OBITUARIES

ALFRED BERTRAM MELLES

It is with deep regret that all his past horticultural colleagues and friends will have learnt of the death of Alfred Bertram Melles at Salisbury in Wiltshire on November 8th, 1968.

Melles was Vice-President of the Kew Guild from 1965 to 1967 and in the Kew Guild Journal for 1965 a synopsis was given of his career from the days of his earliest training to his final part-time retirement work for the Roads Beautifying Association. The greater part of his life however was spent working for the Commonwealth War



Graves Commission where, with three other Kewites, he started off the horticultural work of the Commission after the 1914/18 War, transposing the muddy war-torn wastes of Flanders and North Eastern France into garden cemeteries of great beauty. Even after his retirement Melles' thoughts constantly recurred to the work to which he had devoted so much of his life.

Melles had always a special interest in trees and shrubs and was particularly knowledgeable about them. Throughout his life he was deeply proud of having been one of the very first to gain the National Diploma of Horticulture after its inception.

Whilst Melles had a successful and distinguished horticultural career, being awarded the M.B.E. in 1925 for his work, it is perhaps for his personal qualities as a man that he will be best held in memory. He was truly a gentleman by nature, modest, always helpful to others, incapable of meanness in thought or deed and sustained by a deep religious conviction. He was a man blessed in his wife, his children, his friends and his interests and he led a full and happy life, passing away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 73. He will be widely missed by all who knew him.

To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

W. F. W. HARDING, Chief Asst. Officer, Commonwealth War Graves Commission,

ROLAND ALFRED JAMES HOLDER

Mr. Holder, who was born at Wimbledon on 27th March, 1887, commenced under his father, who was a gardener growing grapes, melons, strawberries out of season and large chrysanthemums. He was 14 and stayed with his father for about three years.

He left for a wider experience and spent the following years until the first world war working on large estates as a journeyman, such as at Portslade House, Llantarnum Abbey, where he gained experience in the growing of tropical fruits and ferns and at Downside, the home of Mr. Alfred Tate, at Leatherhead. In such gardens as these and at Pains Hill, Cobham, Surrey, the home of Mrs. Combe, where the gardens were laid out by Capability Brown and in others where he was to work after the first world war. Mr. Holder gained the love and valuable experience of the many different varieties of plants and trees.

During the first world war he served with the Queens Royal Regiment and went to India and fought in the Afghan War in 1919. Whilst he was in India he did make some studies of the forest trees to be found in that part of the world.

On his return from India he returned to Pains Hill, from which he left to join the forces, and in 1920 married Beatrice Ann Parmenter, herself the daughter of a gardener, and his two daughters were born at Pains Hill. He became Head Gardener to Mrs. Combe and stayed at Pains Hill until 1928, when he moved to East Sussex as Head Gardener to Major Frank Young at Stillyans, Horsham Road. There he had his first experience of building a large rock garden from a virgin site, with pools and water running into a lake at the bottom.

On the death of Major Young in 1937 he went to Jersey, Channel Islands as Head Gardener to Lady Knott (now Mrs. Obbard) of Samares Manor, a garden famous amongst other features for its many varieties of Camellias growing out of doors.

In 1940 he and his family fled from the German occupation of the Channel Islands to England and within a few months he was offered a position at Kew where he became foreman of the Ferneries Department, and then an Assistant Curator.

At this point we quote from the Obituary which was published by the R.H.S. Garden Club Journal, by kind permission of the Director, "He moved in 1945 to Dunsborough House, Ripley, in the employ of Sir Oliver Simmonds. He here lost his wife and shortly after her death he was invited in 1949 to take charge of the Rock Garden at Wisley

"Roland Holder was over sixty when he first came to Wisley so not many people know much about his early career, but in the twelve odd years spent with us he became liked as a man and respected for his horticultural skill. He was rather stern regarding his duties but with a good sense of humour, and possessed a shrewd instinct so that he rarely failed to judge problems correctly. His advice was worth seeking in most affairs and certainly for Orchid and Alpine plant matters. His decorative work showed a delicate touch and a fine appreciation of colour arrangement, and in St. Helier, Jersey, he will be long remembered for a particularly excellent exhibit of 75 odd apple varieties at one of their shows. Perhaps his greatest triumph however, was the rock garden he built on the embankment site at Chelsea Show in 1957 and around which he personally conducted the Queen Mother.

