

S.G.BRADE-BIRKS (1887-1982), AN APPRECIATION AND LIST OF PAPERS

We have had our attention drawn to an article published in "Wye Local History", No.3, Volume II, Spring 1982, just ten years ago. "B-B" as he was universally known was not only a major contributor to our knowledge of British myriapods but is remembered as parish priest at Godmersham and leader of the Wye Historical Society in addition to his contributions to biology. The article, by Frank Lusted, is reproduced here. Although the author refers to him as Canon Stanley Brade-Birks, he had published his myriapod works as S.Graham Brade-Birks. We have also taken the opportunity to publish a list of the "Notes on Myriapoda" which B-B contributed over more than twenty years to various journals. His photograph and paper "Myriapodology : Retrospect" appeared in the first volume of this Bulletin in 1972, an obituary by Gordon Blower in volume 2 when we reappeared in 1985.

Eds.

CANON STANLEY BRADE-BIRKS - AN APPRECIATION

F.P.Lusted

Known to everyone as B.-B., Canon Brade-Birks was born in Lancashire in November 1887. He proceeded to Manchester University where he took an honours degree in Geology in 1911 and then went on to a master's degree in 1914. Contemporary with this work he studied for Holy Orders and became deacon in 1914 and a priest in 1915. For a time he then worked as a curate in Darwen, Lancashire.

During this time he continued with his scientific work with an intensive study of millipedes and in 1919 applied for and was appointed to a position on the staff of Wye College as a lecturer in zoology and geology. This position enabled him to continue his research on millipedes, and to present his findings in a thesis to London University, for which he was awarded a doctorate of science. With his knowledge of geology and his agricultural interest he developed a special knowledge of soils and his book "Good Soil" became a standard work not only in this country but in many others. B.-B. also became an editor for English University Press for a series of books on agricultural science. For many years he was a link with London University, and served as secretary and later as chairman of the Board of

The four lives of a Canon who studies centipedes

AT the age of 83, Canon S. G. Brade-Birks is a remarkable man. He can often be seen on a moped in his parishes of Godmersham and Crundale and as one person correctly pointed out to me, the Canon has lived four lives in one.

Next month Canon Brade-Birks celebrates his 25th anniversary as Rector of Crundale. He has been Vicar of Godmersham since 1930, with Crundale also coming under his jurisdiction in 1946.

In 1943 Archbishop Temple appointed him Rural Dean of West Bridge, whose parishes include Chilham, Chartham and Lower Hardres. He still holds this post and thus takes the chair at meetings of the clergy in his area.

Before moving to Godmersham, Canon Brade-Birks took a degree in geology at Manchester and later he and his wife, Dr. Hilda Brade-Birks, took it upon themselves to study centipedes and millipedes.

They had a laboratory in their Lancashire home and Canon Brade-Birks tells me that they decided on these particular subjects because the creatures had been neglected.

While his wife concentrated more on medical work, later becoming medical officer of health for several Kent towns and districts, Canon Brade-Birks moved to Wye College in 1919. He worked for his doctorate and was head of the College's department of geology and zoology.

He was at Wye for 27 years and in 1927, with a research student, initiated soil studies, which have since greatly developed. Two books of his have been published, one taking the title "Good Soil" and the other, "Teach Yourself Archaeology."

Dr. Brade-Birks has not lost touch with Wye College and he was subsequently elected a Fellow. As far as Manchester is concerned, he has just accepted an invitation for next year

to be president of the International Congress of Myriapodologists (myriapodology is the study of millipedes and relatives).

He is also one of only 25 honorary fellows of the Linnean Society of London, a group made up of those who at some time have specialised in the classification of animals and plants.

From 1951-70 he was a Proctor of the Convocation of Canterbury. Most of his time is now taken up with parish work and pursuing one of his favourite hobbies—local history.

An avid writer of notes, he has 13 notebooks in his series on local history and other pocket companions to cover his wide range of interests.

One of Dr. Brade-Birks' greatest joys is the special children's services he holds in Godmersham and Crundale. He works out practical projects for the children and many adults attend the services to see the fun the children—and, I suspect the Canon—have.

His own two daughters now live away from the village. One of them, Mary, is a barrister and an official with one of the training boards. The other, Elizabeth, is married and has four children. She is chairman of the Gloucestershire Women's Amateur Athletics Association and a former athlete, once running a five-minute mile.

Canon Brade-Birks has no immediate plans to retire: "I would not like having nothing to do!"

His moped comes in useful for short trips in the parish and he has found a warm remedy for chilly Sundays in church. He simply slips a special small hot water bottle under his cassock and advises

cold parishioners to follow his example.

Rather foolishly, I asked him what he enjoyed doing in his spare time, only to receive the right and obvious reply, "I generally go to sleep."

East Kent Diary

by Desmond Connolly



Awheel in Kent on his motor-cycle is the very active 84-year-old Canon Stanley Brade-Birks, expert in millipedes and centipedes and Vicar of Godmersham with Crundale. [See Desmond Connolly's East Kent Diary on page 13.]

