

## IN MEMORIAM

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY:	<i>Year of Election</i>
Fowler, T. G. W. . . . .	1910
Freese-Pennefather, H. W. A. . . . .	1947
Sugden, F. K. . . . .	1948
Seiler, Franz . . . . .	1958

## ALEXANDER MORRIS CARR-SAUNDERS

1886-1966

SIR ALEXANDER CARR-SAUNDERS, K.B.E., F.B.A., was born in 1886, and educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, where his subject was biology. His early academic career was spent in the natural sciences, but soon after the end of the first world war he transferred his interest to the social sciences with which he had a temperamental affinity, and in which he saw that there was great scope for the application of the methodology of the natural sciences. In 1923 he was elected to the newly created Charles Booth Chair of Social Science at Liverpool and in 1937 became Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, a post in which his administrative skill combined with patience, understanding and tact enabled him to consolidate, as well as to develop, the position of that unique institution, both in research into, and the teaching of, the social sciences. Such was the regard in which he was held at the School that he was prevailed upon to postpone his retirement until 1956, when he had passed his seventieth year.

He continued nevertheless to make outstanding contributions to the work of higher education over the best part of another decade, and in particular was at the time of his death the acknowledged authority on the universities of Africa, which are among the chief growing points of higher education in the world at the present time.

This is not the place to attempt an estimate of his contribution to the social sciences, which, in an exceptionally well-informed and sympathetic obituary notice in *The Times* of October 8, was assessed extremely highly. His essay on *The Population Problem* (1922) could be said to have founded the science of demography, in this country at any rate, and his later study of *The Professions* (with P. A. Wilson) was also a pioneering effort within its own area of research, and has been claimed as the beginning of modern scientific sociology.

Carr-Saunders was not easy to get to know: to most people his reserve was impenetrable, though it was not difficult to get on to terms with him. In a somewhat complex character, certain basic traits stood out; among these integrity, patience, modesty and selflessness were those which appeared to me most evident: he had, however, a shrewd idea of the importance of his own contribution to the social sciences. He hated sloppiness almost more than he hated dishonesty, and his work as both a scholar and administrator was marked by a meticulous attention to detail. His scorn of those who fell below his high standards, at any rate on moral issues, could be withering—in private: in public he always preserved his urbanity, and indeed was famous for his sphinx-like countenance.

Carr-Saunders became interested in mountaineering as a schoolboy, in rather unusual circumstances. His grandfather had accepted the responsibility of trusteeship for Mme. Charlet-Straton, the heroine of an early alpine romance—she had married her guide and settled down to live in Argentière. There was a friendship between the Straton and Carr-Saunders families, and the trusteeship descended from father to son. Alec Carr-Saunders' father used to visit Mme. Charlet-Straton from time to time and took his schoolboy son with him on some of these visits. Old Jean Charlet of Petit Dru fame would take him on to the Argentière glacier and teach him to cut steps, and he explored the Aiguilles Rouges, of which he acquired an exceptional knowledge. All his earliest climbing seems to have been done in this district and the first ascent shown on his application form for membership of the Club is the Aiguille du Tour (1903). The Charlet-Straton trusteeship was eventually wound up by Alec Carr-Saunders himself, who was staying at Chamonix with the old lady in 1914 when the war began.

Carr-Saunders joined the Club in 1911, being proposed by R. O. P. Paddison and seconded by Claude Schuster. By this time he had made expeditions in other parts of the Alps, and indeed in Norway. In 1906 he had done the High Level route, in 1910 the Matterhorn, Dent Blanche and Dom (amongst others), and in 1911 he had a successful holiday in the Oberland, climbing among other peaks the Finsteraarhorn, Mönch, Jungfrau, Eiger, Bietschhorn, Wetterhorn and Gross Schreckhorn (traverse).

