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# Gaytonian

Vol. 36. No.1.  
December 1965.

Magazine of the  
Harrow County School  
for Boys,  
Gayton Road,  
Harrow.



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POEM

ITINERANT GAZE  
STOPS.  
OVAL FRAMED VIEW  
NARRATES  
ELOQUENT.

I, MERE WRITER,  
RELUCTANTLY MUTE  
INWARDLY BURST  
TO RELATE  
A MITE.

TO SHARE  
YOU MUST LOOK TOO.

PLEASE.

Paul Chernett





## DR. A.R. Simpson. 1946-1965

In July 1965 the 'Harrow Observer', paying a retirement tribute to Dr. Simpson, published an article with him as the subject under the title of its series, 'Personality'. There is irony in the thought that the local newspaper should discover only in 1965 that Dr. Simpson was a 'personality', when Harrow County discovered it as early as 1946, when he became its Head Master.

The impact of his presence was immediate and continuous, more vividly to be remembered than the details of his previous career, published in the School Magazine of December 1946, which exemplified his many-sidedness by his degrees (M.A., Edinburgh, with Honours in Classics; B.A., London, with First Class Honours in Classics and the award of the Arthur Platt Research Scholarship; Ph.D., London, for research into Greek education), his prowess in sport (fourteen cricket caps for Scotland as a wicket-keeper of world class), and his long experience in schools (the Bell-Baxter School, Galashiels Academy, the Harris Academy in Dundee, and Arbroath High School, at the last of which he had been Rector from 1939 until 1946). The list of his previous schools, remote in name and in place, may have tempted those with a sense of history and geography to wonder what effect a Scotsman would now have on a school hitherto shaped by an Englishman and then by a Welshman.

When the awareness of his past had faded, there was still awareness of a man of character, with prodigious powers of thought and of speech, who seemed almost by accident to have chosen the platform rather than the pulpit; not that his powers were confined to the platform, for, as an after-dinner speaker, he could invent, almost from nowhere, an apposite and humorous theme and surround it with ingenious and witty improvisations. It soon became apparent that here also was a man of principle, which he could formulate clearly, expound memorably and apply vigorously. The qualities which he prescribed for others, of being 'firm, fair, friendly', he himself strove fully to exemplify, but, like a true Scotsman, he was prepared to defend principle strongly and, if need be, to prove himself 'a bonny fighter'. He was prompt to assume full responsibility and the utmost obligations of leadership, claiming proudly for himself as signs of merit the titles 'authoritarian' and 'disciplinarian'.

The consistency of his character and of his principles was early recorded in items of news and pronouncements which foreshadow much of the future. In 1965 many thoughts will be provoked by the following items: (i) School Magazine, December 1946: 'the Head Master has announced that he may from time to time inspect boys entering Assembly, and has referred to the untidiness of boys' hair', (ii) School Magazine, December 1949: 'the response to this term's fiat that school uniform be again obligatory has been most gratifying; we thank parents and boys for their co-operation, often at much sacrifice in this very important matter of dress and in its implicit deepening of our sense of corporate unity'. He always wanted the School to look as good in the public eye as he intended it to be in work and in conduct.

He was clear about the relationship which should exist between boys and parents, Masters and Old Boys. On Speech Day, 1948, he said that 'the Parents' Union is as necessary to the School as the presence of the boys themselves; we know as masters and parents that we must know the boy in the parent and the parent in the boy', and, in the School Magazine of July 1949, he spoke of the triangularity of pupil, parent and Old Boy in our full being as



a school, each of these essential to the other, reciprocally interfused for the common strength and good of our society'. The philosophical bent of his mind was shown when he told Parents in 1950, 'the paradox of democratic education is that its essence is the authoritarian element. The traditional nature of English education, unlike the much more uniform and generalised Scottish, is distinctly and rightly bipartite, consisting of the broad yet intensive foundations of the *Middle and Lower School on the one hand, and of the definitely specialised Sixth on the other*', and when, on Speech Day, 1947, he spoke of his fear for the impairment of the vital elements of profundity of scholarship, careful thought, spiritual and eternal values as opposed to the superficial, the mundane, the transitory'. He never hesitated to warn boys of dangerous trends which he discerned in modern life, e.g. on Speech Day, 1948, when he told them that 'the present tendency to replace sound learning by free, self-chosen interest, work by ease, modesty by forwardness, and earnestness by frivolity, is clearly the downward path to individual and national ruin.

