scored only a few points and then being able to hold out successfully for a long period against attack after attack—a most satisfying, if nerve-racking sight.

Against a powerful Cokethorpe 1st XV we were 20-3 down at half-time, but came back strongly to draw the second half—a creditable effort against very strong opposition.

After a good start our match against Bedford became a tragedy of ridiculous errors which allowed the opposition to score a solid victory. A similar situation occurred at Cheltenham although here poor handling was the main source of our defeat.

The main disappointment this season has been that despite our well-sized pack (larger man-for-man than in previous years) we have consistently failed to win the loose ball. This seems to be due to a basic lack of aggression in many of the scrum members. They do not lack enthusiasm, but they are definitely short on ferocity—very civilized no doubt, but not conducive to the winning of rucker matches. However, we have had our tigers, with men such as Hugill, Law, Nelson, Roxburgh and Crosse being particularly prominent. So much so in fact that the first two now play for the 2nd XV! Roxburgh would have been the third of the group, but for the fact he cracked a cervical vertebra in practice. Luckily he has come to no harm.

We have been lucky in having very few problems with our halves and three-quarters this year. The full-back combination of Douglas and Fraser (the captain) worked well until the latter was injured and Chapman stepped into the position. All three have played very well with only occasional lapses. Our centres have varied, but Ward, Gray, and Currey have been our main choices, and have been highly competent. On the wings Horlock and Cobb have run strongly and with penetration.

Page at full-back has been one of our major successes this season and his crunching last ditch tackles have wiped the smile from the face of many a sprinting player who thought four points were a certainty. We are delighted that he played for the 1st XV in their victory over the Royal Latin School.

THE FOURTH XV

The team has managed to put a good number of points on the board so far this season, although they have won only one of their three matches, with two left to play.

Their victory over Cheltenham showed a good deal of grit, and, on occasion, some skill in a most gruelling match where their stamina was put to the test—an excellent effort.

The team has been captained by Wightman, the fly-half, who has played well outside the swift if occasionally erratic Bourn at scrum-half. Cameron has played in a variety of positions including centre, fly-half and full-back and has a good deal of natural ability.

Among the forwards Elworthy (wing-forward) and Prince (prop) have steadily improved with keeping and have both played for the 3rd XV.

In conclusion it is only fair to state that it has been very difficult to separate 3rd and 4th XV's this season, because so many of the players have been of the same level of ability, a most gratifying state of affairs, if rather troublesome on a Friday evening!

M. WALDMAN
J. B. DOBINSON

Teams from: B. F. Barclay (⊗), S. C. Bartlett (T), C. D. Bourn (⊗), A. Braimer-Jones (G), R. A. Burton (⊗), T. G. Cameron (C), N. R. Chapman* (L), S. J. M. Cobb (⊗), N. J. Comery (C), S. C. Creedy-Smith (C), J. M. G. Crosse (W), J. A. F. Currey (⊗), C. P. M. Douglas* (T), J. M. Elworthy (L), A. Falcon (C), S. C. Fraser* (L), H. N. J. Gray, ma.* (C), P. C. A. Grint (T), K. E. Hardman (C), J. R. C. Harris, ma. (⊗), A. J. Highwood, ma. (B), N. M. Hopkins (⊗), D. C. W. Horlock, ma. (W), P. M. Hugill* (⊗), R. L. Law* (B), F. Mauran (⊗), A. S. Marsh, ma. (T), D. K. Mumby (T), P. N. Nelson, ma. (T), D. R. Ogilvie (⊗), G. R. J. Page* (⊗), N. J. Phillips (⊗), A. P. M. Prince (C), C. A. Ritchie, ma. (L), C. T. Rolls (L), A. C. Roxburgh, ma. (W), A. H. Shekell (⊗), C. T. C. Standeven, ma. (L), T. P. H. Stephens (L), C. J. Terrett (B), M. A. N. Tomlin (⊗), A. P. Ward, mi.* (W), C. P. J. Wightman (C).

* = 3rd XV Colours.

Results:

3rd XV:	v. Old Stoics/Colts	Won	10—4
	v. Eton	Won	7—3
	v. Kettering G.S.	Won	58—6
	v. Cokethorpe 1st XV	Lost	7—24
	v. Radley	Lost	0—20
	v. Bedford	Lost	10—28
	v. Cheltenham	Lost	3—12
	v. Oundle	Lost	14—40
4th XV:	v. St Edward's	Lost	0—12
	v. Radley	Lost	13—26
	v. Bedford	Lost	10—29
	v. Cheltenham	Won	7—4
	v. Sponne	Cancelled	
	v. Oundle	Lost	12—20
	v. St Edward's	Drawn	10—10

THE COLTS

The results indicate the fluctuations of form that the Under 16 Club has experienced this year. There have been times when the team played with a fair amount of purpose and drive, sufficient to win games, but on the other hand there has been a disheartening sloppiness about the play that was rightly, and severely punished by other teams (particularly Bedford and Radley) who seized their chance to make the XV look very poor.

One's overriding impression is that it all might have been so very much better. "If only" the forwards had really dominated play in the way that their ability suggested was possible; "if only" the backs had developed more confidence and feel for the game; "if only" a small percentage of our scoring chances had been taken the story could well have been completely different. However nothing will be gained by looking over our shoulder at what might have been. Those concerned must learn from the mistakes that have been made and strive to become more effective, efficient and dynamic rugby players in senior clubs next year.

The strength of the side lay in the forwards. At their best they were mobile and sufficiently large to dominate proceedings. Bradley-Williams, Low and Barratt, all of whom played for the County Under 16 Group XV, set a splendid example and although things went wrong from time to time the pack was technically capable of winning a lion's share of the ball.

Outside the scrum we lacked players of flair and it is sad, but true to report that some of those who represented the Colts fell well below the standard that is expected at Under 16 level. Tackling and defensive covering were particularly feeble; and the running and handling of the back division never posed a threat to the opposition.

Montgomery who always did his best to get things going led the side with his own aggressive play. His left foot came to our rescue on several occasions. It is my guess that he could well turn into a successful wing forward, possessing as he does sufficient pace, and hardness to make a contribution at a higher level. Holmes at scrum half must pass more swiftly, but he is certainly developing into a very useful footballer. He played with increasing confidence and became the pivot of most of the best attacking plays.

A realistic assessment of the team must take into consideration the fact that the games which were won were all against weak opposition. It became obvious that in spite of the enthusiasm and drive of a few, the team was short of true footballers. Both during the daily practices and in the matches themselves there was a noticeable lack of sheer determination. Lessons were only partially learned and boys in the club seemed reluctant to commit themselves fully to the task in hand. This is no way to set about the business of playing successful, winning rugby. All those who played will vouch for the fact that the game is more fun when one is winning. Such a feeling is worth working for.

J. S. M. MORRIS

A XV: The following played: C. D. Montgomery, ma. (C) (Captain), T. S. Bradley-Williams (C) (Vice-Captain and Scrum Leader), I. L. Park (T), J. R. Arnold, mi. (L), N. P. Wigmore (C), N. J. Benthall (C), N. B. Harris, mi. (C), S. A. V. Holmes (L), D. A. Eaton (C), T. D. Forbes Adam, mi. (L), P. T. James (C), A. C. M. Low (C), J. A. Barratt, ma. (T), S. W. Allport (C), J. Hartley, ma. (C), N. E. Ancsell (C), J. N. Barnard, ma. (C), S. L. Barnard, mi. (C).

Results: v. Eton	Won	24—4
v. Mill Hill	Won	6—3
v. Oakham	Lost	0—37
v. Radley	Lost	0—26
v. Bedford	Lost	4—47
v. Cheltenham	Won	8—3
v. Rugby	Lost	4—17
v. Royal Latin School	Won	20—8
v. Oundle	Lost	6—24
v. St Edward's, Oxford	Won	22—4

B XV from: S. C. Bowman, mi. (B) (Captain), C. J. Pooler (T), J. R. J. Fladée (C), N. D. J. Gray, mi. (C), P. P. Ameal (B), D. F. C. Thomas (C), N. R. C. Standeven, mi. (L), M. W. Selby-Lowndes (G), J. W. Morton (C), I. S. Miller (C), S. C. Appleton (G), M. J. F. Moffatt (C), J. R. Allen (G), G. Winnington-Ingram (G), C. D. Bird (L), S. W. Harries (C), E. St J. Hall (W).

Results: v. Radley	Lost	9—20
v. Cheltenham	Won	16—4

THE JUNIOR COLTS

Two victories and four defeats, two of them by a large margin do not suggest a successful term and that is certainly the case. The truth is that there has been a lack of genuine skill in most departments, but even more an absence of competitive spirit and wholehearted physical commitment; there have not been sufficient pacemakers in this respect to lift the rest of a very passive side. This has been disappointing in that a fair degree of enthusiasm has been in evidence in practices, and at least for a part of every match the team has held its own, but this has never been sustained. Certainly the last two teams we have faced have possessed strong threequarters, but that was known in advance and still there was not the effort to gain essential possession, to mark tightly and tackle consistently. In practice the team has made steady improvement but until the attitude of mind improves match results will not follow suit. Lineham as captain has always shown determination and is a strong runner but without enough thought yet; Horlock is an elusive runner; O'Brien has covered a lot of ground but is not yet reliable enough in his tackling. Often one dismisses a side like this by bewailing their lack of physique—here it is not the case.