During the years immediately after the 1914–1918 war, Carr-Saunders seldom missed a holiday in the mountains. At first he returned to the Mont Blanc massif, which indeed he visited from time to time later. I have an account from a companion who was with him in 1925 when some of the outlying huts were still in a dilapidated condition. The party reached the Triolet hut late in the evening much burdened with firewood, blankets, food and equipment only to find the bunks practically devoid of straw, what utensils remained were unusable, and floor boards and seats much gnawed by marmots. The smoke from a fire which they

proceeded to light refused to go up the chimney, or indeed to leave the hut, so that the party, with smarting eyes, felt they would have been better without it. Here they remained weather-bound throughout the next day, during which Carr-Saunders' enlivening conversation did much to keep up the spirits of his companions. In the end they got up the Aiguille de Triolet and also did a traverse of Mont Blanc.

In 1921 he was a member, as marine biologist, of the Oxford University expedition to Spitsbergen on which Julian Huxley and N. E. Odell were with him. Here and on other expeditions his load-carrying capacity impressed his fellow travellers. During the following decade he was climbing in the Alps most years, usually with one of his Oxford friends such as Robert Strickland-Constable, C. G. Markbreiter, H. R. C. Carr and John Pilley. Even in the terrible weather of 1924 he managed to get up the South-east peak of the Kranzberg, the Finsteraarhorn, the Dreieckhorn, the Rimpfischhorn, Monte Rosa and some smaller peaks. In 1926 he was at Saas-Fee and climbed the Laquinhorn, Weissmies and Nadelhorn. In both 1927 and 1929 he climbed with A. M. Binnie and William Younger. In the former year, after starting with the Königspitze they moved into the Engadine, climbing the Bernina, Piz Roseg and Disgrazia: on the last peak it was so cold that a flask of tea embedded in the rucksack was found frozen. After this the party had an exasperating and excruciating journey to catch a train down to Ardenno in a springless carrozza drawn by a flaccid horse. Just as hope of arrival in time had been abandoned, a peasant carrying a load of sticks on his back appeared, whereupon the driver jumped down and without uttering a word snatched a stick and belaboured his animal with it to such effect that the train was caught in good time.

In 1929 they were in the Tarentaise and climbed the Grande Motte, the Tsanteleina and the Grande Sassièrè. Carr-Saunders came from England to join the others quite out of training, and they admired the pertinacity and endurance he displayed in struggling up his peaks while suffering from mountain sickness. In 1932, the last season about which I have any information, he was in Austria with Strickland-Constable and did the Gross Venediger and Gross Glockner.

Expeditions such as the above meant more in the 1920's than they do today, but the record is rather that of a man who enjoyed making expeditions among the mountains than that of a passionate climber, and this is the estimate of his friends. He had indeed a very real love of the hill country; while working at Liverpool he was often to be found in Snowdonia at the week-end though he never developed much enthusiasm for rock climbing. After the last war he bought a cottage in the Vale of St. John in the Lake District, to which he eventually retired and from which he would make expeditions on to the fells with the friends who delighted to visit him there, as long as his health permitted. While there

he busied himself, characteristically, with forestry and with tracing out the Roman roads. He was a delightful companion: untiring, uncomplaining and a good carrier, he was a strong and steady member of any party. He kept his companions interested by his wide-ranging and well-informed conversation, ever and anon lighted up by flashes of mordant wit. His observant eye and capacity for analysis of mountain and glacier forms brought an unusual and valued element to his companionship.

Carr-Saunders was indeed a man in whom the awareness and appreciation of beauty was strongly developed. He was a connoisseur of pictures, of which he made an interesting collection, and on the occasion of the centenary of the Club he undertook a survey of our pictures (see *A. J.* 63. 96, and 64. 129). It was perhaps the beauty of the scenery which drew him into the mountains, 'their every shape and pattern in rock and glacier and snowfield attracted and occupied his keen and sensitive mind'. But he also found in the quiet of the mountains the solace and the opportunity for quiet reflection which a busy life intensely concerned with human happenings made so necessary to him, whose sensitiveness to the 'human situation' drove him into a life of social service, from the hurly-burly of which he needed at times to retire for peace and refreshment. This he found among the mountains. He enjoyed, rather, to be among the peaks than to fight his way up them, and indeed, as his sociological work developed, and he became conscious of its pioneering importance, he may well have felt that the risks inherent in big expeditions were unjustifiable for him. On one of his earlier expeditions he had had an unpleasant experience in a crevasse from which the assembled might of the Oxford University Mountaineering Club had extracted him with some difficulty. However, I must not convey the impression that he did not enjoy the actual activity of mountaineering. From the accounts of his companions it is evident that he really enjoyed his climbs and showed an obvious exhilaration on reaching the top. In this too there was a scientific factor involved: he wanted 'to see for himself what the map had told him, and to look beyond'.

