

From 1967 to 1970, Tsereteli was Vice-President of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, and he was recognized for many years as the country's leading spokesman on Orientalist matters.

In spite of his extremely busy life as a teacher, counsellor, and administrator, Tsereteli was a productive and meticulously careful scholar, whose works are available in several British collections. He always showed the greatest originality in his choice of theme, being never content to parrot the work of others. Particularly important are his substantial treatise on the Arabic dialects of Central Asia; his indispensable catalogue of the Urartian inscriptions in the Georgian State Museum; and his epoch-making research on the Armazi (Iranian-Aramaic) inscriptions found in Mtskheta. Before his untimely death, Giorgi Tsereteli had returned to one of his favourite fields of study, that of Georgia's own national epic, Rustaveli's *Knight in the panther skin*. Earlier he took part in an expedition to Jerusalem, to rediscover the fresco portrait of Rustaveli at the Cross Monastery, which had been painted over. He recently completed a study on metre and rhythm in the *Vepkhis tqaosani* which is said to provide a new perspective for Georgian medieval poetry.

Giorgi Tsereteli married an English lady, Dora, and they adopted a little Georgian girl.

D. M. LANG.

MR. W. E. D. ALLEN

William Edward David Allen, O.B.E., F.S.A., a member of our Council from 1969 until 1973, died in Dublin on 18 September, 1973, at the age of 72. One of the pioneer figures in Caucasian historical studies in this country, he provided a link with the great Baddeley, and with Sir Oliver Wardrop. Like them, he was not an Orientalist by profession, but a man of affairs and a notable traveller. He had a great gift of friendship, and used his considerable private resources to build up a fine library at his Irish home in Cappagh, and to encourage younger scholars less fortunately placed than he.

It is hard to believe that Allen found time to be Chairman of an important advertising firm, that of David Allen and Sons, for almost half a century. He was a Member of Parliament from 1929 to 1931, then an army officer in Ethiopia during World War II, later still, from 1945 to 1949, Information Counsellor at the British Embassy in Ankara.

His literary output began precociously at the age of 18, with *The Turks in Europe* (1919). The Caucasus was his great love, a love strengthened by a visit to Soviet Georgia in 1926. This trip enabled him to complete his classic *History of the Georgian people* (1932), which has recently been reprinted. From 1935 to 1937, Allen was the main organizer of the Georgian Historical Society, whose valuable journal, *Georgica*, he edited jointly with the late Andro Gugushvili.

In collaboration with the late Paul Muratoff, Allen produced a substantive work on the Russo-Turkish campaigns of the nineteenth century, under the title *Caucasian battlefields* (1953). Another useful work was his *Russian embassies to the Georgian kings* (1970), edited and translated from Russian sources jointly with Anthony Mango; this deals to a great extent with the period of Boris Godunov. Less generally esteemed, but quite stimulating, was his essay, *Problems of Turkish power in the sixteenth century* (1963).

Four times married, Allen was a most sociable man. He was a delightful conversationalist, once one got attuned to his deliberately bumbling style of utterance, which spoils his effectiveness as a speaker. He had a genuine Irish sense of humour. He revisited Georgia in 1966 for the jubilee of Rustaveli, then in 1967, and finally, in 1971, as described in Michael Pereira's travel book, *Across the Caucasus*. He even undertook a Siberian journey to Lake Baikal in 1967, braving all the rigours of Intourist in the process. He will be sadly missed, for his generosity, his learning, and his complete absence of humbug and cant.

D. M. LANG.