B. H. MEAD

A. M. VINEN

Team: C. J. Allen (B); O. A. H. W. Dodd (C), J. J. Lineham (B) (Captain), A. E. H. Worsley (C), M. J. P. Horlock, mi. (W); A. G. Bradstock (C), R. R. Montgomery, mi. (C); F. D. G. Mezulanik (C), J. M. Taylor (C), M. L. W. Bell, mi. (C); J. M. M. McComas (G), S. V. Wylie (C); T. W. P. O'Brien (C), C. T. Highwood, mi. (B), M. A. Koska (B).

Also played: S. R. Fraser-Allen (C), P. M. Ham (C), J. E. James (C), W. H. Latham (C), T. S. Maynard (C), A. T. Thornton-Berry (C).

Results:	v. M.C.S. Brackley	Home	Won	24—22
	v. Eton	Home	Won	22—0
	v. Mill Hill	Away	Lost	6—18
	v. Radley	Home	Lost	15—28
	v. Bedford	Away	Lost	0—43
	v. Rugby	Away	Lost	6—53
	v. Oundle	Home	Lost	6—24
	v. St Edward's	Away	Lost	3—54
2nd Team:	v. Radley	Home	Lost	0—28
	v. Cokethorpe	Away	Lost	0—34

THE UNDER-FOURTEEN XV

The Club's record is testimony to the quality of rugby talent evident in this season's yearlings and to the willingness of most members to respond to coaching. Indeed the record is by no means flattering, for the injury list has hit the Club hard particularly in the Bedford game.

One of the key factors of success has been the unusually strong front row of Weatherbe, Watts and St Clair-Burke. The two props have always had the better of their opposite numbers except in the Bedford game when Weatherbe had to retire to the 'san'. Watts' main and important contribution has been his effective striking in the tight. One of the lock positions has been disputed between Donne, whose shape is right but technique not always so, and Arnold, who is an honest worker—some of the time! One of these two has always been partnered by Edgerley who has made dramatic progress during the season and now ranks as an outstanding forward. The same may be said of Hughes Clarke at blind-side wing forward—his work rate, tackling and covering have been a real feature of the team's performance. Holgate is as an effective open-side flanker as you will see at this level and with a little more application in practice sessions he could become an outstanding individual player. It is doubtful whether the forwards would be half the force they have become without the leadership of Gull—he is a mature reader of the game, an authoritative Captain and most of all he leads by example and others follow. A most effective half-back pairing was developing between Beckford and Baring until the latter was struck down in a house match never to return—his kicking both in defence and attack has been missed. Beckford has combined well with other partners—he does the basics well, has a shrewd eye for the gap and is never afraid to take the opposition on. English is the strongest runner (when he gets up steam) and has taken a lot of stopping. It was a pity he was yet another injury victim for the Bedford match. He, together with the "flying" Scott, have been formidable in attack especially against Rugby when they combined to produce three superb tries in the second half. Hartley has been an effective foil for them both for he is a fine passer of the ball and has learnt to apply considerable pressure on the opposition in defence. For sheer courage and tackling ability he has found himself included in the side at right wing but he is sufficiently skilled to play anywhere outside the scrum and as such he has been a considerable asset to the Club. Bannister, similarly, has all-round ability and this season has developed into a most competent full back.

Perhaps the most promising aspect of the season has been the general standard of rugby played by the Club as a whole, for there is an encouraging depth of talent. In many other years such members as Moore, Boyce, McConnell, de Chambure and Barker would have secured regular positions in the top team, but their turn will surely come as it will for the plenty of others who have contributed to this successful and enjoyable season.

C. J. G. ATKINSON

Team: R. M. Bannister, mi. (L), J. G. J. Scott (C), N. Hartley, mi. (W), H. J. N. English (C), A. R. J. MacKinnon (C), E. R. P. Baring (L), R. W. Beckford (B), R. A. J. Weatherbe (C), R. G. Watts, mi. (C), A. G. R. St Clair-Burke (G), T. D. Holgate (B), W. J. N. Edgerley (C), E. J. L. Donne (L), M. C. J. Gull (B), J. E. Hughes Clarke (C).

Also played: J. T. Arnold, min. (C), G. F. de Chambure (C), E. F. McConnell (T).

Results:	v. Eton	Won	42—0	'B' Team Results:	v. Radley	Won	20—12
	v. Radley	Won	4—0		v. R.L.S.	Won	38—0
	v. Bedford	Lost	35—7		v. Papplewick	Won	12—4
	v. Rugby	Won	12—7				
	v. St Edward's	Won	22—4				

FENCING

The Club has begun its season enthusiastically, and although the editors of *The Stoic* seek copy almost as soon as summer's dust is blown from our foils we have had two matches, against Bradfield and St Edward's, and were victorious in both, although in neither match were all our best fencers available.

The senior fencers, Campbell, Robertson, Cholmondeley, have fenced soundly, but with some untidiness and careless loss of points. These have not mattered much against indifferent opposition, but we have a hard match against Radley to come, and it is to be hoped they can be eliminated by then. Macquaker has been released from rugger for that match and our team should be at full strength.

Alper and Dare have helped in the first team and have had sound success which further match practice will improve. The second foil team was unsettled at Bradfield, and the ferocity of their opponents' attacks proved too daunting, but in the second match were successful, and fenced with promise.

Later in the term we have County and Southern Section foil competitions in which we hope to do well. The remainder of the Club is fighting vigorously and, one hopes, increasing skill and accuracy.

C. D. MULLINEUX

The following have fenced for the team this term:

1st Teams: I. G. Campbell (B), F. E; H. G. Robertson (C), F, E, S; C. G. Cholmondeley (C), F, E, S; S. Alper (C), E, S; H. J. Dare (B), F.

2nd Foil: H. J. Dare (B), J. C. Haas (G), O. B. Gill (B), D. R. B. Champion (B).

Results:

v. Bradfield	Won	(Foil 6—3; Epée 6—1; 2nd Foil 2—7)
v. St Edward's	Won	(Foil 7—2; Epée 5—1; Sabre 4—5; 2nd Foil 7—2)
v. Radley	Lost	(Foil 5—4; Epée 1—8; Sabre 4—5; 2nd Foil 7—2)

FIVES

A minor sport which is treated in such a minor way by so many people is bound to be a frustrating undertaking. By the fact that so few people at Stowe take it seriously it becomes a severely, testing, uphill struggle. Aldenham, a school half our size, produces far greater strength and depth because the boys accept the challenge of playing two sports in one term and so reap the rewards. When senior boys—fives players—decide that they are not interested in playing, that they are unwilling to play in away matches, it makes the job of maintaining interest and standards doubly difficult. If the Seniors would *all* set an example, this interest would be generated right down the School and this interest would be self-perpetuating.

It is a pity to have to start a report in this way but it needs saying if apathy is not to destroy totally. Let us see the challenge taken up by a wider range of people: the effect could be shattering!

Let it not be thought that the picture is entirely depressing. The hard core of regular players has shown keenness and enthusiasm. Hanks and Chapman have both set a good example as joint captains though their appearances have been limited, in the case of the former by injury and the latter by his exploits on the rugger field. Rivalland, Graham and Rowntree have all improved steadily and Nasatir, in his last term, has been a worthy senior professional. The seniors have done well against the schools which treat the sport no more seriously than we do and the juniors have the talent and determination which, with continued effort, should produce good results in the future.

P. R. BOWDEN

Seniors: P. St J. Chapman (L), J. D. Hanks (C), I. A. W. Nasatir (B), W. M. Graham (B), P. R. Rivalland (C), C. J. Rowntree (T), D. A. Bowman, ma. (B), C. T. Rolls (L), R. J. C. S. Mitchell, ma. (W).

Colts: M. R. Banister (B), A. J. Rossdale (L), S. C. Bowman, mi. (B), R. M. Rummell (C), D. W. G. Enderby (C).

Jnr Colts: C. R. Lloyd, mi. (T), P. Salaria (T), M. E. Farmer (C), G. J. J. Tucker, ma. (L), P. E. Jeffreys (C), J. A. G. Bird (T).

Under 14: G. F. de Chambure (C), M. C. J. Gull (B), W. J. N. Edgerley (C), A. R. J. MacKinnon (C), S. C. Andrews (B), A. R. Boyce (C), P. T. Stanley, mi. (B).

Results:	Seniors	Colts	Jnr Colts	Under 14
v. Old Berkhamstedians	0—3			
v. Harrow	3—0	1—0	2—0	
v. Oakham	2—0	0—1	1—0	
v. Wolverhampton G.S.	0—1	0—2	1—1	0—1
v. Aldenham	0—3	0—2	0—3	1—0
v. O.U. Peppers	2—0			
v. Sunningdale				0—3
v. Old Cholmeleians	1—2			
v. Uppingham				3—0
v. Old Stoics	1—1			

SHOOTING

The Ashburton Meeting

As usual the Stowe 303 shooting team with one reserve went to Bisley, after the end of the summer term, to take part in various competitions, leading up to the major event, the Ashburton Shield. The weather was changeable over the three day stay, ranging from sunshine to high winds and thundery showers. The practice shoots, themselves individual competitions, the Wellington (200 yards) and the Iveagh (500 yards) were shot well with Simon Green and Edward Sowerby getting good scores. The first school event, the Public Schools Snap Shooting, was an improvement over last year, with the school coming 9th out of 23 entries. In the Marling, which involves an energetic run before firing 10 shots as quickly and accurately as possible at 200 yards, we bettered even last year's good score, coming 4th out of 20 entries. In the Ashburton Shield the Cadet Pair shot extremely well coming 14th out of 60 entries with 119. The VIII showed a great improvement over last year's rather disappointing performance by coming 36th out of 68 entries with a score of 461. In the final competition, the 'Spencer-Mellish', with one entrant from each school, Simon Green turned in a very fine performance with a score of 47, placing him 6th out of 63 entries.