Although his earlier residence in the north, and later, when living in London, his numerous important public duties, prevented his frequent appearance at meetings, he was a keen member of the Club, came to the Winter Dinner whenever possible, and served one period on the Committee. Both in the University of Liverpool and while Director of the London School of Economics he did much to foster and encourage a love of climbing among his students, whom he helped with his counsel and guidance in drawing up their plans for meets, and in other ways. Undoubtedly, in a career which touched life at many important points, mountains, and the climbing of them, was one of the more important facets.

CHORLEY.

## BARTOLOMEO FIGARI

1881 - 1965

IT IS much regretted that our eminent Italian member's death was not noticed here until recently and we are indebted to the *Rivista* of the C.A.I. (Sezione Ligure) of July-December, 1965, for much of the information there given in an obituary notice by Signor E. A. Buscaglione.

Figari was born on April 23, 1881, and died on May 30, 1965, at Genoa. His climbing career commenced in 1898, and he was soon making notable ascents throughout the Alps. Among these, only a few can be mentioned here; the first Italian ascent of the Bietschhorn (1904), the first guideless crossing of the Cresta di Vofrède and the first guideless ascent of the South ridge of the Herbetet (both in 1905); the first ascent of the North ridge of the Cialancias and first traverse (with first ascent by the South ridge) of the Becco Alto dell' Ischiator (both 1909), and numerous other ascents in the Italian alps. In more familiar regions, all the better-known names occur—Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, Disgrazia, Grande Casse, Finsteraarhorn, Gran Paradiso, Matterhorn, Mischabel, and many more. He sustained a serious injury when swept down by an avalanche of rocks on the Aiguille Centrale d'Arves, but he managed to keep climbing actively until 1914, though after the War he had to forego mountaineering.

Figari's climbing was mostly in the classic tradition, with exploration allied to research; he was a great believer in the cultural preparation for mountain climbing and, when his active days were over, he strove hard to develop alpine libraries in the branches of the C.A.I. He undertook almost single handed the second edition of the guide to the Apuan Alps, a favourite field of his, and late in life (1956) he published a volume of memoirs.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1948, on the proposal of Count Aldo Bonacossa, seconded by Signor Rivetti. Since 1947 he had been President of the C.A.I., so the Alpine Club had the unusual privilege of electing as member the active President of one of the great Continental climbing clubs. His presidency of the C.A.I. coincided with a great period of post-war reconstruction and Figari threw himself into the work and, in particular, into the organisation of the Alpine Rescue Service, a body to which he munificently bequeathed his entire estate.

To the C.A.I., and particularly, perhaps, to the Ligurian Section in which he had served in many capacities—Secretary, Vice-President, President—we extend our sympathy on the loss of this distinguished and venerated figure in Italian climbing circles.

T.S.B.

## CHARLES BEVERLY CROFT HANDLEY

1907-1966

HANDLEY was educated at Charterhouse and Wye College, and became an agricultural officer in North Kenya; in 1929 he did some minor climbing round Mount Kenya. His first alpine season was in 1921, in the Diablerets region, but, except for an ascent of Titlis in January, 1928, he did not commence regular ski-mountaineering in the Alps until 1935.

Although he had at an early age acquired a flying licence, when the war of 1939-45 started he went into the Army (Rifle Brigade) and specialised in mountain warfare. While undergoing training in America, he managed to make a traverse of Sugarloaf (13,000 ft.) in Colorado in 1943.

