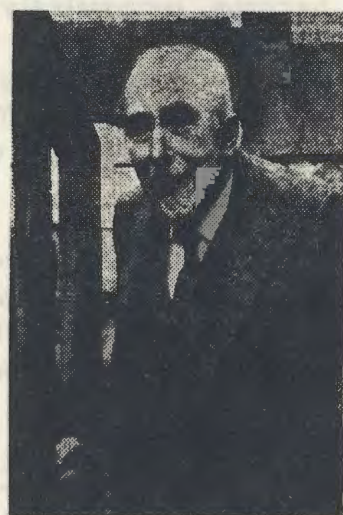


SWINNERTON - FRANK ARTHUR

FS.19

Frank Swinnerton was born on the 12th August 1884, the second son of Charles Swinnerton, a commercial copper-plate engraver, and Rose Cottam who, before marriage was a non-commercial artist. The following account of his career has been specially written for us by Mr. Swinnerton himself.



"My Mother and I were alone in the house when I was born. I gave a shout and went to sleep. When Arnold Bennett heard of this, he said, referring I suppose to my natural independence, "That explains a lot about you." We went to live with her Father, Richard Cottam, a commercial steel engraver, who had a big house in the Clerkenwell Road; and when I was eight I caught diphtheria. This was followed by two or three years of paralysis, and then by scarlet fever. We were very poor indeed, and moved to some rooms in the Hornsey Road, Holloway. My Father met with an old friend who invited us to live in his house in East Finchley, where my Mother acted as housekeeper and looked after a semi-imbecile old man who had been left in care of this friend, a solicitor. This arrangement did not work for long; and we moved to another house in East Finchley, where my father died on the eve of my fifteenth birthday.

Some months before this, I had become office boy in the London branch of a firm of Glasgow periodical publishers, Hay Nisbet & Co. I earned six shillings a week, subsequently raised to eight shillings; but as we needed more money I moved on to other jobs, being uncomfortable in both. But I had made the acquaintance of a slightly older boy named Garfield Howe, who was working for J.M.Dent, the publisher. He spoke of me to Hugh Dent, by whom I was engaged, at the age of sixteen, to act as reception clerk. Another job was created for me and I became what Hugh Dent called his "confidential clerk". It was at this time that J.M. Dent decided to publish a new series of reprints eventually named Everyman's Library; and I had a lot of work to do in connection with this.

Meanwhile, a young man named Philip Lee Warner had entered the firm of Dent for a while until he bought a partnership in another firm of Publishers, Chatto & Windus, where I was made a proof reader. Lee Warner was a born gambler; and the other partners took fright at his extravagance. He was asked to relinquish his partnership; but by that time I had written my first novel (1909), and I was so well regarded in the firm that I was made their "reader". This was in 1910, and in collaboration with the subsequent founder of the Drama Society, Geoffrey Whitworth, I helped to bring Chattos up to date, my chief success being the introduction of a worldwide success known as THE YOUNG VISITORS, by Daisy Ashford, who at the time the book was written was only eight years old.

My novel writing continued, and was supplemented by reviewing for THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN and other papers; also by two critical studies, of George Gissing and R.L.Stevenson. The former was enthusiastically reviewed by H.G.Wells, who had known Gissing; while Arnold Bennett had highly praised my second novel in a letter to myself. The two men became my cordial friends,

while I also began to meet my own contemporaries on equal terms. I therefore gave up my work for Chatto & Windus, who had some new young partners; and became, successively Literary Critic to the London EVENING NEWS (3½ years), chief novel reviewer to the London OBSERVER (6½ years), and the writer of a weekly Letter to Gog and Magog in the popular literary paper called JOHN O' LONDON'S WEEKLY. This job lasted for something over six years, when this paper was summarily discontinued amid what would be called a "storm of indignation".

