

## Obituary

### Rémy Barcham Green, 20 February 1912 – April 2004

Rémy was born on 20 February 1912 at Loose, near Maidstone, Kent. His interest in papermaking and then paper history was no doubt aroused through his father Jack Barcham Green and grandfather Herbert Green. He became the fifth generation of the Greens to run Hayle Mill, Maidstone, which his forebears took over ownership in 1817. Rémy learnt his trade not only at Hayle Mill itself but also through Maurice Lecole of the Papeterie de Lana at Docelles in Lorraine. In addition, he worked for a while at Papierfabrik Balstal, near Basel in Switzerland. Later Rémy had a great interest in the Basel Paper Museum.

Rémy became a partner in J. Barcham Green & Son in 1932 and later was Managing Director of its successor, J. Barcham Green Limited, for many years. He married Daphne Day in 1938 and, following her death in 1976, married Marion Farmery in 1977. Both attended some of the IPH Congresses with him. During the Second World War, Rémy was proud to serve in the Royal Tank Regiment and witnessed the horrors of Belsen Concentration Camp soon after its liberation. He undertook many services to his local community, becoming President of the Maidstone Rotary Club, Chairman of Mote House Cheshire Home, Magistrate on the Bearsted Bench, Church Warden at his local church as well as a member of the Board of Visitors at East Sutton Park which was how he met Marion.

Yet it is as Managing Director of Hayle Mill and his contributions to supporting paper history that Rémy must be remembered. On his return from the war, he recognised that something more than just hand-made paper would be needed to keep Hayle Mill viable. He installed a small but very versatile cylinder mould machine. He became very friendly with Georg Poerringer who ran the family firm of Otto Poerringer at Annweiler in Pfalzion in the far West of Germany near the French border. Georg was very helpful with advice in the use of this machine for making industrial filter paper. At one time nearly all the aviation spirit used at Heathrow airport was filtered with Green's paper. Rémy developed this machine to produce filter papers for the most demanding analytical laboratory uses and for industrial materials such as sugar, beer and gold. During the 1950's, he worked closely with many leading bookbinders and paper restorers, manufacturing papers for their particular needs. In 1965 he developed the first acid-free hand-made paper for Dr. Sydney Cockerell. He sold Green's 105 Lens Tissue to laboratories and photographers all over the world. His sales travels took him to remote parts of Africa. While returning from one trip, he landed safely at Rome in spite of the failure of three of the four engines of the plane. Green's Lens Tissue was gradually recognised as also being eminently suitable for repairing books and documents. In 1968, many shipments were sent to Florence to help in conserving the large number of books damaged in the floods. As a result, Green's Lens Tissue was used in all the great libraries throughout the world and was dominant in this market until Rémy retired from papermaking in 1974. Hand-made paper was not neglected for he also developed two renowned artists' papers, Bockingford and J.Green.

Remy was founding member of the National Paper Museum which opened its first display at the Vegetable Parchment Mill, St. Mary Cray, Kent on 24 April 1963. When this mill closed, the exhibits were transferred to the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology in 1968. He continued for many years as a Trustee and was pleased that the demonstrations of making paper by hand proved to be so popular. He was a firm supporter of this collection and attended nearly every meeting, whether at Manchester or in London. But he was very disappointed when the new museum

authorities at Liverpool Road Station took the exhibits off display and dispersed them in their storage areas.

Rémy gave great support to the history of papermaking. He assisted E.J. Labarre in compiling his *Dictionary and Encyclopaedia of Paper and Paper-making* in its various editions. He also was a great help to Edo G. Loeber in his researches into the techniques and artefacts of hand-made paper. Edo was a frequent guest at Rémy's home and spent many weeks cataloguing the hand moulds at Hayle Mill. Rémy also assisted with editing Edo's *Paper Mould and Mouldmaker*, (Paper Publications Society, Amsterdam, 1982). I remember discussing with Rémy and Bé van Ginneken how far we should go in translating Edo's idiosyncratic personal brand of Dutch English into English.

Rémy was a long-standing member of both IPH and BAPH. Through these Associations, he made many friends including besides those already mentioned people like Henk Voorn. He was ever willing to help the cause of paper history and I was grateful to him for his support at the meetings of the National Paper Museum Committee as well as his assistance when we recorded on film the hand-made processes at Hayle Mill. While he could show his displeasure, he was also very courteous. He passed away on April 2004. We mourn his passing and offer our condolences to Marion, his son Simon and other members of his family. I also would like to thank Simon for his help with the preparation of this obituary.

Richard L. Hills.