

## IN MEMORIAM ALAN CROCKER (1935-2018)

Another of the remarkable group of people who founded BAPH has sadly left us. Alan Godfrey Crocker was born in Pontypridd, South Wales on 6 October 1935. Alan was educated at Pontypridd Grammar School for Boys and went on to study mathematics at Imperial College, London, gaining his BSc (Special), ARCS in Mathematics, University of London, (Imperial College) in 1956 and his PhD on the ‘Theory of the Crystallography of Mechanical Twinning and Martensitic Transformations’, at the Department of Metallurgy, University of Sheffield, in 1959. From 1959 onwards his whole academic career was at the University of Surrey, originally the Battersea College of Technology, where he was Lecturer 1959-1965, Reader 1965-1981, Professor 1981-2001 and Professor Emeritus 2001-2015. Over the years other positions followed: in 1967 he became a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, a Fellow of Institute of Metals in 1978, a Chartered Engineer in 1978 and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1989.

Alan published continuously throughout his life: his bibliography, which includes all his academic publications as a physicist, as well as his paper history and industrial archeology research (see Notes and references for some titles), runs to 34 pages, the first ten pages being publications relating to his work in Physics. Amongst the publications to which Alan contributed his various researches were

*Surrey Archaeological Collections, Surrey History, IPH Yearbook and Congress Books, Industrial Archaeology Review, Surrey Industrial History Group, Proceeding of the Mills Research Group, Industrial Heritage, International Molinology, Transactions of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society, Scottish Business and Industrial History, Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall and the Journal of the Trevithick Society.*

Alan and Glenys in 1958



I first met Alan in February 1989 at Butlers Court when a group of like-minded people came together for the meeting that resulted in the foundation of the British Association of Paper Historians. What struck me on meeting him was the combination of enthusiasm and curiosity. He was serious about his interests but he wore his interest lightly. Alan served as Chairman of BAPH between 1996-1999 and has published extensively with BAPH: from the first issue of *The Quarterly* in 1989 he has produced 39 articles and Conference papers for us. Besides these articles for *The Quarterly* he contributed articles and papers to many different journals and organisations, many of them written in collaboration with other researchers. Amongst his important publications on paper historical subjects were books on *Cateshall Mill, Surrey, Paper Mills of the Tillingbourne* and *The Diaries of James Simmons*. [1] This book included paper showing the Simmons watermarks, made on one of James Simmons’s surviving papermaking moulds by Wookey Hole paper mill.

Three of Alan’s paper history publications give some insight into the breadth of his interests: *The Sweetapple Cookery Book of 1796*, is just that; a cookery book from a paper mill and one of the most successful of the BAPH monograph series. His publications on ‘William McMurray or Don Guillermo: Wireworker, Papermaker, Espartero’ cover a very little known area of paper history and the 1739 will and probate inventory of the papermaker William Jubb reveals some very important information on buildings, stock in trade, utensils and debts giving a real insight into the early eighteenth century papermaking business. [2] We regularly exchanged the various fruits of our researches and I always appreciated his generosity of spirit: particularly his contribution to the study of the English forgery of French Assignats [3] and his sharing

his work on Matthias Koops and Neckinger mills, much of which he later published in *The Quarterly*. [4]

At various times Alan was President of the Surrey Industrial History Group, Chairman of the Gunpowder Mills Study Group, and Chairman of the Wind and Watermill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, where he was one of the people instrumental in broadening the Wind and Watermill section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' interests from corn mills to include those watermills used for other things such as paper making and gunpowder manufacture.

Alan and Glenys got married in December 1959 and throughout their lives together they became a formidable team, each helping the other with support and research, a complex blend of different and complementary perspectives, united in a common cause, the pursuit of understanding. Alan understood a very simple truth: that everything is interesting. He wrote up all his painstaking research in very lucid and readable prose that got this across to his readers. He was a warm and kind

man, always intent on understanding what was before him, whether it be methods of investigating crystallography or stress fractures in metals, a paper document, a turbine, an industrial archeological site or even a rare moth, something we corresponded about a few years ago.

