



## **Douglas James Guthrie (1885-1975)**

MD, D.Litt., FRCSEd., FRCPEdin., FRSE

Otolaryngologist and Medical Historian

First President of the Society, 1948-51

Honorary President, 1958

Moving Spirit in the Foundation of the Society

Lecturer in History of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, 1945-56

President, Section of History of Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine, 1956

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1967

Founder Member of the British Society of the History of Medicine

President, British Society for the History of Medicine, 1965

Author of important works in otolaryngology and history of medicine



## **John Ritchie (1882-1959)**

MB, FRCPEdin., DPH

Medical Officer of Health

Second President of the Society, 1951-54

A co-founder of the Society

Fine classical scholar. Noted authority on the history of plague, especially in Scotland

Author of numerous important works on public health, plague, and author of a *History of the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh* (1953) of which he was the last Curator. An accomplished short-story writer.



## **Archibald Lamont Goodall (1915-63)**

MD, MRCPGlas., FRCSEd., DPH

Surgeon

Third President of the Society, 1954-57

Original member of the Society

Deeply versed in the history of Glasgow, and especially in that of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and of the growth of Medicine in Scotland generally. He was a keen and highly competent bibliographer.



## **William Smith Mitchell (d 1982)**

MA (Edin.), PhD (Aberdeen)

Librarian

Fourth President of the Society, 1957-60

Original member of the Society

Held assistant librarian posts successively in Edinburgh and Aberdeen before becoming Librarian first of King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and finally of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Organised memorable meetings of the Society in Aberdeen and Newcastle upon Tyne. An expert on early Scottish bookbinding he wrote a *History of Scottish Bookbinding, 1432-1650* (Aberdeen University Studies No. 134) in 1955.



## **Adam Patrick (1883-1970)**

MA, MD, LL.D (Glasgow and St. Andrews), FRCP, FRCPEdin., FRFPSGlas., FRCPGlas.

Physician

Fifth President of the Society, 1960-63

Three years after his retiral from the chair of medicine at St. Andrews University in 1950, he was appointed lecturer on the history of medicine there.

One of the most erudite of men, his clinical and historical writings all bore the hall-mark of his learning.



## **Charles Henry Kemball (1889-1964)**

FDS, HDD, DDO, DDS.

Dental Surgeon

Sixth President of the Society, 1963-64 (He died after only four months in office.)

One of the stalwarts of the Edinburgh Dental School, he had an unequalled knowledge of local dental history and possessed one of the finest private dental libraries in the country. He gave generously of this library to establish the Edinburgh Dental School Library.



## **William Alister Alexander (1890-1976)**

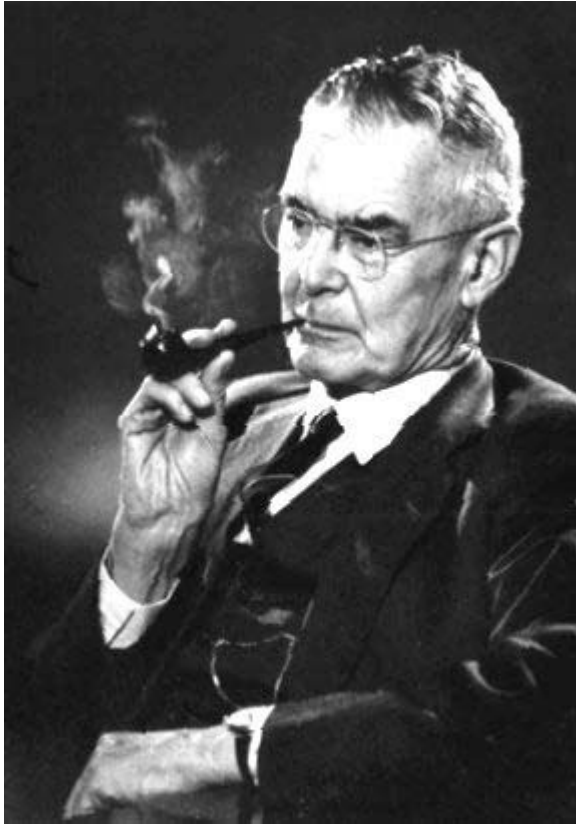
MB, FRCPEdin.

