

OBITUARY

HARRY LAWRENCE BRADFER-LAWRENCE was Treasurer of this Society from 1944 to 1964. He was born on 1st April 1887, and died on 19th October 1965. He started his successful career as a land-agent in Norfolk, being responsible for the management of many of the largest estates. In the First World War he was commissioned in the R.N.V.R. and was appointed secretary to Vice-Admiral F. W. Kennedy. At the end of the war he returned to his practice as a land-agent. In 1935, while still retaining considerable interest in Norfolk, he moved to Yorkshire as land-agent to Sir William Aykroyd, Baronet, and as Managing Director of Hammond's Bradford brewery. Under his skill and business ability the brewery greatly expanded from owning 200 tied houses to over 1,000. He became Chairman and Managing Director in 1942; in 1960 Hammonds formed the greater partner in a large merger under the name of United Breweries Limited, of which he became Chairman until 1962.

He was elected a Fellow in 1924 and succeeded the late Robert Holland Martin as Treasurer in 1944. The Society's finances were then causing some alarm, but Bradfer-Lawrence, who introduced the covenant system, soon restored confidence in the Society's satisfactory survival. At a later date he also did a great deal of work on the recovery of income tax on covenanted subscriptions. The fact that the Society's affairs were in a stable condition when he retired is a testimony to his skill and devotion.

Bradfer-Lawrence was a shrewd antiquary and a collector with flair and judgement, having a good eye not only for his great collection of charters, seals, and books, but also for furniture and china and early English water-colours; he was a member of the Roxburghe Club. Fellows of the Society will, however, chiefly remember him for his genial personality, hospitality, and readiness to help. He spared no trouble on the behalf of two of our past Presidents, Sir Charles Peers and Sir Alfred Clapham, during serious illnesses. He visited the Society once a week and everyone here looked forward to these occasions. Few Fellows have given longer or more devoted service and his memory will be held in high regard by those of us who knew him.