Such pronouncements, characteristic in the amplitude of their utterance, would be easy to duplicate from more recent times, and show the continuity of his conception of education, based on permanent principles which he defined as 'an intensity of purpose and endeavour, the Christian ethic, tolerance and good humour'. These principles, expressed constantly over nineteen years, are constantly illustrated by actions. Whenever he felt that a change was necessary, he did not hesitate to make it; when he was Chairman of the Middlesex Cadet Conference from 1954 to 1957, all the schools administered by this important body benefited considerably from his ability as Chairman and from the changes which he found it necessary to make in aspects of administrative procedure.

The changes which he made internally to the School, inevitably many in such length of service, may be summed up in two phases, the first clearly defined by the publication of the Golden Jubilee Book in 1961, a landmark in the history of the School as in the story of his Headship. He himself sums up the period 1946 - 1961 as one of development of work and service, with the roll soaring ever higher because of the famous trio of the 'bulge' of the birth-rate in 1947, the 'swing' towards specialised study of the sciences, still steadily increasing, and the general 'trend' in any case for more pupils everywhere to stay longer and longer at school, with the steady growth of the Scholarship Sixth; with the introduction of engineering, Spanish, Greek and other subjects into the curriculum; with the expansion of Modern subjects and the rapid increase of school clubs and societies, with the strengthening of the Scout Group, founded in 1911; with the foundation and immense progress of the CCF (both due to his unflagging interest, enthusiasm and support); with the staunch co-operation of the Parents' Union and the Old Gaytonians, and with the foundation of the Harrow Collegiate for Boys.

The second phase, much shorter but equally intense, ends, all too untimely, with 1965, and here, as in 1961 and always, he repeats his gratitude to 'a truly splendid staff of masters, with the highest conceivable sense of pure vocation'. Some of the high hopes which he had in 1961 are still, to his keen disappointment, unfulfilled, e.g. the new block to house an Applied Science Laboratory and much else; the Scout Group Headquarters on the Peterborough Field site, and the Jubilee Sports Pavilion on the Watford Road playing fields. Much, however, of the achievement of 1961 has been surpassed by the achievement which culminates in 1965, and he finds a proper pride in the clear advancement of Harrow County to top academic rank among those who seek places in Oxford and Cambridge Universities, shown by its last year's total of eight Awards (five Open Scholarships and three Exhibitions) and promising even better results for the end of this year. The number of pupils entered for G.C.E. Examinations has been, in 1965, 213 for A level, and 358 for



O level. In particular, he has found a way to put into practice his belief, quoted earlier in 1948, in the role and importance of Parents; the House Section system which he designed is intended 'to prevent the submergence of the individual in the mass and to break down the stratification of age, and also to reach the enormous mass of good will in parents waiting to be tapped'.

To the end of his last day in office he was still looking to the future, and in age he was still capable of remaining to shape the future, but Mrs. Simpson's bad health, which in recent years had robbed the School of the presence of one of its shrewdest observers, forced him, unselfishly, to concentrate his devotion on his wife. He knew that he was leaving behind problems which he would have loved to tackle, the change of Education Authority from Middlesex to Harrow and the shadow of Comprehensive education falling again as in 1946, but his choice was logically and unhesitatingly made. He turns as energetically to a programme for retirement as he faced any problems in the past. The task which he leaves behind is, as defined by himself, 'to attract and to foster high intellect, and to discountenance the frivolous and the superficial', but he has the satisfaction of knowing that he leaves the School at the peak of its achievement, a peak even higher than in 1961, when the Chairman of the Education Committee called Harrow County 'the finest boys' grammar school in the whole of Middlesex'. In leaving Harrow County as (his favourite description) 'a great school', he must now be awarded by all the title of 'a great Head Master'.

To Dr. Simpson and to Mrs. Simpson the School wishes long life, good health and great happiness in a retirement worthy of their services to the School.

## Mr. Attridge

Mr. R.T. Attridge retired in July after 36 years in the School, the last six as Senior Modern Languages Master. He had a truly phenomenal skill with languages and a passionate interest in semantics: there seemed to be few European tongues that he had not mastered and he taught several at evening classes as well as teaching German, French and Spanish at school.

He was keen on archaeology and spent hours tramping the Downs in search of Roman villas. He was blessed with remarkably good health and scarcely ever lost a day through illness: he was at school in the morning before most people had breakfasted and his elastic step and upright carriage belied his years. For many years he taught the essential art of life-saving to school swimmers: he caused great amusement in the Bath with his famous imitation of a porpoise -- he would slide easily into the water at one end and reappear a minute later at the other just before a search party was despatched to look for him.

