

BOROUGH LOSES NOTED CRAFTSMAN

A Gifted Personality

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A GREAT loss has been sustained by his friends in the artistic world, and the Borough generally, by the death, following a cycle accident, of a sailor, poet and craftsman, Mr. Arthur Romney Green, of 3, Bridge Street.

Mr. Green had lived at Christchurch for the past 25 years, and had been noted for the exhibitions of his work in furniture design at the Bournemouth Arts Club shows. He also lectured on crafts to the Literature and Art Society.

To a visitor passing down Bridge Street, the name of A. Romney Green, woodworker and designer, displayed above his little shop, conveyed little or nothing. Yet few could fail to be attracted by the examples of carpentry conspicuous within.

It was there that Mr. Green lived and modelled from walnut, pine, cedar and other woods for many years. Graduated from Cambridge with mathematical honours, he had since distinguished himself in the annals of carpentry and his work is recognised all over the country. A Batchelor of Arts, Mr. Green had for some years carried on teaching in South Africa.

Quite recently he broadcast from the B.B.C. on the lighter side of his profession. It was his second broadcast within six months: his first transmission in May attracted a hundred letters.

His furniture, which he made himself, is all designed geometrically and worked out with mathematical accuracy, which he considered enhanced its beauty. His combined workshop and residence is a veritable storehouse of every conceivable piece of furniture of a quality which indicates the touch of a master craftsman. Adorning his walls and strewn amongst finished models, are illustrations and pictures connected with his profession.

Mr. Green had every reason to be proud of his handiwork. Examples had been exhibited with the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, and through the medium of the Board of Trade and the Ministry of Education, in international exhibitions at Paris, Milan and St. Louis. A strange but interesting aspect of his career was that despite the wide spread popularity of his work he had never travelled a great deal. The quality of his work was so recognised that prospective buyers willingly came to him and not he to them. His many clients since the last war included several Peers.

One of the most beautiful examples of his creative art was a lectern modelled in yew and chestnut for the war memorial of St Georges School, Hartington. Undertakings had also been received from Charterhouse School. Examples of his fine work can be seen locally. The lectern and oak wood work of the Lady Chapel of the Priory Church was carried out by Mr. Green and his staff. He also made furniture for the late Eric Gill, sculptor and scribe, with whom he had been associated in some of his work.

His business was not entirely immune from the effects of war. Despite the fact that as a small working master he had experienced an acute staff shortage, the standard of his work still maintained its high level. It was his firm belief that the authorities should do all they could to foster the formation of these small workshops after the war in order to develop that creative impulse so prevalent in British people.

A native of Strand-on-the-Green, Middlesex, he leaves one surviving daughter, his wife having died two years ago. His brother, a well-known architect, Mr. W. Curtis Green, R.A., whose designs included those for the Dorchester Hotel, London.

Another of Mr. Green's interests was financial reform, in connection with which he had corresponded with Lord Keynes and contributed to the "New English Weekly."

The interment took place at the Christchurch Cemetery on Saturday, February 24th. the service being conducted by the Rev. Woodhams.

The family mourner was the brother of Mr. Green, Mr. Curtis Green. Also present were: Mrs. Leslie Goodwin, Mrs. Garle, Mr. Julian Taylor, Mr. A. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Lane.

INQUEST ON MR. ROMNEY GREEN.
Collision With Motor Coach

THE inquest on Arthur Romney Green, a seventy-four years old woodworker, of 3, Bridge Street, who died of injuries received as the result of a collision with a motor coach, was held at Bournemouth on Friday, February 23rd. The inquest was conducted by the Bournemouth Deputy Coroner, Mr. O. G. Vernon.

Mrs. Gladys Margaret Clark, a laundry packer, of 29, St. John's Road, Christchurch, who was walking along Barrack Road at the time, said she saw an elderly man cycling over the Barrack-Stour Roads crossing. A motor coach travelling along Barrack Road towards Bournemouth swerved to avoid the cyclist. In spite of this, however, the cyclist struck the coach on the near side and fell to the ground. In her opinion the motor coach was not travelling fast.

Robert Scotthorn Wilkinson, house surgeon at Boscombe Hospital, said that the deceased was admitted to hospital at 5 p.m. on the 5th February, suffering from concussion, and died on 21 st February from cerebral haemorrhage, caused by the injury.

John Alexander Scott, a boat builder, with whom Mr. Green lived, said that the deceased was an experienced cyclist, and as far as he knew his sight and hearing were good. He had since January been suffering from an attack of bronchitis, and the day of the accident was the first time deceased had cycled since his illness. Mr. Green was inclined to be absent-minded, and often, engrossed in thought, was quite oblivious to what was going on around him. It was quite likely that he would cycle passed a halt sign without taking any notice of it.

Albert Joe Taylor, of 2, Townville Road, Bournemouth, a Hants and Dorset bus driver, said that he was driving his bus behind the motor coach when he saw a cyclist suddenly appear from Stour Road. The cyclist did not stop at the white line, but kept straight on, without looking either to his left or to his right. The motor coach in front of witness swerved sharply to the right to avoid the cyclist, who struck the coach in the centre of the body and fell back from the cycle on to his head. At the time they were not exceeding 20 miles per hour.

Garfield William Hayne, driver of the motor coach, of 27, Coombe Avenue, Ensbury Park, said he saw the cyclist suddenly appear from the Barrack-Stour Roads crossing, without making any attempt to halt at the white line. He was only cycling at an ordinary speed, and the coach was travelling about 17 m.p.h. All he could do to avoid running over the deceased was to swerve to the right and brake sharply. He felt a bump, and descending from the coach saw the deceased lying in the centre of the crossing. Replying to the Coroner, witness said that he had been driving for over 30 years.

Police Sergeant Wyatt said that when he arrived at the scene of the accident, he saw deceased lying in the road, being attended by a doctor for injuries to the head. He examined the coach and found a mark on the near side which corresponded with the height of the handlebars on deceased's bicycle. Witness found a pool of blood 21 ft. 6in. from the white line where he should have halted.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death due to cerebral haemorrhage caused by injuries sustained in the collision.

Concluding, the Coroner said "To my mind this shows the value of traffic lights, and if those lights had been working this accident might never have happened."