SUBSTANTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Flat 2, 45a Cleveland Street, London W1.

26th October, 1978.

Dear Sir,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Friendship Club members who have contributed so generously to our leaving presents and hope that everyone will understand that it is not possible to write to so many individual letters.

Yours sincerely,

F. ELIZABETH SWORDE.
DOUGLAS CORBIE.
WILLIAM MCGAUGHLIN.

British Council,
Buenos Aires 832,
Casella 154-D,
Santiago, Chile.

30th July 1978.

Dear Sir,

I would be grateful for the chance to add something to the excellent obituary of Professor G. E. Bean, which appeared in your May 1978 number.

While passing through the Classics side (1948-53), I can dimly recall, hearing or seeing the name of Bean, as of some departed and misty Titan. It was to remember Burns, he entered the British Council, and by great good luck for a classicist first found myself in London at the time where the Titans of that era had kept an unforgettable outline. Discovering a Paulhus, he

SHOTTES (1866-70), On the October 12th, 1977, on Kibbutz Misgav David, Israel, Paul Shottis to Carol, his daughter. 

DEATHS

ANDREWS (1915-17). In June 1976, Dudley Robert Weeden Andrews, aged 76.


OBITUARY

BEAN. We regret to record the death on December 7th, 1977, of George Ewart Bean, who taught Greek to the top classical eighth forms from 1926 to 1943. He was at St. Paul's as a boy from 1907 to 1910, when he was awarded a Shackend Scholarships to both Cambridge, where he was a student, and Rannoch Scholarship for Classics. He graduated with a first class in Part I of the Classical Tripos and a third in Part II. When early in 1926 Mr. C. G. Botting fell ill, and later retired, Bean took over his work. The following account of his 25 years of teaching describes what it was like to be under him:

In the nineteen-thirties the Classical Upper and Middle Eighths had works of Latin and Greek. The legendary Leslie Matthews, who was unimpeachable, was the Latinist; George Bean, Old Pauline, protective, conservative, a gentle giant, was the Hellenist.

Most of us arrived in the M.VIII with out being tennis players, or in the break had not left the corner easily although the grave and enormous strides of a framed shaped legs (1933-34), hot, bewigged and apparently carrying a toy brown attached case.

Somehow you could not imagine his teaching being of a formal kind. It was not that he was obscure, or inhabited too rarified an atmosphere; rather too polite and too nice for the very young, indeed, the extreme orthodoxy and children's love of the Classical Eights indulged in gentle and affectionate ragging of him occasionally. But a waste-paper basket, carefully balanced between the desk and a wall, initially converted him into "The Man in the Wicker Chair," and did not reduce the stately and mild rebuke: "I say, friend, have a care there". One was always called "friend" when chided, I remember, but nothing at all at other times.

He was the essence of fine scholarship, sanity and soundness and the perfect foil in the two-man museum of the University's brilliance, brilliance, abashed-minded inconsequentials and embittered doomsayers. At the end of his, I had often welcomed 12.50 on a Wednesday. A quiet tap at the door, a head poked round just below lintel level, an enquiring look at Leslie, who was probably declaiming with relish a footnote in German from his text of Herace, and disregarding a peppercorn on the page at the same time, and we were off on another intensive week of Greek prose and verse writing, prepared and unseen translation, interspersed with carefully dictated notes on, say, "Matriarchy versus Patriarchy in Athens" and "Analytical speculations on the origins of the Athenian Festival of the Great Gods" and excursions into the technicalities of Goodwin's "Morning Rites".

Forty years later I remember George Bean with grateful affection.

About the end of 1943 the British Council claimed him for work in Turkey where he began a career which brought him the international renumeration on which this country is so often based. This is printed below right:

Professor George Ewart Bean, who died on December 7th, 1977, at the age of 75, was a scholar of a quarter of a century a familiar figure to the villagers of a small village in Asia Minor, among whom he has become almost a legend. After the war, when he held the Cambridge and the Rannoch Scholarship he did not return to his old school, St. Paul's, to teach scholarship Greek. But the war took him to Turkey, in charge of the school's head of classics in Istanbul University; and from that time until his death he spent a large part of his travels from village to village in Asia Minor discovering ancient sites, and identifying ancient sites.

He was a kind and thoughtful man, and made a great contribution to the study of Greece and Rome.

COLLET. The Rev. Joseph Pen Collet, who died on January 25th, 1978, was a minister at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1915 with a 3rd Class in the Theological Tripos. He was a very learned man, and after serving a curacy at St. John's, Fitzroy Square and from 1922 to 1935 as Chaplain of St. John's, Westminster, he moved to Scotland as Rector of All Saints, Inverary, with Furnace (1937-52) and Vicar of Cumber