As BAPH approaches our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, looking back over the lives of some of the remarkable group of people who originally founded the Association, what distinguishes them is the breadth, and depth of the wide-ranging interests that they individually brought to the study of our complex subject: paper, its making and its history. Paper was an important part of some very rich lives. Alan will be missed by everyone who knew him, but he leaves a rich legacy in all his published researches in so many different fields.

Peter Bower

#### Acknowledgements

I would very much like to thank Glenys Crocker for all her help in putting together this appreciation of her husband and Gareth Crocker for providing the black & white photograph of Alan and Glenys from the 1950s.

#### Notes and References

[1] Alan Crocker and Glenys Crocker, Catteshall Mill. A Survey of the History and Archaeology of an Industrial Site at Godalming, Surrey, Research Volume 8, Surrey Archaeological Society, Guildford, 1981, 52 pages plus vii, 12 pages of plates. Alan Crocker, Paper Mills of the Tillingbourne, A History of Paper Making in a Surrey Valley 1704 to 1875, The Tabard Press, Oxshott, 1988, 77 pages plus ix. Alan Crocker and Martin Kane, The Diaries of James Simmons, Paper-maker of Haslemere, 1831-1868, The Tabard Press, Oxshott, 1990, 190 pages plus ix; A Second Edition was published by the Surrey Industrial Heritage Group in 2008.

[2] Alan Crocker, The Sweetapple Cookery Book of 1796, BAPH Monograph 3, A5 booklet, 24 pages plus iv, 9 illus, August 2011. Alan Crocker and Javier Castillo Fernandez, 'William McMurray or Don Guillermo: Wireworker, Papermaker, Espartero'. Part 1: Wireworking in Scotland and Papermaking in England, *The Quarterly*, 46, May 2003, pp 1-7. Part 2: 'Esparto in Spain and McMurray's Legacy', *The Quarterly*, 48, Dec 2003, pp 8-16. Alan Crocker, Mary Day and Peggy Bedwell, 'The will and probate inventory of William Jubb, 1697-1739, papermaker of Ewell', *Surrey History* 9 (2010) pp 1-11.

[3] Alan Crocker, 'The Ball Family, Papermakers of Surrey and Northern France', *The Oxford Papers*, Proc 4th Annual Conf BAPH (1993), London, 1996, pp 51-60; with Anne Phillips

[4] Alan Crocker, 'Matthias Koops at Neckinger Mill, Bermondsey', in *The London Papers*, Studies in British Paper History, 3(1) 1-8, part of *The Quarterly*, 39, July 2001, pp 15-22; with Robin Clarke. Alan Crocker, 'Neckinger Mill Paper and Watermarks', in *The London Papers*, studies in British paper history, 3(1), pp 17-24, part of *The Quarterly*, 39, July 2001, pp 31-38; with Richard Hills. Alan Crocker, 'Campbell, Carpenter, Cope and Koops: Neckinger Mill, Bermondsey, 1792-1806', *IPH Congress Book*, 12, 2001, pp 10-19. Alan Crocker, 'Hector Campbell: Bleaching at Neckinger Mill, Bermondsey'. *The Quarterly*, 41, Jan 2002, pp 43-7. Alan Crocker, 'Papermaking Texts: Matthias Koops' Petition'. *The Quarterly*, 43, July 2002, pp 1-5. Alan Crocker, 'The Papermaker and the Prophetess: Elias Carpenter of Neckinger Mill, Bermondsey, supporter of Joanna Southcott', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, 89, 2002, pp 119-35; with Stephen Humphrey. Alan Crocker, 'Matthias Koops' Petition: the Act', *The Quarterly*, 49, Jan 2004, pp 20-2. Alan Crocker, 'Matthias Koops' Historical Account', *The Quarterly*, 50, April 2004, pp 1-12.