HUGH VON BERGEN

The VIII: S. L. Green, ma.* (G) (Captain), T. C. Green, ma. * (W) (Secretary), N. Orr, ma.* (G), R. M. Fowke* (L), T. O. Smith, ma.* (C), N. Shannon* (W), E. Sowerby* (C), H. R. von Bergen (C).

Cadet Pair: A. J. Jessel (G), G. F. Wington-Ingram (L).

Ninth Man: K. E. Hardman (C).

* Colours.

SQUASH RACKETS

We had expected that the courts would be fully equipped with the new heating arrangements to eliminate condensation by the time the term started, but so far they are not in operation, and several days play have been lost for this reason. However we are assured that all will be in order by the end of term. Matches were deliberately not arranged for the first few weeks in order that we would be sure to have good conditions, and so at the time of writing most of them have still to be played and two others were cancelled by our opponents through rugby injuries. However the two matches we have played have shown that we can expect a mixed season of results. Magdalen College School were beaten 5—0, and Harrow defeated us 4—1. There has been a lot of competition for places in the team with only J. Wadsworth, J. Ward, and J. Carr being sure of their places, while a permutation of about six players has been competing for the other two. As four matches have still to be played, a full report will be held over until the next issue of *The Stoic*.

P. G. LONGHURST

SWIMMING

What a crowded term this has been. The departure of Brian Simons (whatever shall we do without him?) back to his native Australia has meant unusually early dates for the Life-Saving examinations, since Brian took over responsibility for this branch of the swimming. Also the later date for the House Swimming Sports resulted in a coincidence of all the awards, examinations, and events of the term in one desperate week.

This term has, however, seen a further 16 awards in Personal Survival with one more Honours, making a total of 63 awards for the year, while in Life Saving the groups have been larger in numbers than before. The Award of Merit was introduced for the first time and 8 of the best Life-Savers entered for, and gained, this award. They were complimented by the examiner upon their high standard. Three instructors, D. K. Lloyd, F. J. Johnstone and A. D. Lomas prepared and entered classes for the Bronze Medallion and were successful in gaining the Teacher's Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society. In the lower awards there were 6 Bronze Crosses and 34 Bronze Medallions—altogether a very successful term.

Inter-House Swimming Sports 1975

The standard of swimming has continued to rise; far too rapidly for some, and records were once again broken in abundance. We have almost reached the end of the era where a House could nominate a swimmer who, if he could find his trunks, then entered the water and qualified for the finals without any training. I hope we shall also soon be past the stage where a House-nominated Swimming Captain can take no interest whatever in his appointment. This year in two or three of the Houses the swimming captain disassociated himself so thoroughly that he never put in an appearance at the pool, either as a swimmer, or even as organiser of his House Team. It is not necessary that a swimming captain should even be a swimmer provided he has the ability to collect his group of swimmers, take them to the pool and encourage and organise them.

In the Junior (U.14) section the event was completely dominated by Temple, spearheading the attack with P. E. Richards who showed the form which has made him such a successful Club swimmer over the last five years. It was quite a surprise to the average Prep. School swimmer to see the standard set by a trained swimmer of the same age. Richards took the record in all three of his events, impressively knocking 18 seconds off the House record and 12 seconds off the School record for the 4 × 25m. Individual Medley with a time of 77.9 seconds, very nearly a school senior record. Temple Junior Team also had M. D. McCaldin, and A. M. G. Glennie who each took a first and a second place. The Junior Relay Team then swept the board beating the old relay record by 8 seconds. If Temple last year had no Junior swimmer capable of reaching a place in the swimming team then they certainly more than made up for it this year.

The Intermediate group was expected to produce a battle between Temple, Cobham and Grafton with the odds on Cobham. The Grafton challenge failed to materialise, largely through lack of training, and Cobham also fared badly in the heats. Temple had only two recognised swimmers but those two put in a short training session nearly every available night whereas the Cobham and Grafton swimmers thought that a hard week's work just before the finals would be sufficient. In fact it wasn't, and A. R. Bird, the Temple captain went on to win all three of his events, two of them in school record times, while P. S. Marsh gained two close second places and N. N. Bartlett was just squeezed into second place in the diving by R. R. Montgomery, mi. The Temple relay team clinched the victory with a win, again due to practice rather than innate ability. It was altogether a good example of determination and making the best use of everyone in the House.

The Senior section of the competition appeared to offer an easy victory for Temple although R. W. Bickerton, the captain, was injured just before the heats and could only qualify in the

backstroke. The standard of swimming amongst the seniors was not as high as that of the juniors and intermediates but F. J. Johnstone (L) took the House Breaststroke record time down to 83.2 seconds and A. D. Lomas (C) the House Butterfly time to 33.9 seconds. There were no school records set, and once again the swimmer who had put in the most work, D. K. Lloyd (B) was the most successful with two useful wins both in personal best times. Nothing, however, could prevent the combined Temple "pack" from winning and so making sure of the Overall Winner's Cup for the second year running.

F. A. HUDSON

Results:

JUNIOR:

50m. Breaststroke

Time: 38.9 secs.*†

1. P. E. Richards (T)
2. G. N. Lancaster (W)
3. W. J. N. Edgerley (C)

50m. Backstroke:

Time: 40.6 secs.

1. M. D. McCaldin (T)
2. A. M. G. Glennie (T)
3. C. B. A. Ryrie (E)

25m. Butterfly:

Time: 15.6 secs.†

1. P. E. Richards (T)
2. J. G. J. Scott (C)
3. M. D. McCaldin (T)

50m. Freestyle:

Time: 34.6 secs.

1. G. N. Lancaster (W)
2. J. E. Hughes Clarke (C)
3. J. A. Fane (L)

Dive:

1. A. M. G. Glennie (T)
2. M. S. Castle-Smith (G)
3. J. Markham (E)

100m. Ind. Medley:

Time: 77.9 secs.

1. P. E. Richards (T)
2. M. D. McCaldin (T)
3. G. N. Lancaster (W)

5 × 50m. Relay:

Time: 3 mins. 9.1 secs.5

1. TEMPLE
2. LYTTTELTON
3. GRAFTON

INTERMEDIATE:

100m. Breaststroke:

Time: 86.8 secs.*†

1. A. R. Bird (T)
2. N. R. C. Standeven, mi. (L)
3. R. C. Appleby (L)

100m. Backstroke

Time 81.3 secs.

1. I. S. Miller (C)
2. A. C. M. Low (C)
3. T. W. P. O'Brien (E)

50m. Butterfly:

Time: 36.0 secs.

1. A. R. Bird (T)
2. P. S. Marsh, mi. (T)
3. T. W. P. O'Brien (E)

100m. Freestyle:

Time: 67.3 secs.†

1. A. C. M. Low (C)
2. P. S. Marsh, mi. (T)
3. T. A. Cressman (C)

Dive:

1. R. R. Montgomery, mi. (C)
2. N. N. Bartlett (T)
3. A. S. Massie (W)

100m. Ind. Medley:

Time: 78.6 secs.*†

1. A. R. Bird (T)
2. I. S. Miller (C)
3. A. C. M. Low (C)

5 × 50m. Relay:

Time: 2 mins. 48.0 secs.

1. TEMPLE
2. COBHAM
3. GRENVILLE

SENIOR:

100m. Breaststroke:

Time: 83.2 secs.†

1. F. J. Johnstone (L)
2. S. T. G. Guyer, ma. (E)
3. D. K. Lloyd (B)

100m. Backstroke

Time: 79.2 secs.

1. R. W. Bickerton (T)
2. C. F. Villiers, ma. (B)
3. J. S. Morton (E)

50m. Butterfly:

Time: 34.6 secs.

1. D. K. Mumby (T)
2. A. D. Lomas (C)
3. T. D. Outerbridge (C)

100m. Freestyle:

Time: 69.8 secs.

1. D. K. Lloyd (B)
2. S. C. Bartlett (T)
3. A. P. Ward, mi. (W)

Dive:

1. T. D. Outerbridge (C)
2. C. P. M. Douglas (T)
3. A. P. Ward, mi. (W)

100m. Ind. Medley:

Time: 3 mins. 3.4 secs.

1. D. K. Lloyd (B)
2. A. D. Lomas (C)
3. D. K. Mumby (T)

5 × 50m. Relay:

Time: 2 mins. 43.6 secs.

1. TEMPLE
2. COBHAM
3. LYTTTELTON

* School Record.

† House Record.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:

Diving Cup	T. D. Outerbridge
100m. Freestyle	A. C. M. Low
Inter. Ind. Medley	A. R. Bird
Senior Ind. Medley	D. K. Lloyd

HOUSE CUPS:

Junior House Cup	..	TEMPLE
Inter. House Cup	..	TEMPLE
Senior House Cup	..	TEMPLE
Relays Cup	..	TEMPLE
Overall Winner	..	TEMPLE

SOCCER

Having been warned of Wellingborough's ability we arrived with a strong team. Stowe began nervously, coming under great pressure in the first half, and although we fought hard against a blinding sun Wellingborough scored with a good header, which left the goalkeeper unsighted. After this sudden blow Stowe settled down and played some attractive football, by marking tightly and passing accurately. At half time the score stood at 1-0 to the home side.