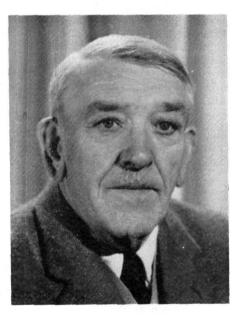
"He was a man of many parts and possessed a very fine singing voice up to an advanced age—a voice which in his early years at Cobham had been in great demand as he was soloist to the Church Choir."

In February, 1959, he was awarded the Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society and he retired in 1961. He died on the 14th March, 1968.

We send our sincere sympathies to his daughter and to other relatives.

IEAN BINTNER

We had reported in the last Journal that Monsieur J. Bintner died on 15th April, 1965. He was 75. We could do no better than to quote from the letter which was received from Madame Jean Bintner (née Miss Kathleen M. Harper who left Kew in 1918) — "He was always a great gardener and loved it more than anything else. When we went to Luxembourg in 1922, he was in the Ministry for a few years, and then started an experimental station for shrubs and rare plants and a wonderful rose garden. It was not a success, and he returned to England



and joined Monro's of Covent Garden—he opened up branches for them in Paris, Marseilles and Monaco.

"We lived in Paris for a year or two before the war, but when the Germans advanced close to the city we went down to Marseilles. Very soon he was not allowed to work any more and only gardened for ourselves, owing to the help which he had given to several people who wished to return to England. He also helped the French Resistance and was imprisoned by the Germans. Fortunately, unlike many of his friends he was not sent to Germany, for he was a very sick man. He had cancer and although he lived for many years after the war he was always ill and had several operations."

To Madame Bintner and their relatives we send our sincere sympathies.

HEINRICH SCHOLZ

We regret to report that H. Scholz died on 2nd May, 1968, at his home at Bytom, Poland. He left Kew in 1903. His wife — Luzja Scholz, who passed away a few months later on 16th August, sent us the following details:—

"He went from England to France to learn the language, where he stayed for 1½ years. Then his old mother wanted to have him with her, and so he remained but not in Germany. He took a post as a Head Gardener in Russia and ran the Royal and Imperial Gardens there for a few years.



From these he went to Raciborz in the Upper Silesia to a countess. There he stayed for several years. Then he was in the war, he was always glad that he came home from this in good health. After the war he was with Count Franken-Licersdorf as Head Gardener, and there I came to know him and we married on 24th May, 1922, and so I took him into my business as a partner. It was in its time a very large business, a very renowned magnificent flower business. He was really a great help and protection to me, but soon others realised that he was efficient and so they chose him as manager of the district group—'German Flower Company'.

"He continued this work until the Russians came and then everything was taken from us. I went to work in foreign firms and my husband gave English and French lessons, but he enjoyed teaching English most of all. He was always enthusing to me about England where he said he spent the best days of his life. Right up

to his death he spoke about it. Just fourteen days before he died he gave a lady an English lesson, which gave him great joy. The pupils all liked him. We also had a beautiful garden and everything was taken away from us. He always hoped that his wonderful business would be returned to him, but unfortunately it turned out otherwise.

"He always enjoyed receiving your *Journals* and he thanks you heartily once more, for always thinking of him and sending him the *Journals*. They gave him so much pleasure."

Frau Scholz then apologised that she could not give more details, She adds—"all records were lost when the Russians came".

Heinrich Scholz was loyal to Kew throughout his life, and always wrote for the *Journal*. He could not be a paid up member as he could not send money out of Poland. The Guild has lost a very loyal member. We send our sincere sympathies to his family in their distress.