In 1917 the short novel NOCTURNE was published. Owing to a preface which H.G. Wells secretly wrote for the American edition of that book, it was a considerable success in the United States, went on selling in England and was included in the Oxford Press series of the World's Classics. And in 1935 I wrote a continuingly successful study of modern writers called THE GEORGIAN LITERARY SCENE. This book was afterwards included in Everyman's Library; and both it and NOCTURNE have been the subject of favourable comment ever since. Both, unfortunately, in the present year have been "remaindered" by their respective publishers, owing to the hard times, when sales of older books have been small and the need of ready money has made publishers clear their shelves for cash.

I have had a very long, happy life; happy domestically and rich in friendships, not only with fellow writers but with uncelebrated people. My wife and I have had two daughters, Jane Christine, who died nine days after birth owing to injury, and Olivia Mary, who is still alive in spite of an immense amount of air travel (she was a hostess for B.E.A., worked for a time with Pan-Am, and is now with Air Canada - on the ground, but with frequent flights all over the world. My wife, Mary Dorothy Bennett (before marriage), the daughter of George Bennett (no relation to Arnold) and Mary Blake, has just had her 79th birthday; while I shall be 92 almost before you receive this history. I ought to say that in 1914-15 I was seriously ill with haematuria and albumenuria, and was laid up for six months. Afterwards the doctor said "You got better because you meant to: I could do no more for you." If you link this with the moment and circumstances of my birth, you will see why one of my mottoes is "It is better to be a live dog than a dead lion."

Mr. Swinnerton is today (1976) rightly regarded as the Grand Old Man of English literature. He has written 55 books, the last "Some Achieve Greatness" only this year.

He was President of the Royal Literary Fund 1962-66 and was a founder Vice-President of the Swinnerton Society and of which he has been a loyal supporter ever since.

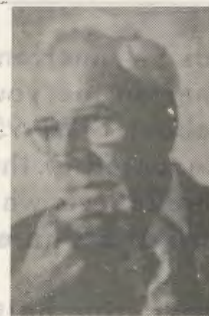
One unique distinction he possesses, he was asked to be the castaway on "Desert Island Discs" TWICE - the second time on his 90th birthday.

See also Who's Who, International Who's Who, Webster's Biographical Dictionary, Contemporary Novelists - 1973, New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature (Vol.4), Twentieth Century Authors, The Writers' Directory, etc.

SWINNERTON - Professor HENRY HURD CBE. DSc. FZS. FGS. ARCS.

HS.47

H. H. Swinnerton was born on the 17th September 1875, the son of an itinerant Wesleyan Methodist minister, the Reverend G.F. Swinnerton whose triennial removals resulted in an early life spent in out of the way country places, mainly in the Yorkshire Dales.



He was educated at Woodhouse Grove School, near Leeds and at Kingswood School, Bath. From 1894-97 he was an Assistant Master at Trowbridge High School and a student and Demonstrator, Royal College of Science, 1897-1901. In 1898 he passed the London University Degree Examination in Geology, Botany and Zoology gaining the highest place in First Class Honours and qualifying for a University Scholarship at London University. He became Marshall Scholar in Huxley Research Laboratory, was Science Master at Kingswood School (his old school) 1900-1. After 3 years research at the Royal College of Science he entered the University College of Nottingham as Lecturer and Demonstrator in Geology, Botany and Zoology.

In 1906 he married Florence Daisy Bennett, the eldest daughter of Joseph Bennett of Nottingham and had three daughters.

During the next few years he applied his training in Zoology to the study of fossils and in 1912 was appointed to the Chair of Geology & Geography at University College, Nottingham which he held until 1946.

He was elected to the Council of the Geographical Society in 1918 and served until 1920, and again from 1927-32 and 1935. From 1936 to 1938 he was Vice-President, served as President 1938-40 and again as Vice-President 1940-41. In 1942 he was awarded the Murchison Medal by the Council of the Society. For some years he was Vice-Principal of the Nottingham College and from 1939 onwards was Chairman of the University Joint Recruiting Board. In 1950 he was decorated Commander of the British Empire, Civil Division.

He published many books and papers in Scientific Journals on Palaeontology, Archaeology and Geography including The Geography of Nottinghamshire (Cambridge County Geog.); The Lands Behind the Bible Story; Outlines of Palaeontology (several editions); The Growth of the World and its Inhabitants; Solving Earth's Mysteries; The Earth Beneath Us; and Fossils.