He spent hours in the painstaking work of cataloguing his beloved library, to which he devoted an enormous amount of his free time: the story will no doubt one day be told of his struggle with the planners when the new library was built in 1953.

In the Common Room he was the outstanding exponent at the art of solving the "Times" crossword: he appeared to need only the time it took him to fill in the answers. If he seemed unduly upright and confident on some Wednesdays when taking Assembly, it was perhaps with the knowledge of the puzzle already done.

Educated at Latymer Upper School, Mr. Attridge was a Scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge. After service in the Inns of Court Rifles and the R.A.F., he taught at Haileybury, Manchester Grammar and Yeovil Grammar Schools. He came to Harrow as Senior German Master in 1929, teaching German and Spanish. As Welldon Housemaster or Duty Master his imposing face bristling with fierce kindness will long be missed: we wish him and Mrs. Attridge a long and happy retirement. We have no doubt that it will be an energetic one.



## Mr. King

Mr. R.S. King also retired in July and again the word seems a misnomer. It is impossible to imagine him sitting down and quietly contemplating the future from an armchair: his zest for living will surely be driving him with characteristic enthusiasm into some new occupation. It is difficult, too, to contemplate the School without him; he was after all almost built in with the bricks, being School Captain, Preston House Captain and the first School Rugby Football Captain in 1922/3. He spent four years at King's College, London, during which time he managed not only to gain his B.Sc. degree but to captain the College Boat Club and become President of the University Boat Club, winning his University Colours for Rowing. In his spare time he was A.S.M. of the 4th Harrow Scout Troop: later in life he was a Flying Officer in the School's Air Training Squadron throughout the War years.

After nine years at Lord Williams's School, Thame, he returned to Gayton Road in 1937 and became Head of Applied Maths in 1955, taking over the Maths Department from Mr. Duke in 1959. His enormous energies found further outlet in his interest in Athletics and Rugby, for he held important posts in County Athletics and he refereed Rugby until within sight of retirement. With Mr. Webb he took parties of boys abroad with the School Travel Club, Switzerland being a special favourite.

All scientists going to a university for the last ten years have passed through his hands and benefited from his advice as University Careers Master. For many years, too, he was a Chief Examiner in Mathematics for the London University G.C.E. and his experience here was responsible for his being seconded to Ghana last year in order to help them with running their examination system.

The annual magical appearance of the Time-table was the result of his work since 1954: it was an education in itself to see his brain at work performing a task that a famous electronics firm once told him could not be done by a computer. Since he took over as Housemaster, Preston House seems to have had an unbroken sequence of successes. The reason is not hard to find, perhaps. Mr. King was in so many ways devoted to Harrow County and to its pupils. He guarded its traditions zealously and fought tenaciously for the rights and privileges that he felt the Sixth Form deserved. He had the supreme gift for a Schoolmaster of being able to regard boys as if they were human beings, and his unfailing courtesy and interest in their problems made him a well-loved figure throughout his long career. To countless Old Gaytonians at Sudbury and elsewhere he is "Reg" rather than "Killer" - a nickname that he was delighted to hear used about himself, perhaps because he knew how absurdly inappropriate it was.

As he cruises slowly round the world with Mrs. King, we extend our warm thanks to him for the inspiration of his personality, the delight of his effervescent sense of humour and the clarity of his teaching, and to them both our best wishes for a less hectic time in the years ahead.





J. Webb

## NEWS and NOTES

### STAFF

So many members of Staff left last year as well as the Headmaster and Messrs. Attridge and King that it is regrettably impossible to do full justice to them all as we would wish. A man's services to a school are so varied and so intangible that a full and deserving tribute is never possible. It is often not until later in life that the boys realise how much one man has influenced their way of thinking or their interest in music, for instance.

Mr. K.G. Cocks took a rather daring but much envied step when he uprooted his very hi-fi equipment and moved to Chichester to become Head of the Maths Department in the Girls' High School there. Mr. Cocks came to us from Headstone seven years ago.

Mr. R.R. Beauchamp is now a Lecturer in Biology at Uxbridge Technical College, so he will be able to maintain his deep interest in the Ruislip Horticultural Society, of which he is Secretary. It was he who was responsible for the publication of our contemporary, "Enquiry".

Mr. Robertson left in December after 6 years at the school, ending in a period as second English master.

There can have been few people here who did not benefit from his work. He was both Chairman of the Writers' and Artists' Club, and leader of arduous training in Scotland for the CCF. His classes were to be found roaming the corridors seizing people for interviews on advertising or writing poetry. He produced 'Oedipus Rex' and 'The Dumb Waiter' in the double bill to end all double bills. And if you missed all that, you probably remember the Farewell Debate that almost ended the Debating Society.

