

EDNA M. WADSWORTH

Edna Wadsworth, MBE, MA, died on 1985 March 28 at the age of 99. She had been living at Morden College, in Blackheath.

She was educated at Wycombe Abbey School and Manchester University from where she graduated with a second-class degree in Classics. Before joining the staff of the Society she held a number of teaching appointments, her last one being at a school in Blackheath, teaching mathematics.

She entered the service of the Society in 1923 as Clerk, with Miss K. Williams as Assistant Secretary. Although duties were shared her chief responsibility was the Library; but she was fully conversant with the rest of the duties, as she demonstrated during Miss Williams' illness.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 Miss Wadsworth was temporarily relieved of her duties on the understanding that she should seek Government (or similar) work; the Society would make up her salary. She returned to the Society, as Assistant Secretary, on 1942 August 1, after Miss Williams retired through ill-health.

It is difficult to imagine anyone who could have done so much, and done it as competently, as Miss Wadsworth – and, moreover, could have done it with such enthusiasm and obvious pleasure. She knew everything about the Society, rarely required to consult minutes or files and believed in doing things now. She made herself available to suit the officers, particularly on the Saturdays following meeting days – so that as much as possible of the 'post-agenda' from the meeting of the Council could be finished. For over three years – with only some part-time assistance – Miss Wadsworth ran the administrative work of the Society alone; and this included the work associated with the editing of papers, and the Library. It was a great privilege to work with such an enthusiastic, efficient and delightful person.

Miss Wadsworth retired from the post of Assistant Secretary on 1947 August 17; but the Council decided to create a separate post of Librarian, and she accepted the post on a part-time basis from 1948 January 4. She devoted herself to the heavy task of repairing the war-time arrears, and rearranged the Society's book collection introducing the Library of Congress classification system. She retired from this post at the end of 1954 – but returned a year or two later to give further help. At the 1955 Anniversary Meeting she was awarded a memento in recognition of her long and devoted service. She was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1955, for her services to the Society.

She was invited by the President to attend Ordinary Meetings of the Society, and was a regular attendant for several years. It is pleasurable to recall that she was a guest at the Society's first Anniversary Dinner for many years, held at University College, London, on 1980 February 8.

D.H.SADLER

THOMAS WILSON WORMELL

T.W.Wormell, who was elected a Fellow of the RAS on 1945 July 13, died in Cambridge at the age of 81 on 1985 January 3.