In the second half Stowe found new vitality surging forward into their half, and after constant attack Bill Green managed to deflect a cross with a brilliant header that even surprised the referee! Our confidence grew and by using the wings more we took the lead with a runaway goal by Dave Bowman. Stowe now took command of the game with some good covering and hard tackling by the backs, and inventive front running from the forwards. Our third goal came with little surprise as Bill Green's positioned shot struck the back of the net. The whistle went with Stowe about to score once again.

Even though we played their 'A' XI, Stowe made an admirable start to the season with a sound win.

Thanks must go to Mr Foster for arranging the match and ferrying the team to and fro, and for the three loyal supporters that accompanied him!

MIKE TOMLIN

Team: S. W. Allport (C), G. R. J. Page (C), N. J. Phillips (S), C. M. Johnstone (C), M. A. N. Tomlin (C), A. P. Ward, mi. (W), J. W. Green (W), N. G. M. Salour (C), J. R. C. Harris, ma. (C), D. J. M. Ward, ma. (W), D. A. Bowman, ma. (B).

THE STOWE BEAGLES

During the summer we went to the Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate where Sainly won both her class and the bitch championship. We entered hounds only in the dog classes at Peterborough because John Atkinson, our previous kennel huntsman, was judging the bitch classes. Our results were not as good as we had hoped, but the results of all the hound shows that took place demonstrate the strength of Stowe dogs as stallion hounds, particularly Razor and Ramrod.

The new season started on 16th September and the young entry have settled in well. Indeed the pack as a whole has been hunting with drive and enthusiasm.

Support from outside the School continues to be strong and the Supporters' Club is to hold its Annual General Meeting on 22nd October. We also held a joint meet with the Radley College Beagles on the North Front during mid-October.

Hunt staff this season are:—1st Whipper-in A. T. C. Green (G); Whippers-in S. Curling (S) and M. A. J. Salmon (C).

Many thanks should also be extended to:—J. F. M. Davies (L), M. H. Yorke (C) and A. M. Mitchell (G) for their help and support.

DAVID JACOBS

ATHLETICS

1st Colours have been re-awarded to: L. J. Hydleman (B), T. J. Rollit Mason (B), P. A. Rose (W).

1st Colours have been awarded to: D. A. Bowman, ma. (B), M. P. Patel (B), J. H. Walford (G), K. C. Naylor (W).

2nd Colours have been awarded to: S. H. Coney (T), N. C. McLoughlin (T), W. G. Cubitt, ma. (T), N. G. M. Salour (C), N. E. Ancsell (C), J. R. Allen (G), M. E. W. Selby-Lowndes (G), J. W. Green (W).

LAWN TENNIS

P.S.L.T.A. Youll Cup 1975

There were almost seventy schools competing for the Youll Cup this year, and the Stowe team arrived at Wimbledon hoping to do well. The draw had not been unkind, and both pairs won their first matches to defeat St Edmund's College, Canterbury 2—0. In the second round a hard match was played against King's College, Canterbury, and for this win we had to thank J. M. Scowsill who played particularly well. This brought us to the last sixteen, and at this stage we encountered Ampleforth College. This also was a close match, and both pairs played some good tennis in rather difficult weather. We knew that St Paul's School, our next opponents had an experienced team, and that both pairs would have to be on top form to obtain a win. As it turned out the first pair of P. Saunders, and V. Hill were quickly beaten by a better combination, but the second pair of J. Scowsill and D. Horlock raced to a first set lead, and then faded badly. Scowsill was sound in his approach to the match, but Horlock varied from brilliance to frequent unforced errors, probably on account of over caution. However, eventually in the third set they both began to play well together, and finally won an exciting match to put the score level at one all. By this time it was too late to play the deciding single (which is always necessary in the Youll Cup if the teams are all square after the two doubles) and it was arranged for the following morning. Scowsill put up a gallant fight against one of the best boys of his age in the country, and went down with a very creditable score. Thus although Stowe did not reach the semi-final stage, the team can feel well satisfied with its performance, and the experience gained will stand the players in good stead for the future, and they are to be congratulated on their successful run in the competition.

P. G. LONGHURST

Team: P. W. Saunders (L) and V. R. Hill (G).
J. M. Scowsill (T) and D. Horlock, ma. (W).

OLD STOIC NEWS

R. C. Blaker, LL.B., T.D. (C 1953) is the Principal Lecturer in Law at Sheffield Polytechnic
G. E. J. Clarke (G 1967) is now a fully qualified Chartered Accountant with the Investment Banking Division of Hill, Samuel & Co. Ltd (Merchant Bankers) in the City.

M. J. H. Jackson (C 1973) has represented Great Britain in the under 20 high hurdle team against Spain and Portugal in Madrid, and against West Germany in Warley. He was ranked first in Great Britain under 20s high hurdle in 1974.

A. R. Genth (C 1961) has been appointed President of Ieosa, a Mexican Subsidiary of Hamilton Leasing Ltd.

S. A. F. Gethin (G 1968) is a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

R. D. Lea (C 1930) has been appointed Chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank of Leicester and Nottingham.

R. S. Lloyd (C 1935) is now High Sheriff of the County of Gwynedd and has been visited by H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. Princess Margaret.

R. J. Posnett (C 1947) was awarded two first prizes for his Guernsey Herd at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire in 1975.

Correction

R. J. Roberts (C 1949) has been appointed Headmaster of Worksop College and not R. J. Somerville-Roberts (G 1954) as stated in the last edition of *The Stoic*.

Literary Section

MARRIAGES

- D. J. H. Birch (C 1950) to Mary T. Heyland on 28th June 1975.
R. Craik-White (W 1969) to Sandra Watson on 20th September 1975.
N. J. Ferrier (C 1955) to Enid Mary Blackman on 14th April 1973.
A. R. Genth (C 1961) to Alicia Figueroa on 29th March 1974.
M. G. M. Haines (C 1953) to Elizabeth Blakiston Houston on 2nd October 1975.
A. R. Hoar (C 1962) to Zoe Frome Wheeler on 30th June 1972.
T. E. Lane (C 1968) to Dora Markiewtcz on 18th August 1973.
J. C. Simpson (G 1965) to Helen Elizabeth Oriander on 6th September 1975.

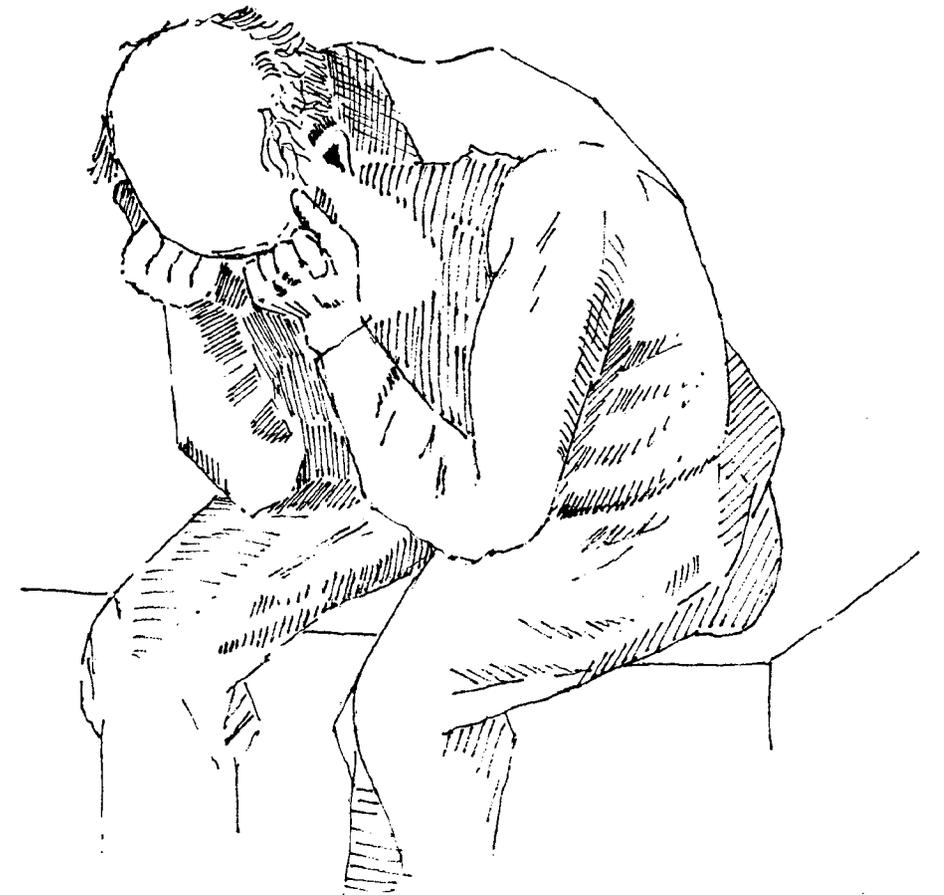
BIRTHS

To the wife of:

- P. L. Ashcroft (C 1967) a daughter on 27th June 1975.
J. P. English (C 1960) a son on 21st August 1975.
N. J. Ferrier (C 1955) a daughter on 30th October 1975.
D. Firebrace (B 1964) twin sons on 4th November 1974.
N. J. Forwood (G 1965) a daughter on 21st July 1974.
A. R. Hoar (C 1962) a daughter on 7th September 1974.
Major F. A. Philippi (C 1956) daughters on 8th September 1969; 28th August 1973; and 7th January 1975.
D. A. K. Simmonds (G 1958) a son on 25th August 1975.
R. E. Thomas (B 1959) a daughter on 12th June 1975.