A. W. PROUDLOCK

Albert William Proudlock died at his home, Kent Cottage, Bamburgh, Northumberland on April 2nd, 1968 in his 90th year, after a very short illness. The younger brother of Robert Lewis Proudlock, he was born at Riding Lea in Northumberland. and lost both his parents by the age of seven. Although he knew, early in life, where his interest lay, the handicap of having no parents, and no financial support after the age of 15, presented a challenge which he was determined to overcome. After several years of hard and varied practical



experience, and as a result of his attendance at night school, he had progressed sufficiently to be appointed as foreman at Axewell Park, Blaydon-on-Tyne. He entered Kew as a student gardener in 1904, and worked in the Ornamental and Orchid Departments. He was awarded the Hooker Prize for taking a leading part in the weekly

discussions promoted by the Mutual Improvement Society. He always spoke with pleasure of those happy, hardworking and formative days under Sir David Prain, William Watson, William Dallimore and Charles Raffill. He had known John Hutchinson at Axewell Park, and had a room in the same house at Kew, while the late F. G. Preston not infrequently persuaded him to act as scorer in the cricket matches.

On leaving Kew he went to lay out an estate for a millionaire in North Lancashire, and he married Miss Charlotte Howard. They had two daughters. During this period he met the Lecturer in Landscape Design at Liverpool University: Mawson (later Sir Thomas Mawson), the internationally famous landscape designer. He encouraged him to lecture, a talent at which he was especially gifted throughout his life. Mawson tried to persuade him to carry out a project in Canada, but, for family reasons, he regretfully declined this offer.

Proudlock's ambition was to join the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, but the war came and he enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment. In 1918, about eight months before the end of the war, the Board of Agriculture requested his release, and he became a Sub-Inspector (Horticulture). A few years were spent in Kenilworth and Cambridge, and then followed some of the happiest years of his life, when he was based in Stafford from 1922 until his retirement in 1947.

Apart from his official duties he was on the Committee of the Council for Social Service, and he was a keen member of the Staffordshire Bee-Keepers' Association. During the 1939/45 war he was responsible for the setting up of many food production committees in the Midlands and arranging Dig for Victory Campaigns. In addition he was a member of the Staffordshire Agriculture Executive Committee from its inception. Later, when N.A.A.S. was formed he became a member, and even after his retirement, he continued for a time in order to help in training the new staff in D.I.P. work.

Albert Proudlock was a lifelong member of the Church of England which he served faithfully in many ways. He was a Churchwarden for many years. When he left Stafford his many friends gave him a greenhouse as a mark of their affection. Sadly he lost his wife soon after his retirement. To the last he was alert and loved flowers, in fact, a few hours before the end of his life his elder daughter brought in a bowl of spring flowers. She remarked that the Prunus subhirtella was particularly lovely. He retorted—"no daughter of mine should make that mistake, you have omitted 'Autumnalis'".

We offer our sincere sympathies to his two daughters and to the other relatives.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE LAVENDER

It is with regret we record the death of Mr. W. L. Lavender on 17th September, 1968, eleven days after his 93rd birthday.

Mr. Lavender commenced his career Haydon Hall, Eastcote, Middlesex, noted for its fine collection of orchids and indoor fruit. He then moved to Bentley Priory Gardens, Stanmore, where his love for greenhouse flowers began. Mr. Lavender entered Kew in 1899, and com-May. menced in the Decorative Department where the whole of his two years were spent.



His first position on leaving Kew was at Grove Park, Chiswick, but he soon moved to Chadwar, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos. After two years he was appointed Head Gardener at Manor House, Waltham St. Lawrence, Berks, where he remained for a similar period; in 1910 he accepted the post of Head Gardener to the Princess of Monaco at Haut Buisson, Laferte, Bernard, France, in charge of an extensive garden in the English style. He returned to England at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, and was invited to take charge of the Temperate House during the temporary absence of Mr. Raffill. At the conclusion of hostilities he went to Messrs. Carters, Raynes Park, in charge of the Trial Grounds, and shortly afterwards to the Advisory Department. It was in this position he became so widely known and loved by Old Kewites, throughout the country for a period of nearly forty years. He served on the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit and Vegetable Committee which judged the Trials of Vegetables at Wisley. He was elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1952. As record of his devoted service in another field, he joined the Horticultural Benefit and Provident Society in 1900, and from 1928 until his death, was a member of the Management Committee.

