

# OBITUARY

## *Rex Wailes*

Reginald (Rex) Wailes, OBE, FSA, FFSA, FIMechE, died in January 1986, aged 84, after being ill for some time. He was a remarkable character in many ways, combining the unusual qualities of a practical and practising engineer with a keen and perceptive artistic appreciation. Even at school he showed an interest in history, winning a school history prize.

After training and apprenticeship he entered his father's engineering firm in the Euston Road. During the war, he adapted its equipment for the production of precision tools for the Government and finally became Manager. He was closely associated with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Newcomen Society, of which he became President.

From 1963 to 1971 he served as consultant to the first Industrial Monument Survey spon-

sored by the Council for British Archaeology — a most important and exacting task for which he was awarded the OBE in 1971. He also had close links with the SPAB, for whom he published a source book of Windmills and Watermills. His best-known work, for which he will be principally remembered, was *The English Windmill*, published in 1954. His wide historical and practical knowledge in this field took him far and wide, and he actually designed and supervised the construction and erection of a windmill for Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

He was a member of the Bucks Archaeological Society for many years and his advice was always available concerning windmills and watermills in the county. He was elected a Vice-President and was a regular attender at our meetings.

His wife, Enid (née Berridge) survives him, and through her his artistic appreciation was nurtured and sharpened. Her father ran the Wigmore Hall (where I was often privileged to hear music I could never otherwise have enjoyed, from the Director's seats!). Enid was herself a talented violinist. One of Rex's great friends was Tom Hennell, the artist, and he had a collection of his paintings—many of which, needless to say, were of windmills.

So passed a notable character who will be sadly missed and gratefully remembered in a number of fields, but above all, as a man.

E.C.R.

*Mrs Kate White*

Kate White was a great Aylesbury personality. Starting as a junior in Aylesbury Borough offices, she was elected to that council

in 1945 and was Mayor 1951–53. At that time she and her husband were managers of the King's Head. A number of years in the printing industry were followed by an appointment as Appeals Secretary of a national charity (Spina Bifida). She was a keen and informed member of this Society.

E.V.

Other losses to the Society during 1986 were occasioned by the deaths of Mr E. Muir-Smith, Mr D. E. North and Mr Alan Ruse who, for many years, was a regular attender at the Outings. Lady (Evelyn) Pauncefort-Duncombe of Great Brickhill died on 31 May not long before her ninetieth birthday; although not an active member she always took a lively interest in the Society for the near sixty years that she was a member. She had resigned as a member a year before her death.