

OBITUARY



DINA PORTWAY DOBSON-HINTON, LITT.D., F.S.A.

Dina's death occurred on 3rd March, 1968 just before our Annual General Meeting, and cast a cloud over the proceedings. She was a magnificent woman, tall with well chiselled features, aquiline nose, a shock of ginger hair and a deep, commanding voice. She had the distinction of being the first woman to descend the forty-foot pot in Swildon's

Hole, which she did in 1922 with Old Balch. She also had the distinction of being the first woman to go down Eastwater Cavern. This was in 1920 and she went down to the bottom of the Second Pitch. The trip was made under very wet conditions.

Born on March 3rd, 1885, she was the eldest of six children of Mr. H. Portway, J.P., the man who made the Tortoise stoves that one used to see in churches. She went from Bedford High School to Newnham College, Cambridge in 1903, taking an Historical Tripos in 1906. In those days women could not take the degrees that they had earned; full graduation was not possible till 1947. From 1906 till 1910 she taught in the High Schools of Edgbaston and Manchester, and in March 1911 she married Mr. John F. Dobson who shortly after became Professor of Greek at the University of Bristol. Their home in Cambridge Park, Redland, was well known to members. Professor Dobson became President of the U.B.S.S. in 1936 and held office till 1947 when he died. Their move to Wrington occurred in 1939 and it is in that house that most of us knew Dina. In 1949 she married Mr. Martin Hinton, F.R.S., retired keeper of zoology of the Natural History Museum and an expert on fossil rodents and whales. He died in 1961.

She was a member of the Historical Association practically from its foundation and an active member of its Tours Committee before and after the second World War. She was President of the Soroptimists, member of the Bristol City Council about 1938-1947 and a J.P. from 1937-1968. She was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1934, was also a Litt.D. of Trinity College, Dublin.

In 1946 she was elected a Vice-President of the U.B.S.S. and throughout her time took an active interest in our work, giving classes in archaeology and in other ways. She was good at communicating with students and published a number of popular works including *A book of Prehistory* (1933), *A book of Ancient History* (1934), *Early Man* (1950) and *Clothing and Costume* (1955). But her great work of scholarship was the *Archæology of Somerset* (1931), published in the County Archæological series. For this she will certainly be remembered. It was a landmark and is still relevant. Especially noteworthy for that date was her grouping in one chapter of "Beakers and Megaliths."

In her last few years her faculties rapidly failed, but till a late stage she used to enjoy looking at archæological and caving journals, particularly the *Journal of the Wessex Cave Club*.

Her most important work was undoubtedly the inspiring of the younger generation. She started both Philip Rahtz and George Boon on their archæological careers and breathed life into the Axbridge Archæological Society and Caving Group, of which she was President. She had great affection for this club and used to call it "my Club."

Oliver C. Lloyd.

23.5.68