Mr. Lavender was a devoted member of the Kew Guild and was elected President for the year 1941-42, but unfortunately due to the war years, was deprived of the privilege of presiding at a Kew Dinner. He was for many years a familiar and regular figure at these functions, in fact it would be difficult to visualise a Kew

meeting without his presence. Mrs. Lavender, too, always accompanied her husband on these occasions and was well known amongst his large circle of friends. She died several years ago.

Many members of the Guild will mourn the passing of a man with such high ideals, generous and helpful to the youthful aspirant, of deep religious conviction, gentle and kindly at all times. During the latter years of his life, arthritis restricted his movement with the added disability of failing eyesight. His faculties were in no way impaired however, and visitors were astonished at the wealth of his knowledge as he recalled incidents and personalities of the past.

The sudden loss of his only daughter, Kaye, in August, came as a great shock to him, and this undoubtedly contributed to his death at the West Middlesex Hospital only three weeks afterwards.

The funeral took place at the Kew Road Methodist Church where he had been a constant worshipper for many years. A number of Old Kewites led by the President of the Kew Guild, Mr. F. P. Knight, attended.

To his son-in-law, Mr. Fred Whitty and his two grandsons we extend our sincere sympathy.

C. R. STOCK (1927).

ROBERT ORCHARD WILLIAMS

R. Williams had a distinguished career overseas after leaving Kew in 1916, to take up his first appointment as Curator of the Trinidad Botanic Garden. He was born on the 24th January, 1891, at West Lulworth. Dorset and went to the village school—later to Polytechnic classes. His early employment was at the Gardens, Bridehead, Dorset and Veitch's Nurseries. Feltham. Middx. He was a student and sub-foreman at Kew from 1913-1916.

Apart from his horticultural work in Trinidad, he found time for



botanical work also, and wrote some of the earlier parts of the *Flora of Trinidad and Tobago* which began to be published in 1928. Most of his working life was in the West Indies, where he held several different horticultural and agricultural appointments.

At one time he was especially concerned with the commercial production of Citrus fruits, notably grapefruit, a subject on which he was an acknowledged authority. Among his publications while in the West Indies was his School Gardening in the Tropics, which is still used in schools in the West Indies, a third edition having appeared in 1949. He also wrote a Guide to the Trinidad Botanic Gardens and Useful and Ornamental Plants of Trinidad and Tobago, an extremely good book which also ran into three editions. It contains much useful information on the economic and ornamental plants of the tropics in general, a subject on which R.O.W. was himself extremely knowledgeable.

At one stage in his career (1935-1939) Williams worked in Palestine (now Israel), as Chief Horticultural Officer, where he did much of the spade work in building up the Citrus export industry of that country. He returned to Trinidad in 1939 as Deputy Director of Agriculture and was acting Director from 1941 to 1944. In 1945 he was appointed Director of Agriculture, Zanzibar, where his work was concerned with clove production. He retired from his post and the Colonial Service in 1948, when he promptly became Manager of the Clove Growers' Association in Zanzibar, a position he held until 1959, when he finally retired and went to Cape Town to live. While in Zanzibar he wrote, as a spare-time occupation, the book Useful and Ornamental Plants in Zanzibar and Pemba, a work with which one of his sons, also a horticulturist and agriculturist, was able to give him some assistance. His decorations include—Associate of Honour R.H.S. in 1932, the O.B.E. (Civil) in 1943, Associate (honoris causa) Linnean Society in 1954, C.B.E. (Civil) in 1956 and the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar in 1959.

The writer last saw William many years ago, when we accidentally met looking round the Cape Town Botanic Garden. He was then on leave from Zanzibar, and staying with a married daughter who lived in Cape Town. Williams retired to Constantia to live, not far from the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, where he and his wife spent many happy hours. He died in Cape Town on 28th March, 1967, and is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons. The writer is indebted to Mrs. Williams for some of the information here given.