After the war he returned to ski-mountaineering; he was in the Oberland in February, 1948, in March, 1950 (when he made an ascent of the Gross Fiescherhorn), and in March, 1956 (with an ascent of the Mönch). In March, 1955, he was in the Valais; in April, 1959, in Norway; and in April, 1960, in the Grisons.

In the Kandahar Ski Club he was Honorary Secretary from 1934-51; Honorary Treasurer, 1947-51; and Vice-President, 1952-53. He was a prominent member of the Ski Club of Great Britain from 1949 onwards, and also in the Alpine Ski Club. He was elected to the Alpine Club in December, 1960.

He had been brought up in East Anglia and in 1960 he returned there to farm. He was married in 1933 and had one daughter. To widow and daughter we extend our sympathy in their loss, a loss that will be widely shared in the Alpine Club, where Handley's unfailing cheerfulness and good humour had made him many friends.

S. B.

MR. H. A. GEBBIE writes:

Though I knew Handley only over the last eight or nine years of his life, I came to regard him as a quite outstanding person, with fine human qualities. He had a warm humanity and tolerance, and a boyish enthusiasm, but above all he had great loyalty and sincerity. As a devout Christian he derived satisfaction and strength from his faith, and, being the man he was, he worked hard for the Church he belonged to.

Though a trained professional in his chosen field of agriculture, with all the advantages of a deep knowledge, he still had the wonder and delight of a beginning amateur in growing things. His interest extended into many areas.

He was fond of shooting, and did at least some sailing each year. As well as an interest in flying, which was in part professional, he was a keen motorist who liked to keep up a high average. His skiing activities have been mentioned, but it should be added that, though he was an

expert, he still could find time to help beginners. In fact, I had the impression that he always thought in terms of what he could do for his favourite sport, and never of what it might do for him.

Handley will be missed by people ranging over a broad spectrum, but not least by those who knew him for his good fellowship, a quality which he himself valued very highly.

### RICHARD GEORGE HARRIS

1926-1966

THE death of Richard Harris on Mont Blanc on August 3, 1966, was as bitter as it was surprising to all who knew him. Any climber who met him would quickly have recognised him as a fine mountaineer. His technical skill on rock, his controlled determination, his rigorously trained fitness—all these impressed and made one feel that he at least would be unlikely to meet disaster. But even the best prepared are vulnerable and for anyone who had at all penetrated his charming self-effacement, surprise naturally gives way to sadness at the loss of such a wonderful man. And, though he was a dedicated mountaineer, no appreciation of his life could be limited to mountains; one must pay tribute to the rarity and richness of his remarkable personality.

The first hints of what lay beneath might come from his sense of humour, a quiet Jane Austen-like wit, or one might stumble on one of his many talents: gymnastics, Japanese and other languages, music; or again one might find him quietly and thoroughly toiling away at some routine task either to benefit others or to perfect his own efforts. Whatever it was, one found perfectionism linked with a most humane self-effacement. His organ-playing revealed him fully; always by choice and temperament an accompanist, he married a technical brilliance with the most perfect control and sensitivity both to the music and to the people whom he was accompanying. It was this combination of supremely high standards with sympathetic awareness to everything and everyone around him which made him such a rare personality. To work beside him was at once a pleasure and a humiliation. He never failed one if help was required, was always friendly and gracious, warm though unobtrusive; but the real revelation came when one looked at his results or talked with his pupils (he was a schoolmaster by profession). That such a perfectionist should promote distinction among his charges was natural; what was unique was that he could maintain his own remarkable standards, expect and get the same from clever boys and yet remain so tolerant and understanding of the inabilities of the less gifted, that he never failed to lift them all to the best that they could do. Nor were they crammed; they were led simply and faithfully by a supreme teacher whom they honoured and loved as a model of the truest humanity.