He sees teaching as a variety of creation - not the teacher's creation, but the pupil's. He wanted every boy to feel that he is an interesting per-

son to himself and others, and that he has something to say to other people.

He has gone to be Head of English at Abbey Wood, a comprehensive school in an area that has little tradition of literacy. If English survives at all there, it will be on its merits. Typically, he has hasn't chosen the easy way. He is pretty sure to succeed, though.

Mr. K.C. Evans left us to become Head of the History Department at Marshalswick Secondary Modern School, St. Albans. In his two years with us he made many friends among both Staff and boys by the sheer exuberance of his personality. Besides leading the Staff cricket team, he sang with typical Welsh fervour on many convivial occasions, including school concerts.

Mr. M.J. Shaw left after three years to go to Sir William Turner's School, Redcar, Yorks. The Mathematics Department will miss his many original contributions to mathematics teaching, especially his use of desk calculators. He was responsible, too, for the lively operation of the Junior Debating Society.

Mr. N.F. Hendley left the Spanish Department for a post at Wellingborough Grammar School. His infectious enthusiasm made him a popular member of the Common Room; his wife was responsible for the make-up for "Friar Bacon".

Although he was here for only two terms, Mr. J.W. Fox soon made his mark with the classes he taught and many had good reason to lament his departure to Salvatorian College, on his way back home to Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Service, where he is to take up a post as a producer. Mr. Fox managed to see more of these islands in his year here than many of us see in a lifetime: his special joy was to visit Hardy and Jane Austen country to trace the events recorded in his favourite novels.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Open Scholarships were won this year by:

S.R. Rose (English: Lincoln



College, Oxford); P.R. Kumpf (Chemistry: Worcester College, Oxford); A.R. Kraty (Oates and Stafford Scholarship, Modern Studies, Pembroke College, Oxford); A.D. Gilbert (Natural Sciences, Christ's College, Cambridge); D.T. Bartlett (Natural Sciences, Jesus College, Oxford).

Open Exhibitions were won by: J. Lewis (Harris Exhibition for Law, Classics, Downing College, Cambridge); D.K. Taylor (Natural Sciences, King's College, Cambridge); R.M. Bowley, (Natural Sciences, Clare College, Cambridge).

---

#### RALLY

Speech Day this year took the form of a House Section Rally, at which Report Books were issued to Parents, and a Prize Giving, at which Mr. J.W. Hatch, a Director of Lazard Bros., spoke and presented the prizes, and at which Dr. Simpson spoke feelingly about the doctrine of comprehensive education and its unsuitability for this School.

Preston House was as usual Cock House for 1964/5.

---

#### STAFF DINNER

A Staff Dinner was held in July by the members of the Common Room in honour of Messrs King and Attridge. We were pleased to welcome back on this occasion several former members of Staff, including Dr. Fishlock, now a Headmaster; Mr. Clarkson, back from Tasmania, and Mr. Webb, who retired in 1960 and who looked as fit and rubicund as ever.

---

#### WINE AND CHEESE

Wine and Cheese parties were held by the Parents' Union on July 7 in honour of Dr. and Mrs. Simpson, and on October 2, to welcome Mr. Avery and to make presentations to the two retiring members of Staff. Both functions were highly successful.

---

#### CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate A.J. Pryor, an Open Scholar in 1956, and late of

Downing College, Cambridge, on being placed top of the Class List in the examination for the Administrative Class of the Civil Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

Warm congratulations, too, to Capt. R.M. Millard on being awarded the Cadet Forces Medal after twelve years' hard service with the C.C.F.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations are offered also to C. Upton, R. Stevens and R. Wallace for winning prizes for essays on 'Why Bullfighting is Cruel', given by the International Council against Bullfighting.

\*\*\*\*\*

K. Abbot of IIIB, was runner-up in the Middlesex U-14 Boys' Singles Tennis Championship at Paddington in the Summer holidays.

---

#### MERIT AWARDS

These have been won this year by the following:

M. Cronin, D. Gillies,  
P. Flannery, R.D. Hackworth,  
A.R. Kraty, R. Locker,  
J. Lewis, B.R. Pollard,  
J. Smith, J. Scholfield,  
J. Orchard, J. Porter,  
R.L. Tebbenham, J.A. Haynes.

---

#### MAGAZINES

We offer our humble congratulations to our contemporary, "ENQUIRY", which was not only a most impressive record of a vast amount of interesting work presented in a readable fashion, but, which makes us even more envious, was able to pay for itself out of sales --- something that this journal has done only once in the last ten years.