His researches included the Development of Skeleton of Spherodon; of Head Skeleton of Gasterosteus, Morphology of Pectoral Skeleton of Teleosts.

He gave his hobbies as writing, gardening, playing with fossils and painting in water colours.

He died at the home of his son-in-law, the Headmaster's House, Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree, Herts. on the 6th November 1966.

(see also Who's Who, Who was Who and Penguin Biography)

SWYNNERTON - The Rev. THOMAS, MA.

TS.74

Thomas Swynnerton was the son of Robert Swynnerton and grandson of Roger Swynnerton the younger son of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton & Hilton. Born about 1490-95 he was educated partly at Oxford and partly at Cambridge. He graduated at the latter, BA. in 1515 and MA. in 1519 but under the name of John Roberts which he had adopted to screen himself from persecution on account of his heretical opinions.

On graduating he took Holy Orders embracing the new Lutheran faith and became well known under his pseudonym of John Roberts as a reforming, radical priest and author of several works which severely criticised the established church.

The most well known of these is a rare work 'A mustre of scismatyke Bysshoppes of Rome /otherwise naming themselves popes / moche necessarye to be redde of at the Kynges true subiectes printed by Wynkyn de Worde for John Bydell 21 March 1534. (Brit.Museum)

The first part consisting of a prologue, 'describeth and setteth forth the maners, fassions and usage of popes where in also the popes power is brevely declared, and whether the worde of God be suffycient to our salutation or not'. The second part contains a life of Gregory VII, translated from the Latin of Cardinal Beno; and the third a life of Emperor Henry IV who was cruelly imprisoned and deposed by the sayde Gregory. These parts seem to have been previously issued separately and Wood mentions an edition of the 'Life of Gregory' published in 1533, 4to. But these editions do not seem to be extant. Bale also attributes to Swynnerton two other works, 'De Perpicolarum Susurris' and 'De Tropis Scripturarum'.

Subsequently he preached at Ipswich and at Sandwich but on the accession of Queen Mary in 1553 and the resurgence of the Catholic Religion, he was forced to flee the country and went to Emden in Friesland (now Holland) accompanying, it is thought, John Lasco who became Pastor there.

Unfortunately, he was not there very long before he became ill and "being overtaken by a certain distemper he died, and was buried there in the same year (1554), to the great reluctancy of all those exiles that were then in those parts." (Anthony Wood.)

(See also Dictionary of National Biography; Bale's Script. III 1527, ii76; Tanner's Bibliotheca, p.701; Ames' Antiquities, ed. by Herbert pp.483 & 489; Wood's Athenae Cantabrigiae, i.124; Foster's Alumni. Oxon. 1500-1714; Simms's Bibliotheca Staffordsiensis; Staffs. Historical Collections. Vol. VII. p.667; Wright's Letter relating to suppression of the Monasteries (Camden Society) p.269

SWYNNERTON - CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY CMG. FLS. FES. C.MBOU. CS.17

Massy Swynnerton was born on 3.12.1877 at Folkestone in Kent and was the only son of the Rev. Charles Swynnerton (1843-1928) and of Maud, daughter of Major Henry William Massy of Grantstown, Tipperary.



Massy was educated at Lancing College, Sussex, and in 1897 went to Southern Rhodesia, via Natal, where he ran a farm near the Mozambique border at Mount Selinda in the Chipinga district. There he exhibited two main interests, the introduction and trials with a range of economic crops and a flair for natural history and ecological studies. His life was divided into two main phases. For 22 years he collected and studied intensively the wide range of plants, insects, butterflies and birds of Gazaland running from south-eastern Rhodesia through Mozambique to the East Coast of Africa. His collections were sent to England and were identified and published in detail in the Ibis (birds) and in the Journal of the Linnean Society (plants). He undertook numerous experiments with birds and insects and a wide range of ecological studies, the nature of which may be discerned from some of the titles of the papers in which they were published - "The Flora of Gazaland" (1910), "Birds of Gazaland" (1907-08), "Five Years Special Testing of Mimicry", "Experiments on Some Carnivorous Insects", "Factors in the Replacement of the Ancient East African Forest", "On a Pair of Tame Ground Hornbills", "Colouration of Mouths and Eggs of Birds", and some whose titles seem apposite even today - "Mixed Bird Parties", "Birds in Relation to their Prey", "Stray Notes on Birds" - written between 1907 and 1918. From his collections he had a number of birds, plants and a fish named after him.