DEATHS

- W. M. C. Peatfield (T 1928) on 8th May 1975.
J. D. Storey (W 1968) on 16th May 1975.
J. A. Wood (C 1943) on 25th July 1975.



EDITORIAL

Apathy is a subconscious evil influence among Stoics, a fact which became apparent to us when we began asking for contributions. Three weeks after the deadline we had only four articles considered worthy of printing, and so in desperation we asked individuals to summon their imagination. The subject should have been made easier by the fact that we chose no particular theme, but when faced with this dilemma it appeared Stoics needed to be fed with ideas. A sad, but true, reflection on 'education'. It is a pity that Stoics have been so idle, lethargic and apathetic towards the section of this magazine which essentially belongs to them.

This is only a general statement, and individuals have obviously spent a lot of time and effort over their contributions for which we are naturally grateful. A pity it was so few.

One might wonder how we gained any articles at all from the tone so far, and we are unable to tell you—they just suddenly accumulated. The finished product is immediately striking for the pessimism which pervades it. This perhaps illustrates the effect the general depression of the world has had upon the youth of today, as well as showing how easy the youth finds it to write pessimistically—more so than the adult.

There is the bitterly cynical view of marriage in "On Marriage"; there is the glaring truth about the loneliness of old age in "Another day, perhaps"; and the despair which must be felt at reaching old age—the top of the mountain—in "How Frightening"; there is the view of people's masks in "Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen". These articles, and nearly all the others are depressed and pessimistic in a similar way.

Enough. Read for yourselves—at least you may learn something about the individual contributors, at most something about the atmosphere surrounding youth.

JONATHAN CARR
RORY KNIGHT BRUCE

ART: PAUL HUGILL

with MARC RICHARDS, NICOLA HEMSWORTH, NICHOLAS LETO

WHAT PRICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Recent debate about public schools has shown that they could well be in imminent danger of abolition. Many socialists in particular have called into question their continued existence by raising social, financial and moral objections. Public Schools, they argue, are divisive, uneconomical and invidious. These contentions have now become largely irrelevant; for unless Britain's inflation rate is drastically reduced, it will not be long before Public Schools begin to close down of their own accord. In such circumstances, only the fittest will survive.

The question which Stowe must therefore ask itself is this: is it amongst the fittest and, if not, what needs to be done? It seems to me that Stowe is a reasonably healthy institution. It actively encourages, for example, individuality and independence; tolerance towards all preferences and opinions; and scope of activity within its confines. Moreover, it teaches the crucial lesson of how to co-exist in a community. But these precepts must be constantly and vigorously re-evaluated if it is not to sink into a dangerous rut which can only perpetuate lethargy and thus preclude fitness. It certainly cannot afford to become complacent.

For if Stowe succeeds in retaining its qualities and eroding its blemishes, the claim that Public Schools are unrepresentative and anachronistic will not apply. If, on the other hand, it grows stale, the flaws will re-appear and multiply. In this condition, the school would not survive; but worse still, it would not even deserve to.

CHRISTOPHER PETO

SONNET

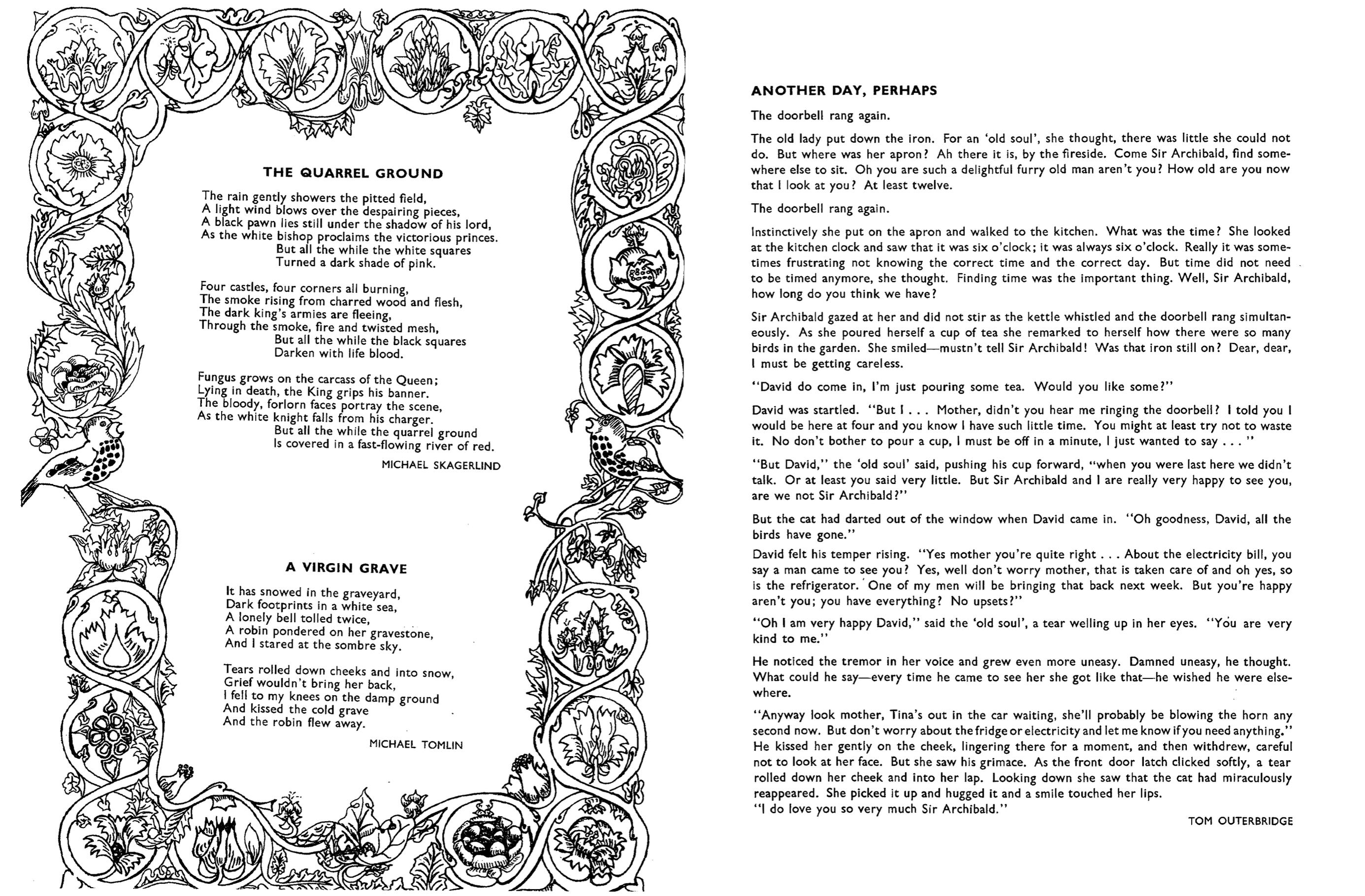
(from the French original by Pierre de Ronsard)

In spring the sun and rain prepare the earth;
In May, the rose in lovely youth appears.
The sky is jealous of its heavenly hue,
When sweet Aurora moistens it with tears.

The petals are replete with grace and love,
With scent pervading all that grows nearby;
But when great Phoebus shines too hot above,
The rose will languish, lose its leaves, and die.

When you were in your early youthful bloom,
While earth and heaven shone upon you too,
Fate murdered you, and now you lie as ash.
For sweet libations, I shed tears for you;
Take milk and flowers for yourself at will,
For, dead or living, you are roses still.

JONATHAN KREEGER



THE QUARREL GROUND

The rain gently showers the pitted field,
A light wind blows over the despairing pieces,
A black pawn lies still under the shadow of his lord,
As the white bishop proclaims the victorious princes.
But all the while the white squares
Turned a dark shade of pink.

Four castles, four corners all burning,
The smoke rising from charred wood and flesh,
The dark king's armies are fleeing,
Through the smoke, fire and twisted mesh,
But all the while the black squares
Darken with life blood.

Fungus grows on the carcass of the Queen;
Lying in death, the King grips his banner.
The bloody, forlorn faces portray the scene,
As the white knight falls from his charger.
But all the while the quarrel ground
Is covered in a fast-flowing river of red.

MICHAEL SKAGERLIND

A VIRGIN GRAVE

It has snowed in the graveyard,
Dark footprints in a white sea,
A lonely bell tolled twice,
A robin pondered on her gravestone,
And I stared at the sombre sky.

Tears rolled down cheeks and into snow,
Grief wouldn't bring her back,
I fell to my knees on the damp ground
And kissed the cold grave
And the robin flew away.

MICHAEL TOMLIN

ANOTHER DAY, PERHAPS

The doorbell rang again.

The old lady put down the iron. For an 'old soul', she thought, there was little she could not do. But where was her apron? Ah there it is, by the fireside. Come Sir Archibald, find somewhere else to sit. Oh you are such a delightful furry old man aren't you? How old are you now that I look at you? At least twelve.

The doorbell rang again.

Instinctively she put on the apron and walked to the kitchen. What was the time? She looked at the kitchen clock and saw that it was six o'clock; it was always six o'clock. Really it was sometimes frustrating not knowing the correct time and the correct day. But time did not need to be timed anymore, she thought. Finding time was the important thing. Well, Sir Archibald, how long do you think we have?