F. N. Howes (1966).

JAMES SIMMONS

We regret to record the death of James Simmons during January, 1968, at the age of 87. He was a Cornishman born at Carclew, Mylar, Cornwall, his father being head gardener. These gardens were noted for a fine collection of trees and shrubs and were often visited by the late W. Watson and W. J. Bean during their walking tours of the West Country. Charles Raffill was also another frequent guest at his father's house.

It was only natural that after his initial training under his father that he should enter Kew. This he did in 1901, leaving in 1903 after his studentship and was successively employed at the

Stuart Low Nurseries, Enfield and at North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. In 1914 he married Miss D. Dickens of North Mymms when he was appointed Head Gardener at Parnham Park, Dorset.

In 1927 he moved to Nazeing Park, Waltham Cross, Essex, and was in charge of these gardens until he retired in 1947. It was at these gardens that I first met Jim, and I have happy memories of many visits with him to the R.H.S. Shows at Vincent Square during the 1930's, where he was delighted to meet and renew his friendship with the late Messrs. Raffill, Osborne and Dallimore.

Being of a quiet and retiring nature, he had a charm of manner which endeared him to many friends by whom he will be sadly missed. He is survived by his wife and daughter of Brosebourn, Hants, to whom we send our sincere sympathies.

CYRIL JONES (1923). VICE-PRESIDENT, 1964-66.

T. I. VEAL

Sadly we report the death of Thomas John Veal. He died on 8th December, 1967, at the age of 83. Veal spent his early years at Falmouth which he left at the age of 19 to take up a "position" at Messrs. Low & Co., Enfield. He entered Kew as a student gardener in November, 1905, and left in March, 1907. to work at Hillsborough Gardens, Yelverton, Devon. Later he was a foreman with Mr. Theodore Chalice at Plympton, also in Devon, where he served for many years. In this capacity he specialised in Chrysanthemums. winning many awards. He



also won considerable respect as a judge.

His first wife was Miss Common of St. Columb. Cornwall. His second wife wrote—"on our marriage in 1930 Mr. Veal met Mr. G. Cousins, who was then Parks Superintendent to Torquay Corporation. He was needing a propagating foreman and my hushand accepted the position. He stayed for sixteen years before going to the Salvation Army Hadleigh Colony, but he left after one year, as my health necessitated me returning to Devon. He took

the position of head gardener to Mr. G. V. Northcott, Nutwell Court, Lympstone, and was very happy there. He said of Mr. Northcott that he was the best employer he had been with. He stayed there until he retired at the age of 74. He did not want to even then, but Mr. Northcott had to insist as his sight was getting very bad. He always said, if he had his time to go over again he would still be a horticulturist, he loved plants. He had a full life of doing the work he loved best. He loved Kew and his associations there."

We send Mrs. Lily L. Veal our sincere sympathies.

HERBERT COWLEY

Mr. H. Cowley, a former Editor of the Kew Guild Journal* died in early November, 1967, at the age of 82. Cowley was the son of a gardener and commenced his gardening career at the famous Lockinge Gardens in Berkshire. From Lockinge he gained a scholarship to the Horticultural College where he spent two years. It is here that Miss M. M. Whiting, herself an Old Kewite, takes up the story, she writes— "Herbert Cowley was one of the last eight men students at Swanley College. They all left I think in July, 1902, after which



it was women only. I myself entered Kew as a student the year before, in May, 1901. Men and women were kept strictly apart, but on the last day of the summer term, 1902, many students had already left and rules were waived for the moment. Cowley and I were put on the job of sticking labels on the pots of jam made the day before. I do not remember what jam it was, but I remember Herbert Cowley well ".

He left Swanley to join Messrs. Veitch's nursery, but much of his earlier career up to the end of 1915, including his meritorious war services with a fine photograph of him in uniform, is given in detail in *K.G.J.*, Vol. III, No. XXIII (1916), page 296. He also wrote in the copy of the *Journal* which followed (No. XXIX (1917), page 363). This article upon the work of Arthur Garrett reveals his great interest in writing and in editorial work.