The Editorial Committee would like to thank Mr. Melville Hardiment of the National Association of School Magazines for his helpful advice: any improvements in this issue may well have been inspired by him. We are also grateful to Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Rose for help with the typing, and to Mrs. Stafford, Mr. S.R. Keith, Mr. R. Buckley and Mr. P. Dresner for their many constructive suggestions, which we hope have added to your enjoyment.



We welcome the following new members of Staff:-

Mr. A. J. Bilby, B.Sc.  
(Head of Applied Mathematics)  
Mr. R. R. Tyler, M.A.  
(Head of German)  
Mr. C. I. Anderson, B.A.  
(English)  
Mr. J. F. Bunting, B.Sc.  
(Chemistry and Biology)  
Mr. T. J. Jones, B.A.  
(Classics)  
Mr. A. W. Wood, M.A.  
(History and Classics)  
Mr. K. T. Boucher, B.Sc.  
(Mathematics)  
Mr. G. T. Goodchild, B.Sc.  
(Mathematics)  
Herr T. Marquandt  
(German Assistant)  
M. A. Clement  
(French Assistant)  
Sr. M. Castrillo  
(Spanish Assistant)

---

Drawings in this issue are by  
P. Chernett, R. Elkan, S. Games,  
P. Gill, K. Green, R. Layzell,  
S. Leary, B. Lidington, N. Sharpe,  
A. Dry, A. Goldstein, S. Leary,  
S. King and J. Webb.

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The more observant among our readers may have noticed some changes in the lay-out of this issue. We welcome your comments on these and your suggestions for the future.

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#### TO OUR MUMS : GOD BLESS THEM !

It is high time that public tribute was paid to all the many mothers who serve the School so willingly, not only in ensuring that Johnny has a clean shirt every day, but by helping behind the scenes at so many of our school functions. Whenever any social occasion is organised there they are, making tea, selling tickets, washing up, making costumes, typing, painting, making-up, or selling jumble. Bless you, Mums; wherever should we be without you?

#### SOUND STUDIO

Sound reproduction at school plays and concerts now comes from a specially designed sound studio at the rear of the Medical Inspection Room. Designed by J. Porter and G. Leach, this enables sound effects to be synchronised with stage action much more effectively than in the past.

#### ST. NICHOLAS

We regret that space does not permit a review of the superb performance of Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicholas" last Christmas. It was an evening of many delights and fully repaid all the hard work of rehearsal.

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We are most grateful to our printers, IGA (Print) Ltd., for their kind tolerance and useful advice.

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#### GAYTONIAN

Advisory Editor : Mr. J. S. Golland  
Art Editor : Mr. A. N. Anderson  
Advertising : Mr. W. M. Bigham  
Editorial Committee:  
S. M. Anderson, A. Brown, S. D. Davis,  
G. Haines-Stiles, D. M. Jacobs,  
L. Lewis, A. D. Ross, G. G. Sandercock,  
K. Sohl.  
Cover Designs : P. Chernett, S. Davis







## Mr.J.R.Avery

Mr. J.R. Avery comes to us from Haberdashers' Aske's School at Elstree, where he had been Senior History Master for six years after nearly nine years at Bristol Grammar School. Educated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he is a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, but he returned to Bristol to take his Diploma in Education at Bristol University. During the War, Mr. Avery was in the R.A.F., being trained as a Navigator in Canada when the Peace came in 1945.

Although he is interested in many aspects of the teaching of history, such as the World History course he initiated at Haberdashers', and in local history and in archaeology, his main interest is in American studies: he is the schoolmaster representative on the committee of the British Association for American Studies, and in 1963 he toured the United States to study American Education travelling 16,000 miles in fifty days. He was most impressed with much that he saw on this visit.

The deeply-felt religious basis for his thinking has already been made clear in our morning services, and many pupils have found that his obvious determination to insist on the highest principles of behaviour is matched with a kindly interest in the individual's personal difficulties. We have been made aware, too, of the need for personal responsibility and for voluntary service to others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Parents' Union were able to meet Mr. and Mrs. Avery at the Wine and Cheese Party in October. Mrs. Avery is most interested in amateur dramatics, and several members of the Sixth Form saw her production of "A Doll's House", given a highly professional performance by the members of the Good Companions Dramatic Society, from John Keble Church at Mill Hill.

We extend to Mr. Avery and to his family our most sincere wishes for a happy and fruitful stay at Harrow County, confident in the knowledge that our high standards will be maintained in these exciting days of educational change.