Sir Archibald gazed at her and did not stir as the kettle whistled and the doorbell rang simultaneously. As she poured herself a cup of tea she remarked to herself how there were so many birds in the garden. She smiled—mustn't tell Sir Archibald! Was that iron still on? Dear, dear, I must be getting careless.

"David do come in, I'm just pouring some tea. Would you like some?"

David was startled. "But I . . . Mother, didn't you hear me ringing the doorbell? I told you I would be here at four and you know I have such little time. You might at least try not to waste it. No don't bother to pour a cup, I must be off in a minute, I just wanted to say . . ."

"But David," the 'old soul' said, pushing his cup forward, "when you were last here we didn't talk. Or at least you said very little. But Sir Archibald and I are really very happy to see you, are we not Sir Archibald?"

But the cat had darted out of the window when David came in. "Oh goodness, David, all the birds have gone."

David felt his temper rising. "Yes mother you're quite right . . . About the electricity bill, you say a man came to see you? Yes, well don't worry mother, that is taken care of and oh yes, so is the refrigerator. One of my men will be bringing that back next week. But you're happy aren't you; you have everything? No upsets?"

"Oh I am very happy David," said the 'old soul', a tear welling up in her eyes. "You are very kind to me."

He noticed the tremor in her voice and grew even more uneasy. Damned uneasy, he thought. What could he say—every time he came to see her she got like that—he wished he were elsewhere.

"Anyway look mother, Tina's out in the car waiting, she'll probably be blowing the horn any second now. But don't worry about the fridge or electricity and let me know if you need anything." He kissed her gently on the cheek, lingering there for a moment, and then withdrew, careful not to look at her face. But she saw his grimace. As the front door latch clicked softly, a tear rolled down her cheek and into her lap. Looking down she saw that the cat had miraculously reappeared. She picked it up and hugged it and a smile touched her lips.

"I do love you so very much Sir Archibald."

TOM OUTERBRIDGE

THE HOPE

As I stumbled at the top of the hill,
I paused for breath, to collect a thought:
Which broke itself in two;
The one was what the people say,
The other what they do.
And I pondered on the view I saw,
To be thankful what it was that I was living for.

We're on a Mountain which
Is moving from the sky,
Its ever changing atmosphere
Just keeps on asking: 'Why?';
Why are you on me,
As I stretch out from the Earth?
I only want your honesty,
Not moralistic afterbirth.'

Man's climbing for a better future;
Inflated on suburban pedestals,
Made by cold, callous Monday lunch transactions.
(While the wine slips down your throat,
Strangling memories of what you wrote.)
For money is being used by
'Civilisation' as a whole,
They've inherited the Earth and lost their soul.

Faith turned to stone,
And rolled back down the hill,
The Mountain gave an inner groan,
And Freedom had his will.
The new is just a ghost-like of the old—
And out of the Mountain came forth gold.
A gold whose dust has fallen
On our Mountain top

While Heaven's dispersed breath is calling,
To have the repetition stopped.
Yet the voices of the Gods are drowned
In a sea of filth.
And all that can be found is a vulgar health.
A health that is breeding you
In your greenback existence.
And that of your children too is not far in the distance.

The money game is beating all the men
Who use it for themselves,
They're losing what they did have when
Earth was less like Hell.
But now its using them,
Their policies can't cope,
And that the gold will turn to tin
Must be the saving hope.

Pulsating Mountain try to take them home,
Through the decades of your time-worn state;
Through the mud and grimy loam,
Let them have some sight.
Yet fear, the acidity of imperfection,
Will burn out their eyes,
And that new direction
Be lost in Hurt Pride's lies.

Then check them by decisive action:
Starve a nation, breed a faction,
Swallow some, drown others,
Bear sons, kill mothers,
Make a minority
And let it show,
By its superiority
That it will grow.

Hurl your convulsing rock
At those who depend on you,
If they can withstand the shock
They might see what is true.
But they won't . . .
Their ice thick security will crack
And doubting will pour in,
Flooding channels of their lack,
Drowning arteries of sin.

So Mountain spare the lovers,
In their crescent moon,
Theirs is not the happiness of others
Though it is ended soon.
Correct this in their deep run mind,
Make your time linger on their dewy thought,
For what they have is hard to find,
Not something to be bought.

And I am selfish mountain: Let me live,
I do not want to exist,
Materialism does not give
Temptation to resist.
Will pedestals then fall?
Crumbling, dying, 'NOT AT ALL'.
And this is why I cried,
For I am of the lover tribe.

Yet one thing I presume to know of you,
Is that you're made of hills,
And we are people, walking through
Your creases and your sills.
We reach a hill and take a breath:
The second's dream is over,
There is no more to say:
But 'Keep gold from the lover'.

And they are gone,
The lovers fled away.

RORY KNIGHT BRUCE

ENJOY IT WHILE IT'S STILL WITH YOU

The glass breaks on my tired face,
as I stumble through the crowd
the crying's nearly over now
as nothing's quite as loud.

I'm coming home now very soon,
it's been a long long time,
as the poet ends his broken words
and breaks out into rhyme.

'I've never heard it before,'
I tell the voices in the dark,
They don't reply, a gate just opens,
to reveal a spacious park.



I decide to walk, to step across,
the stones between the two places,
I can see so many people in front
and they all have smiling faces.

'So this is heaven,' I think,
as I walk along the ground,
and I lie down to meet the sun,
to taste new delights just found.

Suddenly the sun dies down,
everything around has cooled
in front I see my soul held high,
as satan tells me I've been fooled.

PHILIP HARMER

WHAT IS BELOW?

"I wonder what I shall see today? More machines and less trees or will they wake up and realise what they are destroying; or will those confounded clouds blur my vision?" It was time to wake up the world.

He snatched a glimpse out across the tree tops. Climbing wearily higher in the sky, spasms of light shot through the black roof of the forest; the birds sang happily and danced through still morning air. Gold attacked the bracken and shook at its tired inhabitants. Two young bucks tussled between themselves trying to impress a slender doe. A squirrel skipped through the grass to the loch's edge, where he saw his red reflection. Soon an usurper chased him from his place, and in turn stared at his grey reflection. Nature.

The black water sparkled silver. Trout fed from flies hovering above and a waterfall mumbled and slipped into the end of the loch. A shadow passed over the blue mirror, the heron, high in the sky, was hunting for breakfast. A crash of wings and the woodpigeon emerged from the green boughs. He was followed by an old cock pheasant, who planed his way from the woods to the stubble. A covey of partridges arced across the field and disappeared below the rise. A young rabbit ran here and there. He seemed to be on urgent business. A quiet returned to nature's utopia.

From above he sighed and resigned himself to what was happening. "What can I do from up here? They even try and harness my power to make themselves richer and more powerful." Below they began to arrive at a frightening, brisk pace, hundreds upon hundreds of "nature's most advanced beings". The machines started, a chorus of coughs, splutters and roars. Sirens blew, work began.

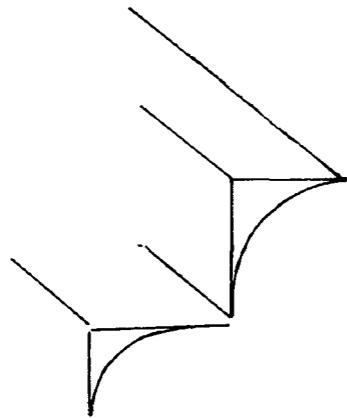
Like ants building a new nest, men swarmed and toiled. Morning came and went, the machines died. Transistors took their place, blaring out noise, shrill and without meaning. They then sat and rested, ate their sandwiches and read the racing pages of their papers. The smell of tobacco mingled with the fumes hanging in the air. Saccharin dropped into muddy, luke warm, water.

Again men walked to their yellow monsters and carried on the destruction of the environment out of which they evolved. Hatred scourged raw backs. Machines hacked, shoved, tunnelled and flattened the wood; machines floated on the water and dredged gravel from below. Men destroyed.

The sun looked below, winced and glared with contempt. 'Forgive them for they know not what they do', they are so blind. How can tarmac substitute grass. What has happened to nature? Has man advanced so far that he can do without it?"

As he began to lower himself, the sirens blew for the last time. Men walked back to their families, their homes and their television. 'In an untouched corner of green England the ploughman plods his weary way.' Under a dying elm a daffodil stretches to catch the last ray of sunlight or hope.

RICHARD LEWIS



GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Ladies and gentlemen, your attention for a moment!
It has been suggested that the performers
Are not as sane as they appear to be,
But what does it matter if on occasions
The soloist gets caught in the non-existent curtains
Or if the clown bursts into perfect harmonies?

Ladies and gentlemen, your attention a moment!
It is to be admitted outright
That even the tightrope is an illusion
And the beautiful girl who walks naked upon it
Is a figment of our communal imagination.