B-B,

- from a local paper of the early 1970s

Studies in Agriculture. He was also on the board of the Faculty of Science. He remained on the staff of Wye College until 1948. In 1963 he was elected a Fellow of Wye College and considered this one of his two greatest honours, the other being his election as an Honorary Fellow of the Linnean Society, an honour given to very few people for specialist work in classification of animals and plants.

In addition to his work for the College he took a great interest in archaeology and history. He was a founder member of the Wye Historical Society, and later was for many years its chairman. His work for the Society and his enthusiasm has much to do with the present strength of the Society. He had a wonderful knowledge of people who could lecture well, and so ensured a high standard of talks and his knowledge of interesting places to visit was a great asset. We are thankful not only for his leadership over many years but also for his contributions from his own considerable knowledge. The pleasure we derived from "Selections from B.-B.'s Note-books" which revealed so many items of local interest will never be forgotten. His walks through Wye and other places of local interest were a source of joy. At St. Eustace's Well at Withersdane he produced some medieval drawings illustrating his legend. Although he was evasive about the date and origin of the drawings, we later discovered that they were by B.-B. himself and date the previous day. Several local history exhibitions owed much of their success to his presiding genius and enthusiasm. It is a fitting tribute to his long and successful work for the Wye Historical Society that a fund has been set up to provide a prize to be awarded annually to a pupil at the Lady Joanna Thornhill School for work on local history.

Despite a life full of other activities he became Vicar of Godmersham and later Rector of Crundale, and to these two parishes he remained priest and friend until 1977 when he retired aged 89 years. At a time when religion and science were often thought to be incompatible, he always insisted that his scientific knowledge increased his religious beliefs. He said there were mysteries in religion which we could only know in part but nothing in his scientific work could weaken his faith. His sermons were well thought out, lucid and sincere. Once a month he held a family service, consisting of matins and an address to the children. For this he always prepared something for every child to do to help illustrate his talk. His motto for them was "God first" and I am sure that everyone from the youngest child to the oldest adult was enlightened. Every day that he was in the village he would say matins in the morning and evensong in the evening. Anyone was welcome to join him but often he was alone. Recognition of his work for the church led to his appointments of Rural Dean of West Bridge and Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

His ministry was not confined to church services. To the sick, the aged, or any in trouble he would travel on his motor-cycle

with his help and sympathy. No function in either of his parishes was complete without his presence. To all he showed an old-world courtesy so often lacking these days.

Each year on Rogation Day he would gather as many of his parishioners as possible and beat the bounds of his parishes, blessing the crops and, translating from a copy of an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of A.D. 824, would show us how little the area had changed during more than eleven centuries.

Living in a vicarage which he was certain was the home of Rev. Collins in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice", it was natural for B.-B. to become an authority on Jane's life and works. On the bicentenary of her birth he gave in the village hall a most fascinating and illuminating talk on the authoress.

He died at Hindhead, Surrey, on January 28th, aged 94 years. At his funeral the vicar of Hindhead paid tribute to a man of many talents with the only possible words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy lord". No one who knew B.-B. could fail to have had his or her life enriched by contact with him.

S.G. BRADE-BIRKS MYRIAPOD PAPERS

Between 1916 and 1939 either alone or jointly Dr. Brade-Birks published his Notes on Myriapoda, I to XXXVI in a variety of journals, mostly The Lancashire and Cheshire Naturalist, Annals and Magazine of Natural History and, from 1929 onwards, Journal of the South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye. These papers were a major contribution towards our knowledge of the British myriapod fauna and are still of interest in terms of their descriptions, nomenclatural information and in other ways and for those preparing lists for the various counties included (notably Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Kent, Sussex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk).

Three of the papers dealt with fossil material (XIX, XXVII, XXXII). Numbers I to V were by H.K. Brade and S.G. Birks (as they then were), VI by H.K. Brade and S.G. Brade-Birks, VII - XVII, XX - XXIII, XXV - XXVI and XXXIV were by H.K. and S.G. Brade-Birks, XIX by J.W. Jackson, H.K. Brade-Birks and S.G. Brade-Birks whilst the remainder were by S.G. Brade-Birks alone.

