

## CORRESPONDENCE

26th October, 1978.

Dear Sir,

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

Yours sincerely,

F. ELIZABETH SWORDER.  
DOROTHY CORBETT.  
WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN.

British Council,  
Eliodoro Yanez 832,  
Casilla 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. Like him, I entered the British Council, and by great good luck for a classicist first found myself in Istanbul, where the Titan soon assumed a firm and unforgettable outline. Discovering a Pauline, he

lost no time in providing me with an excellent Christmas dinner, and during my two years in Istanbul I had plenty of other opportunities to see his kindness and deep scholarship in action. When much later on I managed to get myself back to Turkey, and had time to travel the sites where he worked, I saw another side to his personality, which will never be forgotten, as long as that most long-memoried of men, the Turkish peasant, lives and works among the temples of Perge and Side, the theatres and columns of Selge, Aspendos and Termessos. George Bean was a deeply generous man, who loved and was loved by poor farmers, struggling day-labourers who helped him to excavate, map and preserve, and by the faithful wardens of small museums — some of them merely guardians set to watch over remote and rarely visited sites. Visit any of the places mentioned in his delightful books, and say you are a friend of "Uzun boylu Profesör Bean", and you have a village full of friends. In a period when Turkey's archaeological treasures were often endangered, and many lost abroad, George Bean stood forth as a scholar whose aims were instinctively understood, to find, describe and keep that wonderful heritage, for the benefit of all who are fortunate enough to visit it, and for the well-deserved material benefit of the noble and generous Turkish people to whom it has descended.

Your faithfully,

BILL CAMPBELL.

## 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 1916 to 1921 when he went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a Shoolbred Scholarship and in 1923 a John Stewart of 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 appreciation by F. G. Comings describes what it was like to be under him:

In the nineteen-thirties the Classical Upper and Middle Eighths had alternate weeks of Latin and Greek. The legendary Leslie Mathews, Old Pauline, unconventional, uninhibited, was the Latinist; George Bean, Old Pauline, predictable, conservative, a gentle giant, was the Hellenist.

Most of us arrived in the M.VIII without having met George before, unless we were tennis players, or in the break had not left the corridor clear enough for the grave and enormous strides of a frame shaped like an outsize robot, begowned and apparently carrying a toy brown attaché case.

Somehow you could not imagine his teaching below 8th Form level. It was not that he was obscure, or inhabited too rarefied an atmosphere, or was unfriendly or unapproachable. He was the very reverse of all these things. But he was almost too rational, too polite and too nice for the very young. Indeed, the more irreverent and childish of us in the Classical Eighths indulged in gentle and affectionate ragging of him occasionally, even to practical jokes. But a waste-paper basket, carefully balanced over the quarter-open door, which momentarily converted him into "The Man in the Wicker Mask", brought forth nothing more than 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 team. After a week of Leslie's ebullience, brilliance, absent-minded inconsequentiality and rumbustious humour, you 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 Horace, and disgorging a peppermint on to 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", snapshots of classical sites, and excursions into the technicalities of Goodwin's "Moods and Tenses".

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 new life and career which brought him the international reputation on which *The Times* obituary which is printed below rightly concentrates:

Professor George Ewart Bean, who died on December 7, aged 74, was for over a quarter of a century a familiar figure to the villagers of Western and Southern Asia Minor, among whom he has become almost a legend. After graduating from Cambridge he had returned to his old school, St. Paul's, to teach scholarship Greek. But the war took him to Turkey; in 1946 he became head of classics in Istanbul University; and from that time until his retirement in 1971 he spent a large part of his vacations travelling from village to village in Asia Minor discovering ancient remains, recording the many hundreds of Greek inscriptions that he found, and identifying ancient sites.

Being broad in the shoulder and almost six foot six in height, he did not travel easily in Turkey and often found the physical conditions too constricting for what he called "a full-grown man". But his impressive presence and command of Turkish spoken in a deep bass voice rendered him unforgettable. Those who had the good fortune to travel with him learned how to win the confidence of villagers and officials,

and those who follow in his steps find their stature enhanced if they can claim acquaintance with him. He was in every sense a big man. He was also a keen sportsman who had played doubles at Wimbledon for some years and captained Surrey at badminton. <sup>for 10 years</sup>

Bean's most lasting scholarly work consists of the monographs in which he published the Greek inscriptions of Side, of Lycia and (with T. B. Mitford) Cilicia for the Austrian Academy; his *Rhodian Peraea* (with P. M. Fraser); numerous chapters; articles in learned journals; topographical entries in reference works; and the re-editing of the *Classical Map of Asia Minor* (on a revision of which he was working in Ankara last month). But he will be most widely remembered for the authoritative and humane archaeological guide-books that, with his wife Jane at his shoulder, he completed in the last dozen years or so: *Aegean Turkey*, *Turkey's Southern Shore*, *Turkey beyond the Maeander*, and (due to appear next spring) *Lycian Turkey*.

BELYAVIN. We regret to record that Professor George Belyavin died early in March 1978. The following notice was published in the *Dorking Advertiser* on March 24th.

University Professor, George Belyavin, from Westcott, died at the beginning of this month after a short illness. He was 59.

He was head of the bacteriology department at University College, London, specialising in work on the influenza virus.

He was appointed to this position in 1960 and at about the same time he and his family moved to their home in Westcott Road.

Professor Belyavin trained at King's College, London, and decided at an early stage to specialise in microbiology.

Professor Belyavin was greatly involved with the community and one of his special interests was his voluntary work as scientific adviser to Surrey on home defence.

He leaves a wife, Cecilia, three sons and a daughter.

CHAMBERS. We regret to record that W. F. Austin Chambers died on January 6th, 1978. He had served in the 1914-18 war with the King's Royal Rifle Corps and in 1939-45 war with the Royal Air Force. At school he was in the 1st XV (1911-13) as fly-half. In the early 1920's he was a valuable member of the Old Pauline Football Club's 1st XV, usually as a fast wing three-quarter.

COLLET. The Rev. Joseph Penn Collet, who died on January 25th, 1978, was at school from 1905 to 1911; in 1912 he went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1915 with a 3rd Class in the Theological Tripos, and was ordained in 1916. After serving a curacy at St. John's, Fitzroy Square, and from 1922 to 1935 as Chaplain of St. Barnabas House of Charity, Soho, he moved to Scotland as Rector of All Saints', Inverary, with Furnace (1937-52) and Vicar of Cubert