

Proceedings

of the

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRGIL SOCIETY

No. 14, 1974–75

(Acting Editor: H. MacL. Currie, M.A., Queen Mary College, London, E.1)

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LECTORIBUS EDITOR

Economic inflation has dictated a cut in the size of this issue. We are grateful for members' past support and earnestly urge them to stand by us and bring in others if they can. Times are very hard for small societies like our own.

With deep regret we record the early death recently of Michael Ayrton, the writer and sculptor, who delivered the seventh Jackson Knight Memorial Lecture in May, 1973 ('A Meaning to the Maze', obtainable from the Abbey Press, Abingdon, Berks., at 50p., plus 11p. for postage and packing). Himself a careful craftsman, he had a deep reverence for the remains of the ancient Cretan civilisation, and the Maze and the Minotaur exercised a powerful compulsion on his imagination. A man of remarkably original talent.

Frank Kermodé's paperback, 'Selected Prose of T.S. Eliot' (Faber and Faber, 1975), is a judicious work. It gives in full Eliot's Presidential Address to this Society in 1944, 'What is a Classic?', an important and influential contribution.

The sad news has recently come that our older contemporary, *Acta Diurna*, the termly Latin newspaper for schools, has folded up. It has since 1946 been one of the offshoots of the Orbilian Society, reporting news items from Roman history and including Latin verses, stories, cartoons, comic strips, and competitions. It had only two editors in 29 years – G.M. Lyne and, since 1959, D.W. Blandford who combines enthusiasm for Horace with devotion to Virgil, being a member of our Council.

'Jackson Knight: a Biography' by G. Wilson Knight is announced (xii + 524pp. Illustrated. The Alden press, Osney Mead, Oxford. £5). Orders to booksellers or direct with cash to the publishers. Postage and packing: home, also foreign (state book post) approx. 72p.

Meetings for the 1975–76 session: 22nd November, 1975, 'The Shield of Aeneas' by Prof. D.A. West; 17th January, 1976, 'Paulinus of Nola and Virgil' by Prof. P.G. Walsh; 27th March, 1976, 'Characterisation in Virgil's *Eclogues*' by T.E.S. Flintoff.

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