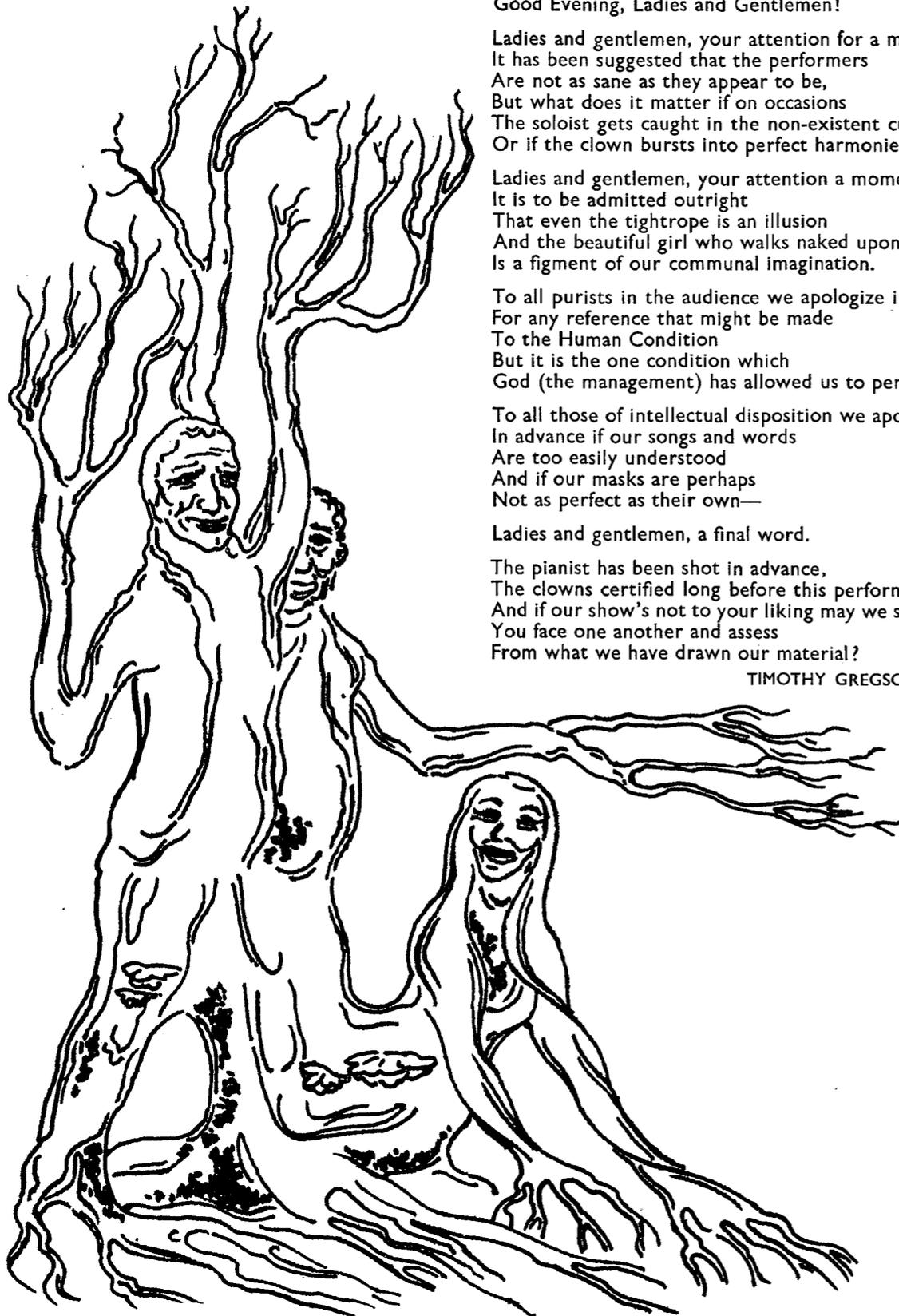
To all purists in the audience we apologize in advance
For any reference that might be made
To the Human Condition
But it is the one condition which
God (the management) has allowed us to perform.

To all those of intellectual disposition we apologize
In advance if our songs and words
Are too easily understood
And if our masks are perhaps
Not as perfect as their own—

Ladies and gentlemen, a final word.

The pianist has been shot in advance,
The clowns certified long before this performance began
And if our show's not to your liking may we suggest
You face one another and assess
From what we have drawn our material?

TIMOTHY GREGSON-WILLIAMS



THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND

I ought to have counted how many cups of coffee I had served, and how many times I had scrubbed these tables. Enjoyable jobs. Looking round I watched my blind colleagues function mechanically for equally blind visitors.

“Two coffees, please . . . and some sugar . . .”

Everybody lives for the present moment, everybody is fooled. Perhaps some can see their blindness, and are so frightened that they try to ignore it. One man's lifetime is but a small grain of sand in an everlasting hour-glass, yet everybody considers their grain in an understandably selfish light.

“I want a piece of that delicious cake with the two coffees, please.”

“Yes, ma'am.”

“And I haven't got long.”

“No, ma'am.”

Everybody is always in a hurry, always running from one place to another; never pausing to think for a moment. Maybe I have not seen enough of the world to judge this adequately—perhaps there are places where men actually live in peace and at leisure. If I saved a little bit each week I might be able to get away for a bit, I might even be able to find a job in better conditions and climb out of this professional rut

“Come on there! I've told you I haven't got much time you look as though you're miles away.”

“I wish I was,” I muttered, and gave this petulant old woman her coffee and cake.

Perhaps I will find a job piling up chairs on some hot Mediterranean beach, or instructing children how to swim in some private pool. Maybe I will strike my fortune soon—after all, it is only a matter of patience and time . . . isn't it? Then I will be able to lie on that hot beach carefree, bronzed like a Greek Adonis, and with a pocket full of money . . .

“There should be more change than that . . .”

“Yes ma'am . . . I'm sorry, I wasn't thinking . . .”

Job satisfaction is what the employment offices are preaching now—how to be interested in your occupation (your lifelong occupation). How can I become interested in serving food, I ask the employment officer. There is an embarrassed pause as he coughs and finally admits that it is difficult—“But there are a lot of people more unfortunate than yourself, young lad, and you'd better remember that!”

So I come away thinking that he is right, and wrong. How can he feel justified in propelling me into this job (which he knows leaves me with no worthwhile future), and then tell me that I am really very fortunate. He knows very well that I, like him, am just one more figure, one more statistical number in the vast complex of civilisation.

They say that we are in a crisis. In an economic and also moral crisis. We have always been in such crises from time to time . . . but this is different, they say, this is the last time. The problem is that no one human being can save the world from its course, and only a few can help significantly to change aspects of it. Some are bold enough to say that the moral crisis is the basis of every other crisis, and that only if we, as private individuals, change our moral outlook (by turning to God?) can we save the world. Perhaps we are ignoring the 'Jesus' inside all of us asking us to repent, and yet again condemning Jesus to die for us until we realise how debased we have grown.

“Come on, Joe, it's closing time, you know. Anybody would think you enjoyed the job the way you're standing there ignoring the time . . .”

“Yes.”

“Going to see a film tonight?”

“Perhaps.”

You see the trouble is that I'm as blind as everybody else.

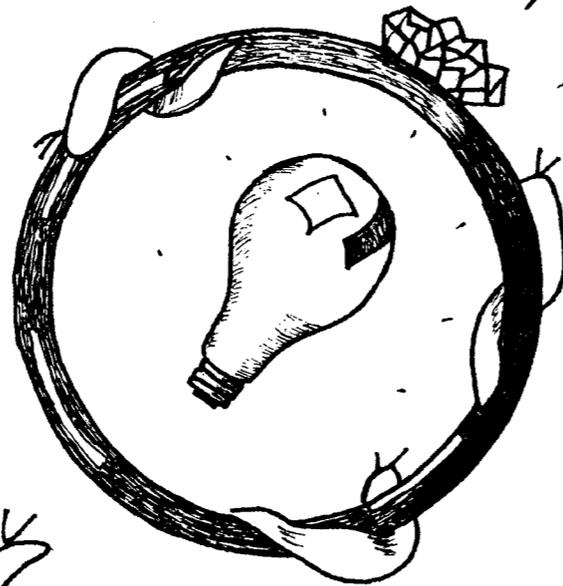
JONATHAN CARR

MARRIAGE

Entwined they shone a
Fresh midday shower.
Part of the grass
—not on it.

Please don't let the slugs in
they thought too late,
too late because the slugs
were trudging
slowtime through their
light.
It went out
and was replaced by a
yellowing
electric light bulb
which they
kept in their
cubicle till
it broke.

WILLIAM HAWTHORNE



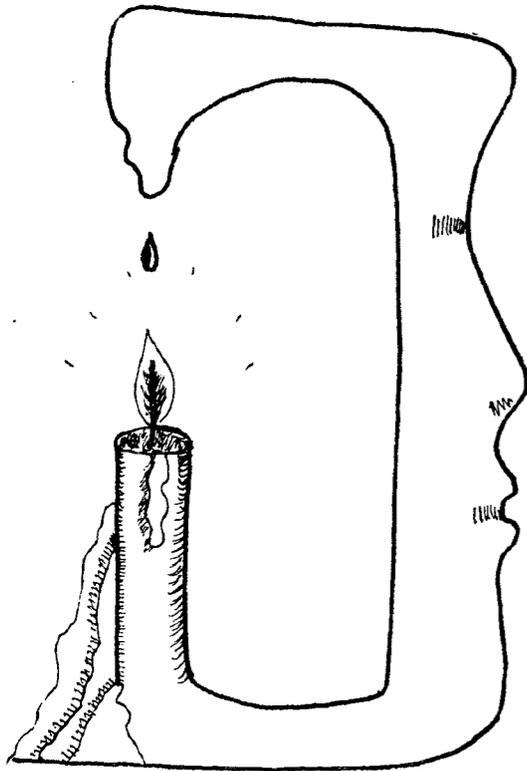
The candle burns
slowly through the leaves
of the tree of the summer
of spring. For the autumn
of winter has started its
sting on the wick
of life's watery eyes of
the warm life before.
The spark
of the dew is fresh
but not new.