On 25.8.1908 he married Norah Aimee Geraldine Smyth, daughter of John Watt Smyth of Larne, Co. Antrim, a Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab. They had three sons, Roger John Massy (b.16.1.1911), Gerald Henry (b.14.6.1914, d.7.10.1959) and Brian Fitzalan (b.12.7.1918).

In his studies and travels in Southern Rhodesia and Mozambique, Massy Swynnerton had built up a wide-ranging ecological knowledge of the area and in 1918 he was commissioned to undertake two assignments, one by the government of Southern Rhodesia to investigate the problem of cattle disease caused by tsetse fly on farms on the border with Mozambique, the second by the Mozambique Administration to examine the distribution and habits of tsetse fly on their side of the border in Mossurize District where heavy losses had occurred among cattle from trypanosomiasis or the "nagana" disease. At that time tsetse fly occupied about 40% of the countries between the two Tropics, right across Africa, precluding the keeping of most forms of livestock, and therefore to a large extent, human habitation. It occupied two-third of Tanganyika Territory.

The second phase of Massy Swynnerton's life in Africa, for which the first had been gearing him up, began in 1919 when he was appointed to be the first Chief Game Warden in Tanganyika, when the British Administration was set up, with instructions to make a special study of the tsetse fly problem. In 1928 the Government created the Department of Tsetse Research and Reclamation to which

he was appointed Director. He established a highly scientific but practical team to study the natural habits of the fly in relation to its habitat and to evolve control measures over its several species, some transmitting human sleeping sickness, others "nagana". The measures applied were largely those formulated by Swynnerton for Mazambique, based on modifications to the environment to preclude breeding or advance by the fly and to reclaim occupied land, followed by human settlement. Large areas of land were reclaimed and re-populated. Since these were the years of the Great Depression, a battle on a second front had to be fought to secure necessary funds for the work.

Massy Swynnerton wrote the authoritative work on the tsetse fly, "The Tsetse Flies of East Africa", published in 1936 by the Royal Entomological Society. In 1937 he was awarded the C.M.G. in the Coronation Honours of King George VI but he was killed in an aeroplane crash on 8.6.1938 when flying to Dar es Salaam to receive the award from the Governor. He had been a pioneer of the use of the aeroplane for low-level ecological reconnaissance of the environment. During his 19 years in Tanganyika he had advised a number of countries on game preservation and on tsetse reclamation and it is generally considered that his methods and his programmes had a wide and lasting impact on the control of the tsetse fly in Africa.

Massy Swynnerton was buried alongside a large outcrop on Shinyanga Kopje which overlooks part of the vast area of Tanganyika in which he worked for nearly twenty years. The grave has a great natural headstone and a bronze plaque bears the words "Si Monumentum Requires Circumspice".

During 1940 the Council of the Rhodesia Scientific Association voted the sum of £25 for the erection of a memorial to the late C.F.M. Swynnerton. Members of the Association were invited to send in sketch designs and suggestions and the design submitted by R.G.B. Wilson was finally accepted as being the most suitable. Wilson prepared the working drawings and construction of the sandstone memorial was completed at the end of 1940 by masons from the Mount Selinda Mission. A suitably inscribed bronze plaque appears in a conspicuous position on the memorial.

The memorial still exists today in the heart of the magnificent forest where Massy Swynnerton spent so much of his time between 1900 and 1919 and which he loved so devotedly.



Sketch of Swynnerton Memorial

See also

Who's Who,
Who Was
Who,
Optima
Dec. 1971,
Excelsa
No. 4 1974
etc.