



SIR JOHN TROUTBECK

G.B.E., K.C.M.G.



Numerous friends in this country, in Iraq and wheresoever he served will have heard with sorrow of the death of Sir John Troutbeck on 28th September, 1971, at the age of 77. He had much first-hand experience of the Middle East for he served as Head of the British Middle East Office, Cairo, 1947–50, and his last diplomatic post was that of H.M. Ambassador to Iraq to which he was appointed in 1951 until his retirement in 1954.

We extend our deep sense of sympathy to his widow Lady Troutbeck who was his constant support and happy companion for 47 years; we remember her as a gracious hostess in Baghdad and render thanks for this portrait which reflects immediately some of the happy characteristics that endeared him to us: his transparent honesty, gentle sense of humour and quiet shrewdness. His staff in Baghdad admired his calm and his profound humility, and were inspired by him to a particular loyalty, as we have been told in a charming letter to *The Times* under the initials R.H. who served under him and was made, like others, to feel himself one of the family. We remember him also for his old-world gentle courtesy behind a presence that made him an impressive representative of his country.

Sir John was a man dedicated to service and appropriately was chairman of the "Save the Children Fund" from 1956–62. The British School of Archaeology in Iraq was fortunate in attracting him to serve first as Chairman, 1955–65, after the death of Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, and subsequently as President, 1966–70, following the retirement of his predecessor in that office, Lord Salter. In fifteen years he rarely missed a meeting of Council: during all that time he helped transact its business with the self-effacing modesty that we came to expect of him.

Troutbeck was deeply interested in history; widely read and cultivated, he enjoyed his visits to the archaeological sites in Iraq and spent a memorable day at Nimrud in 1952 shortly after we had excavated two glorious chryselephantine plaques from the bottom of a well. A happy luncheon which we gave him and Lady Troutbeck on that occasion was followed by a gala dinner at which he was the host in Mosul. As part of the *ancien régime* he was deeply distressed by subsequent events and suffered the loss of many Iraqi friends.

We mourn him as a man and as a great public servant, a shining example of one who invariably put the interests of others before his own and yet attained high office through the sheer weight of his ability.

M. E. L. M.