He started journalism as sub-editor of *Popular Gardening* (then the *Gardener*), and then held the post of editor of *The Garden* from 1915-26. The story is taken up by a quotation from an extract kindly sent to us by Messrs. Benn Brothers Ltd., Fleet Street —"He is now with Messrs. Wallace & Co.. the well-known firm of nurserymen and landscape architects at Tunbridge Wells, the nurseries being famed for their collections of Rhododendrons, Irises and Lilies. As readers of *Popular Gardening* know, Mr. Cowley has travelled far in search of plants in their native homes. He has written of his experiences in Bulgaria in our pages. Last summer Mr. Cowley went to the Dolomites, and next year he contemplates an expedition to the Carpathians". He visited Bulgaria as a guest of King Ferdinand and in company with the late C. F. Ball (K.G.J. No. XXIII (1916), page 307).

From 1923-36 he was editor of Gardening Illustrated. Of this period, Mr. A. G. L. Hellyer, horticultural journalist, writes—"Throughout the 1920's he was always a prominent figure at shows—with close cropped hair and always a large wooden camera and stand. He seemed to do all his own photography as well as being editor."

Finally, quoting from the Western Guardian, November 9th, 1967—"On leaving Fleet Street he went to Withypool on Exmoor, and ran a riding school for twenty years before moving to Brixham about six years ago. In Brixham he devoted much of his time to growing camellias, nerines and alpine plants. He was an honorary life member of the Alpine Garden Society, a Fellow of the International Camellia Society and a member of the newly formed Nerine Society".

We send our sincere sympathies to his widow and son.

* Mr. H. Cowley was Editor (and Secretary) of the following copies of the Kew Guild Journal:

Vol. II, Nos. XVII and XVIII (1909 and 10), Vol. III, No. XIX 1911 and 12), No. XX (1913) and No. XXI (1914).

KEW STAFF LIST (October, 1968)

(October, 1968) † Formerly a Student Gardener.

,	tadent Gardener.	Entered Kew
Director's OFFICE Director	Sir George Taylor, D.Sc., F.R.S.,	Kew
	F.R.S.E., F.L.S., V.M.H	1956
Deputy Director, Keeper of Herbar-	I D M Danson M A D Co TI C	10/19
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Secretary (Chief Executive Officer)	R. W. King, D.F.C	
Higher Executive Officer	J. G. Hicks	1964
Executive Officer	W. C. W. Grimes	1967
c: ',	Miss M. R. Axton	1967
Clerical Officer/Secretary	Mrs. A. M. E. Kendall	1947
Clerical Officer	Mrs. V. O. M. Clark	1967
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Clerical Assistant	Mrs. F. L. Upton	1964
. ,,	Miss L. M. Jenkins	1966
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,, ,,	Miss M. I. Hutchins	1967
,, ,,	L. E. Hare	1966
Shorthand Typist	Miss E. H. Smith	1966
,, ,, ,,	Mrs. K. M. Murphy	1968
Telephone Operator	Mrs. C. Lansdell	1966
HERBARIUM AND LIBRARY		
Deputy Keeper, S.P.S.O.	E. W. B. H. Milne-Redhead, I.S.O.,	
Deputy Reeper, S.F.S.O.	T.D., M.A., F.L.S	1928
Senior Principal Scientific Officer	R. W. G. Dennis, R.Sc., Ph.D.	1944
Principal Scientific Officer	P. S. Green, B.Sc., F.L.S	1956
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Senior Scientific Officer	L. L. Forman, B.Sc., F.L.S.	1951
senior scientific Officer	Miss F. M. Jarrett, M.A., Ph.D.	1959
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39 39 39	C. Jeffrey, M.A	
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Scientific Officer	E. R. Guest, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.,	40.00
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"	Mrs. S. M. Phillips, B.Sc. (Miss	
Potonist (Pontham Marray)	King)	1966
Botanist (Bentham-Moxon)	H. K. Airy Shaw, B.A	1925