A list is given here with, as necessary, an indication of content. Journals are abbreviated as follows :

AMNH	Annals and Magazine of Natural History
BSZF	Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France
DNFC	Dartford Naturalists Field Club occasional paper

GM Geological Magazine
 HESN Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist
 IN Irish Naturalist
 JSEACW Journal of The South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye
 JZR Journal of Zoological Research
 LCN Lancashire and Cheshire Naturalist
 PRPSE Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh

NOTES ON MYRIAPODA

- I On a new variety of *Chordeumella scutellare* Ribaut 1916
 (*C. scutellare* var. *brolemanni*) LCN 9.49-55
- II Some brief records 1916
 (Darwen, Lancs., Silverdale) LCN 9.82
- III Two Irish chilopods : *Lithobius duboscqui* Brolemann 1916
 and *Lithobius lapidicola* Meinert IN 25.121-135
- IV A preliminary list for South Lancashire 1916
 LCN 9.141-148
- V On *Cylindroiulus (Leucoiulus) nitidus* (Verhoeff) 1917
 (Winkhill, Staffs) AMNH(8) 19.417-24
- VI Report on Chilopoda and Diplopoda 1916-17 1917
 (Lancs, Ches, Staffs, Derbys, Salop, Oxon, Westm,
 N. Wales, Ireland) LCN 10.113-122
- VII A new member of the AscospERMOMORPHA (*Jacksoneuma* 1917
bradae gen. et sp. nov.) (*Brachychaeteuma bradae*)
 JZR 2.135-149
- VIII Recent additions to the Irish Fauna 1917
 (*G. insculptus*, *Th. littoralis*, *B. superus mosellanus*)
 IN 27.27-29
- IX Report on Chilopoda and Diplopoda 1917-18 1918
 (Lancs, Cheshire) LCN 11.93-99
- X On the Family Brachychaeteumidae 1918
 (redescription of *B. bagnalli*) JZR 3.47-53
- XI Description of a new species of Diplopoda 1918
 (*Brachychaeteuma melanops*) (R.S. Bagnall, Swanage)
 JZR 3.55-61
- XII A preliminary list for Derbyshire with a 1918
 description of *Brachychaeteuma quartum* sp.n. and
Chordeumella scutellare bagnalli var.n. AMNH(9)2.319-336
- XIII Some Kent Records 1918
 (18 D, 13 C) LCN 11.152-165, 186-199 / reprinted DNFC
- XIV The rediscovery of *Cylindroiulus parisiorum* 1918

- (Brolemann & Verhoeff) (Upper Arley) AMNH(9) 2.470-1
- XV Miscellaneous *Lithobius (Monotarsobius)duboscqui* 1919
fosteri var.nov. *Cylindroiulus frisius*,
Craspedosoma rawlinsi IN (1)28.4
- XVI Some observations on nomenclature 1919
AMNH(9) 3.253-6
- XVII Pour réhabiliter quelques anciens noms spécifiques 1919
BSZF 44.63-68
- XVIII Report on Chilopoda and Diplopoda for the latter 1919
part of 1918 LCN 12.101-6
- XIX A revision of some fossil material from Sparth 1919
Bottom,Lancs GM 6(663).406-411
(*Acantherpestes giganteus*,*Euphorberia armigera*,
E.robusta,*E.woodwardi*)
- XX Luminous Chilopoda with special reference to 1920
Geophilus carpophagus Leach. AMNH(9) 5.1-30/rept.DNFC
- XXI Colobgnatha,an order of Diplopoda new to Britain 1920
represented by *Polyzonium germanicum* (Brandt)
AMNH (9)5.198-200
- XXII Some Sussex Diplopoda and Chilopoda 1920
HESN (3)3.119-124
- XXIII Report on Chilopoda & Diplopoda for 1919 1920
LCN 12.297-8
- XXIV A preliminary note on a millipede New to Science 1920
(*Archeboreoiulus pallidus*) AMNH (9)6.364-5
- XXV Preliminary Lists for Lincolnshire and Norfolk 1920
AMNH (9)6.470-7
- XXVI Names of some Iulidae and Blaniulidae 1922
AMNH (9)9.160-3
- XXVII Wandering Millipedes 1922
(millipedes in Kent,day & night wanderings,also
Stosatea italica at Wye reported) AMNH (9)9.208-212
- XXVIII *Kampecaris tuberculata* n.sp. from the Old Red 1923
Sandstone of Ayrshire PRPSE 20(6).277-80
- XIX Preliminary Comments on Economic Status 1923
LCN Suppl.1-8
- XXX Report on Diplopoda and Chilopoda for 1925 1925
(includes *C.latestriatus*) LCN 18.217-221

- XXXI More about *Iulus latestriatus* Curtis 1928
 (drawings of gonopods) AMNH (10)1.397-398
- XXXII An important specimen of *Euphorberia ferox* from 1928
 middle coal measures of Crawcook GM 65.400-406
- XXXIII The Economic Status of Diplopoda and Chilopoda and 1929
 their allies. Part 1 JSEACW 26.178-216
- The Economic Status of Diplopoda and Chilopoda and 1930
 their allies. Part 2 JSEACW 27.103-146
- XXXIV A rare English centipede, *Lithobius borealis* Meinert 1933
 (description of Bagnall's 1918 specimen from Ainsdale)
 AMNH (10)11.228-31
- XXXV Nomenclatural Sources 1934
 JSEACW 34.197-209
- XXXVI Sources for description and illustration of the 1939
 British Fauna JSEACW 44.156-179