This was the man whose career ended so tragically in the terrible storm on Mont Blanc last year. His record, which includes rock climbs like White Slab and Spectre, and a fine list of alpine ascents,<sup>1</sup> shows his calibre as a mountaineer. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1964. His many achievements and undertakings, including some notable services to the Rucksack Club, deserve our praise. Above all, he is to be lamented as a man—a wonderful companion to those who climbed and worked with him; a dear son to his indomitable mother. To her this loss is deepest, but all who were close to him have lost an unique friend and an irreplaceable though still vivid inspiration.

J. A. GRAHAM.

### FRANZ SEILER

1897–1966

DR. FRANZ SEILER was the grandson of Alexander Seiler. Captain J. P. Farrar, President of the A.C. from 1917–1919, said at an Alpine Club meeting, ‘We have with us tonight, Herr Joseph Seiler, grandson of Alexander Seiler, the creator of Zermatt. Few indeed are the Prime Ministers of England whose memory is held in such high esteem by members of this club as that of Alexander Seiler.’ None of the great Swiss hotelier dynasties have been so closely associated with the Alpine Club as the Seilers, and of this fact Franz Seiler, elected to our club in 1958, was extremely proud.<sup>2</sup> During the years when I was working on my books *Zermatt and the Valais* and *Matterhorn Centenary* I saw a great deal of Franz both in Zürich and in his lovely chalet at Randa. I am indebted to him for many shrewd and often entertaining comments on the outlook of the Zermatters, and when we talked about guides I was always impressed by his expert appreciation of their individual characteristics. In the dedicatory letter to my book on Zermatt I wrote, ‘I can still hear the enthusiasm in your voice as you spoke of Adolf Aufdenblatten of Zermatt, described by George Finch as “one of the neatest, fastest and most powerful stepcutters whom it has ever been my good fortune to see at work”.’ I, who was honoured by his friendship, understand the genuine note not only of profound respect but also of deep affection in the various obituary notices which I have read.

<sup>1</sup> A full account of his climbs will appear in the *Rucksack Club Journal* for 1967.

<sup>2</sup> Members of the A.C. who were in Zermatt in 1957 will recall the hospitable interest shown by Dr. Seiler in our Centenary celebrations, as also when he attended and spoke at our Dinner that winter. Many of us, too, will remember his distinguished tri-lingual speech at the opening ceremony of the Matterhorn celebrations in 1965.

It may be added that although, as Lunn’s tribute shows, Dr. Seiler would have been welcomed as a member of the A.C. on any terms, he in fact chose to be elected on his climbing qualifications, which included all the principal great peaks round the St. Niklaus valley, many of them several times.—T.S.B.



Franz, who died on Christmas Eve, 1966, was born on May 1, 1897, and began his formal education at the well known Jesuit school in Feldkirch, the influence of which, so Dr. Werner Kämpfen remarked in his very moving *Trauerrede*, persisted throughout his life. It was his practice to renew the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises every Easter.

He took his doctorate of Law at the University of Berne, and seemed at first attracted by politics. The Swiss President, Herr Motta, must have been impressed by the talents of this young man, for he sent him on a diplomatic mission to Czechoslovakia, but those who were concerned with the difficulties of the Swiss hotel industry after the First World War persuaded him to accept the leadership of a newly-formed hotel organisation in Zürich. Later he was for twenty years the President of the Swiss Hotel Association and one of the founders and later President of the International Hotel Association. My friend Kaspar von Allmen, who is not prodigal in the bestowal of alphas, told me that one of the best speeches he had ever heard was by Dr. Franz Seiler at a meeting of the Swiss Hotel Association.

Franz Seiler was described in a brilliant but anonymous tribute in the Swiss Hotel *Revue* as 'un grand humaniste . . . Il était non seulement juriste, mais encore philosophe et théologue'. He was, as I soon realised, deeply concerned with the application of Christian principles to the problems of the modern world. He had a passion for music. He was himself a fine performer on the violin, and the creator of the famous Music Weeks at Zermatt, invitations to which were accepted by such famous musicians as Pablo Casals and Rubinstein.

Men as versatile as Franz Seiler and as gifted are uncommon, and one can well understand what his all too early death must mean to the Swiss hotels in general, and to the valley which he loved and served so nobly in particular.

ARNOLD LUNN.