The old man tells you
he made you and it
on the same master plan.

The candle burns
slowly in the heart
of people
unable to start
to stop despair
for when they're not there.
When the winter of
life and the spark
of the cold has sent
into one the truth
that the other in
life has resolved.

Mr and Mrs Conifer
my respect do incur.
But far rather the
browning and
change and
fresh air.

WILLIAM HAWTHORNE



AN AUTUMNAL BLESSING

"Old Man," I asked. "What are you doing here?" His face crinkled into a smile.

"Well, I am here to pass my last winter in the woods," his voice quiet and tired with age. "I am an old man who must die soon, so I am resting and watching the season's change before following the path out of the woods, the path that we must all take. Do you know young man what it is like to face death, can you imagine the feeling that you are passing back into oblivion?"

"I think I would be afraid, you see I am scared of being nothing. I have a brain and I can think and feel so not to be able to do this is unimaginable."

"Must you not then believe in something?" he asked, engaging me in a subject that he, in his age, was still unsure of. "You must for instance have faith in life after death, or your life is meaningless."

"I'm not sure, for suppose I was incapable of considering death, then I could make my life meaningful by trying to be happy and by achieving a certain amount of success. You, old man seem to have a hard life, were you happy? What have you achieved? Must you now believe in a heaven or a hell?" The old man's face grew worried as he turned the question over in his mind once again.

"Don't you accept Christianity at all? Wouldn't you want to confess to a Priest before you died?"

"My boy, I am tired of watching this church skate over the inconsistencies in its teaching. When I read the bible I saw many things that failed to make sense, and it is hard to follow a church whose theories are questionable and whose actions contradict its teaching. Let me tell you three things I find strange about Jesus' life: Firstly much importance has been attached to the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies. One said that Jesus was to be the direct descendant of the ancient King David, but how can this be when Joseph was not even married to a Virgin Mary? Do you think it was possible for a carpenter to trace his ancestry over that length of time? Secondly, it is interesting to wonder at whose hands Jesus actually died. Do you suppose Judas had any choice to betray Christ; Pilate washed his hands of the incident, the crowd who cried out for the release of Barrabas were under the influence of Jesus' enemies—but his enemies could not have caused Christ's death without Pilate's, Herod's and Judas' co-operation so theirs is not the blame. If it follows from this that the whole story was contrived by God and not through the free will of the people then there is no longer any point or truth in saying that through his death Jesus took away the sins of the world. My last point is that Jesus' life and actions are questionable if he was, as is claimed, the Messiah. There is a large part of his life still unknown to us. We know that when he was about thirteen he was baffling theologians in discussion but then there are fifteen or so years of his life totally unmentioned. I can find no reason for this, so it brings two more facts into question—was Jesus the man the same person as Jesus the boy? Was Jesus' claim that he was sinless valid? What happened to him at the crisis point in his life as he faced death? He knew what was to happen but he prayed in desperation, 'Let me off if possible.' It seems that the Messiah did not realise the importance of his death otherwise he would have known the futility of his plea. Does that sound like a man who had spent his life leading up to one point, the redemption of his people—was he really the Messiah?" The old man seemed keen to continue without letting me answer his questions.

"Even if I could find an answer to those questions," he went on, "I would find it hard to come to terms with the institution of the church. It is hypocritical, and its hypocrisy questions the worth of its moral code. Look how rich it is, and it preaches charity. Look what Jesus said about it being easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven—then what hope have the catholics got? Look at the way it tries to interfere with politics, while the bible said that we should render to Caesar those things that are Caesar's and to God those that are God's. Their priests are still taking people's confessions while the bible says this is unnecessary."

"I have not much further to go and I am content to stay a little longer until I have reached a state of mind that will be not moved at the thought of death, but you young man—you must find your own path through the wood. You may choose the one of religious conformism or you may look for your own religion. Never forget though that while you are ignorant of life after death you must pursue two things, happiness and achievement."

NICK SHANNON

HOW FRIGHTENING

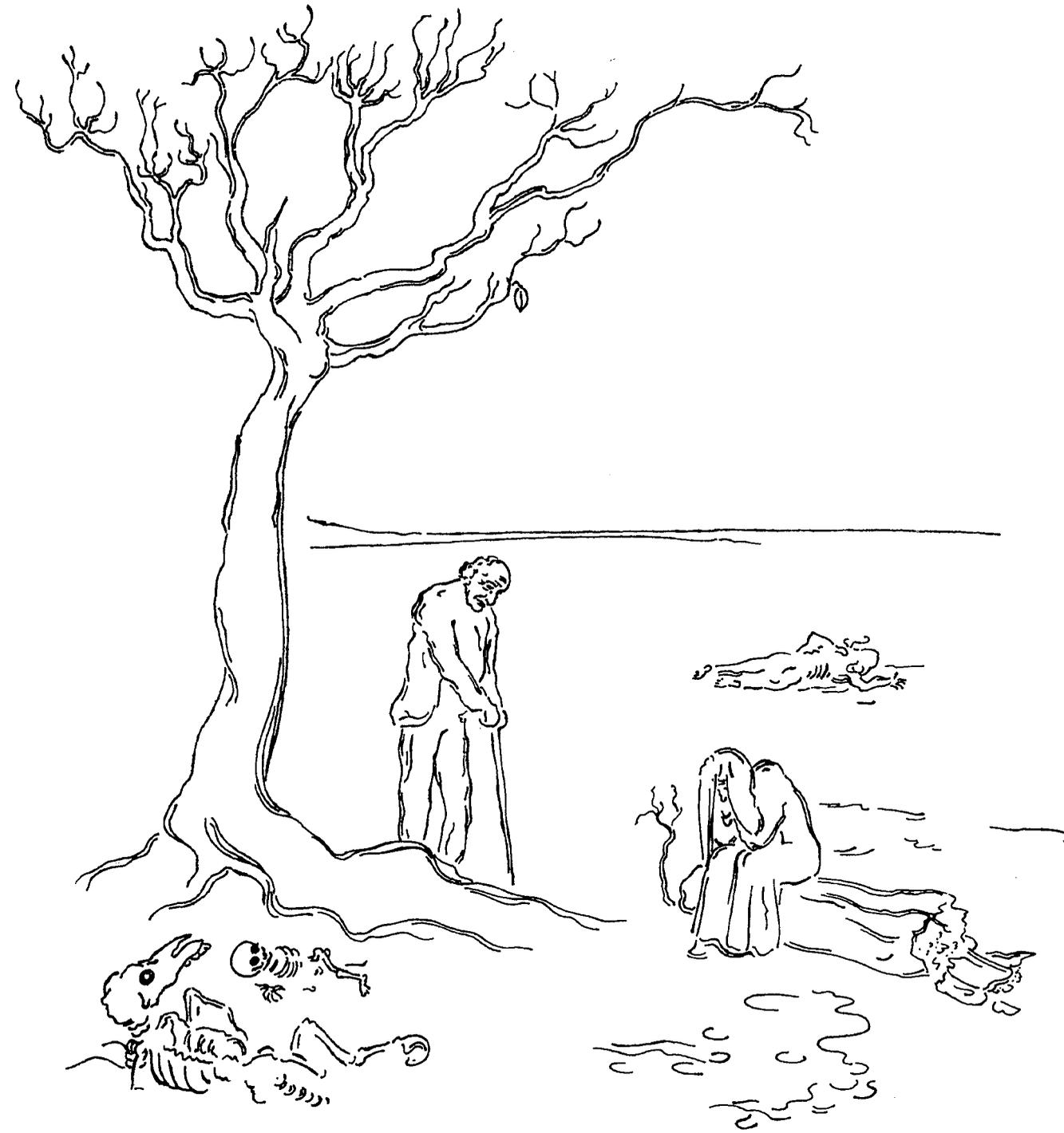
Like a mountain,
From out of the mist,
My life appears before me.
How strange it must feel,
To be on the top,
Looking back down,
On me trudging up.
How horrible it must feel,
To be on the top,
And to know,
There's no more climbing.
How sad it must feel,
To see those you love on top,
And to know,
It's the slow path down for them.

Traffic roars past,
Faces come and go,
As people move on.
Weeds grow from the cracks in the
pavement.

A dog on a lead,
Winces at every lorry that thunders by.
Lights gleam in the growing dark,
The air is colder.
A bird flies unnoticed,
Across the darkening sky.
You arrive back at your new,
Centrally heated home.
Heave your shopping on the table,
With a sigh.
Put the kettle on.
Straighten your hair in the mirror,
Soundlessly you sip your tea.
Draw the curtains.
The newsreader always looks the same.

Franco Dies,
The world knows.
In an old derelict,
On a piece of waste ground,
In the centre of town,
When the children,
With dirty hands and faces,
Leave for the lights.
An old man sits in silence.
He's seen the cars on the road,
Every day.
And the faces.
He's watched with joy,
The weeds growing in the cracks in the
pavement.
He's been saddened by the frightened dogs,
With bewildered eyes and bony backs.
He's lived with the flashing lights,
And noticed the one nesting bird.
You switch the telly off.
The old man lies down and dies.
That night you make love,
Between clean,
White sheets.
Tomorrow it's yesterday again.
How frightening it must feel,
To know one day,
You'll reach the top.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY



SUCCESSION FAILS



Printed by
E. N. HILLIER & SONS LTD
MARKET HILL
BUCKINGHAM