

DEFENDER OF OLD SOTON DIES IN SLEEP

**Dr. O. G. S. Crawford—he testified
last night at town inquiry**

"Echo" Staff Reporter

DR. OSBERT GUY STANHOPE CRAWFORD, CBE, of Hope Villa, Nursling, the eminent archaeologist, who had an international reputation, died in his sleep at his home during the night. He was 71. Almost his last act was in defence of the antiquities of the Southampton he loved so much.

As president of the Friends of Old Southampton he joined his friend and colleague Professor Harry Rothwell in an objection against the Corporation's road proposals affecting the "old town."

Last evening he advanced to the witness table in the Council Chamber where the inquiry into the future of Southampton is being held. In his hand he held a treasured scroll—his own plan of Southampton as it was in the Middle Ages.

"I shall want it back," he said as he handed the Ministry inspector his plan based on original documents and research naming the cellars and frontages of old Southampton.

He told the inspector he had started a book on Southampton's rich heritage of antiquities. One day, he said, he hoped to complete the work.

Dr. Crawford, who was a bachelor, had not been unwell and his death will come as a great shock not only to his friends but to those who valued his scholarship, his energy and his enthusiasm about the past.

When his housekeeper, Mrs. Napier, went to call him this morning she could get no reply. She called her sister, Miss Cleal, who also looked after Dr. Crawford, and together they went into his room. He was apparently dead.

His doctor was called and the facts have been reported to the Southampton County Coroner.

WORK WITH ORDNANCE SURVEY

Dr. Crawford was the first archaeological officer to the Ordnance Survey at Southampton, a position he held from 1920 until his retirement at the end of the war.

His reputation as a pioneer in the use of aerial photography for archaeological research is world-wide.

Born in India, Dr. Crawford was educated at Marlborough and Oxford. He took part in excavation

work in the Sudan shortly before the First World War.

During the war he served with the London Scottish and the Royal Flying Corps in France. He was shot down and became a prisoner of war and during that time pondered on the use of aircraft for interpreting marks on the ground.

Thus he was able to realise the significance of certain curious marks found on RAF photographs taken over Hampshire in 1922.

During subsequent years Dr. Crawford studied hundreds of sites throughout the country.

NEW RESEARCH TOOL

He was the first man to exploit this new and powerful tool of archaeological research. From those early days, when he was able to make a map of the prehistoric field system near Winchester and publish, in 1924, "Air Survey and Archaeology," Dr. Crawford's reputation went round the world.

He was still editor of "Antiquity," the quarterly he founded in 1927, at the time of his death.

Dr. Crawford wrote extensively. He undertook arduous expeditions to the East and to Africa; in 1913 he sailed from Southampton on an expedition to Easter Island, although he never got there.

"No single scholar has done more than O. G. S. Crawford to place the study of the remoter past and of the past of Britain in particular on the secure and sound basis upon which it now rests."

That tribute was paid to Dr. Crawford by Mr. W. F. Grimes, the editor, in his foreword to "Aspects of Archaeology."

Those in Southampton who knew and appreciated Dr. Crawford's work were proud to have such a distinguished neighbour.

At a complimentary luncheon given in Southampton six years ago to mark Dr. Crawford's 65th birthday and the 100th issue of "Antiquity," tributes were paid to this "young" man who, as one



Dr. Crawford

speaker said, "played fun and games with space and time."

UNIVERSITIES' HONOURS

Dr. Crawford was honoured both by Cambridge and Southampton Universities.

In 1952 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Cambridge University and in 1953 a similar honour from Southampton University. He received his CBE in 1950.

For over 30 years he had made Hope Villa his working headquarters. He was a former president of the Hampshire Field Club, a founder of the Friends of Old Southampton, and took a deep and abiding interest in old Southampton.

He wrote occasionally for the "Echo" as well as writing originally about his chosen subject.

Dr. Crawford was a former president of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies and of the Prehistoric Society, and a member of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of England, in 1939.

He was awarded the Victoria Medal of the Geographical Society in 1940 and was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 1947.

A GOOD COOK, TOO

His was a remarkable personality; no dry-as-dust historian, but a man who could write a delightful autobiography, who liked a good story, who read Sherlock Holmes stories and was a good cook.

He was regarded as the doyen of his profession, a man who, five years ago, went to the Sudan on a one-man archaeological survey and who turned up at Southampton Civic Centre for a meeting about his beloved Southampton.

He advised Southampton Corporation on the preservation of buildings and remains of historic and architectural interest and made systematic photographic record of some 4,000 buildings in Southampton and other parts of Wessex. Some of the buildings were later destroyed by enemy action.

Last April Dr. Crawford did the miaowing for a BBC talk on cats. He stressed that the content of the programme was light and should not be taken seriously.

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