

Oct 5th 1959

215 East Dulwich Grove
London, S.E 22

2011-17

Dear Alan

I did not know until I got your letter that Mrs Hofm was dead. We agreed that it would be difficult to publish the chapters in her lifetime. I assume from your letter that you are hoping to bring the biography to early completion.

On receipt of your letter I wrote to Maurice Jacks, hoping he would be able to provide better answers than I could to some of your questions, but I have not heard from him. I presume he is dead and I do not like to keep you waiting any longer. So I will do the best I can and if I get further information from him I will put it on.

1. The answer is yes. Except for a very short period of teaching in the London Day Continuation Schools and a year on the staff of a teachers training college, my work was always voluntary.

2. The Club prayer was written either by Keith Rae or Stephen. It was in the old club prayer book, long since lost, used night after night at prayers and was certainly in the latter's handwriting. I think he was the author. Both of them, together with Ronald Poulton, I. Collier, Grahame Hamilton and Ernest Crosse formed a powerful nucleus of club supporters a little senior to but overlapping my generation. The actual founder was John MacLeod Campbell subsequently ~~Head~~ Principal of Trinity College, Kandy and now Master of the Chapel House. The prayer was adapted for use by Toc H and I insisted on their acknowledging its origin in the Treasury.

3. A. L. Smith was a Fellow and Senior Dean of Balliol when the club started. He was the prime mover. It grew out of a series of meetings to discuss Christianity and social problems (see A. L. History of the Balliol Club by Cyril Bailey O.U.P.). A. L. insisted on a practical outcome and the club was the result.

4. A. L. became Master in 1916 and died in 1924, when Lindsay succeeded him.

5. I cannot recollect Underhill in connection with the club. He would well have gone there with Jan. The practice in those days was to have one undergraduate to be in charge each night and to collect a group of men to assist him.

My general impression is that Jan really had two groups of those interested in the club and some scholars, mostly from Oxford. These did not much overlap. (This is one of the points on which I asked Maurice for his opinion).

6. I was at Wellington. Underhill, according to the college register, came to Balliol from Toronto University, where he took a First Class. He served in the British Army from 1915 and, according to the last entry (1950) was Professor of History at Toronto. I remember a small, rather shy man, with very fair hair. Neville was at Harburg, and was an undergraduate at Christ Church, later Fellow and Chaplain of Balliol.

7. Pickard-Cambridge, Sir Arthur Wallace. He was a classical Fellow and tutor. A man has only one tutor at a time, to whom he is expected to go on any personal matters. Usually the tutor belongs to the faculty in which the man is studying. Jan (Register) had as tutors Pickard-Cambridge and Lindsay successively and presumably the

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change took place when Jan had done Mods and had started on 8. Wytham is a small village under Wytham hill, which lies in bend of the river northwest of Oxford. The Wytham camp, which you are interested in, was some way from the village. A small known as the Wytham stream, leaves the main river about a mile King's Weir and flows more or less parallel with it through in the direction of the Hinkseys, rejoining the main river in branches above Folly Bridge. This stream was a favourite with of us. The round trip up the main river and back by the stream one or two carries, could be done easily in a day in a canoe. camp site was near the Kings Weir end of the stream about a of a mile from its leaving the main river.

Each year the club had an official camp, usually by the sea in 1915 and 16, for obvious reasons, that could not be. So Cyril and I explored and found the site at Radcot, near Faringdon, just above Radcot Lock. The Club used it again in 1919 or 20. Wytham on the other hand was quite unofficial. It was started Keith Rae and his friends and took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend. About fifteen boys were invited and the object was to select actual and potential leaders among the boys and them a bit of training. It was also great fun, being small enough everyone to 'muck' in together. Heavy baggage went by cart and campers went by canoe. It ceased during the war but was revived for a season or two after. I don't think Jan went at all before war. A year or two afterwards, when he came over and spoke at a at Rhodes House, he went straight off after it to a Wytham camp I don't think this was to a Wytham camp as described above, but another, still more unofficial one, run by Babu King. I don't think Jan ever went to a Wytham proper.

9. Yes, most emphatically. Cyril was devoted to the club and held it always. He was a member of the committee for many years, I think he retired from the College. It was a great joy to him to be present at the dinner to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1957, long before died, when he spoke most movingly of what the club meant to him. Smith stood behind it in its early days and always supported it. He always took the chair at the meeting at which was introduced each year to freshers. Pickard - Cambridge was more the background, his wife helped a lot. I don't think Lindsay was much interested but, as Master, gave it his support.

10. Frank Brabant helped me in the early days of the war when very short handed. He worked like a Trojan but was not awfully effective. I heard from him recently. He is within your reach. R Brabant, St Joseph's House, Good St, Jo'burg

11. Freddy Baines, a very close friend of mine, is now Rector of Winton with Ripe, Hailsham, Sussex.

12. Merrill I recollect as helping in the club in wartime. The I have no knowledge of. (Here again I have asked Jacks). Follow from the College Register -

R.H. Merrill. Univ Chicago. Rhodes Scholar. Balliol 1913-16. U.S. Army. Eventually Professor of French, California Univ. Died 1951

Hubbell - no trace.

G.L. Byth. Sydney Univ. Balliol 1913-16. Solicitor to Brisbane City Council.

F.F. Miles. Otago Univ. Balliol 1913-14 and 19-20. Rhodes Scholar. Professor of Maths, Wellington.

J.E.Miles.Edinburgh. Balliol 1913-15.Journalist and writer.
Died 1937.

13.I am vague of this. I remember the name but can give no c
(I have asked Maurice).

14.Ashted is in Surrey,between Epsom and Leatherhead.Now a
but then more or less a village. I dont connect it with Jan.

15.I think Joseph was a Fellow of Trinity and examiner in Gr
(Again I have asked Maurice)

16.Most exceptional I would think but just the sort of thing
Jan would achieve.

17.What a question! It depends what you are looking for.Hard
Macmillan,Walter Monckton,Vincent Massey were all contempora
but I doubt if Jan knew any of them well.A tremendous number
that generation were lost in the war,including possibly the
brilliant of the lot,Stephen Hewett,senior classical scholar
his year.I cant answer more intelligently without some full
idea of what you are after.

I hope this will help.

I would gladly look through your 13-16 chapters if you wish
Yours ever

Hubert.