Physician

Seventh President of the Society, 1964-66 Honorary President of the Society, 1975

First Treasurer, 1948-69

His financial wizardry steered our Society successfully through some lean periods. In 1953 he received the unique honour of being elected Honorary President of the Royal Medical Society, its highest honour and one to which only Sir Byrom Bramwell had previously been elected. This was a just reward for his many years of sterling service to that Society as its Hon Treasurer.



## **Norman McOmish Dott (1897-1973)**

CBE, MB, FRCSEd., FRSE, Hon. MD Edin., Hon. FACS

Neurological Surgeon

Eighth President of the Society, 1966-68

Original Member of the Society

A pupil of Harvey Cushing, Dott established with Cairns and Jefferson neurological surgery in the United Kingdom. He received a unique honour in modern times -- the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh in 1962. His excursions into the realm of medical history were essentially concerned with the development of his specialty and were authoritative as might be expected.





## Meredith Henry Armstrong Davison (1911-1970)

MBE, TD, FFA, RCS, DA

Anaesthetist

Ninth President of the Society, 1968-70 (Died during last term.)

"Peter" to us all in the Society was a man of great learning, with a keen wit and quick with apt quotation. His many papers to the Society were entertaining but based on a profound knowledge of his subject. He possessed a card index for each known day of the life of Mary, Queen of Scots, and his paper on her and her husbands at Linlithgow in 1956 has fortunately been preserved *in toto* in our *Report of Proceedings*, as have his other contributions to our meetings. He published the *Casket Letters* and *The Evolution of Anaesthesia* in the same year (1965). At the time of his premature death he was Lecturer on the History of Medicine at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.



## **Thomas Robert Rushton Todd (1895-1975)**

MD, FRCEdin.

Physician

Tenth President of the Society, 1971-74

An original member

Affectionately known to all as "Tarrarra" Todd, he was a staunch supporter of the Society. His quiet, retiring nature precluded his contributing much to the Society's proceedings but he was assiduous in his attendances at meetings.

## Charles Gray Drummond (d 1985)

FPS

Pharmaceutical chemist and historian of pharmacy

Eleventh President of the Society, 1974-77

The foremost historian of pharmacy, particularly in Scotland, Mr Drummond's work in this field was recognised in 1966 when the Pharmaceutical Society instituted its Fellowship and he was elected with some other eminent pharmacists in the first election. Later, in 1969, he was awarded that Society's Charter Medal. His contributions to the history of pharmacy are extensive, delightfully written and all bearing the stamp of scholarship. His *Pharmacy and Medicine in Old Edinburgh* (1953) and his paper on Adam Drummond of Megginch, Surgeon-Apothecary 1679-1758 (*Report of Proceedings, 1972-73*) are outstanding contributions. He has served on the Committee of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy and is chairman of the Scottish Committee for the History of Pharmacy.





## Haldane Philp Tait (1911-1990)

MD, FRCP (Edin.), FFCM, DPH

Principal Medical Officer (Child Health Service), Edinburgh

Twelfth President of the Society, 1977-79

A founding member of the Society, Dr. Tait was appointed its first Secretary in 1948, and ran and organised its affairs single-handedly for the next fifteen years, and as Joint Secretary for a number of years thereafter.

He was made Honorary President of the Society in 1981 in recognition of the unique contribution he had made to the Society's affairs.

He was a prolific writer on medico-historical topics, and presented several papers to the Society. His unique contribution, however, was the Annual Report of Proceedings. This started in a humble way as an eight-page report covering the first five meetings of the Society, but by 1970 it was a 56-page publication which was distributed to medical history societies and libraries world-wide. Sadly, its publication had to be discontinued for a time thereafter for financial reasons, though a brief report of the Society's Proceedings was published annually in *Medical History*.

Dr. Tait recorded the history of the Edinburgh Health Department from 1862 to 1974 in a book entitled *A Doctor and Two Policemen*.



## **Sir Charles Illingworth (1900-1990)**

CBE, MD, ChM, FRCS

Professor of Surgery

Thirteenth President of the Society, 1979-81

Sir Charles was Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the University of Glasgow. A Yorkshire man, he qualified in medicine at Edinburgh University in 1922 after a short spell in the Royal Flying Corps during the War.

For some years he was Surgical Tutor to Sir David Wilkie in Edinburgh, then in 1939 he was appointed to the Glasgow Chair, largely through the far-sighted influence of Sir Hector Hetherington.

In Glasgow, Sir Charles worked hard to promote the status of the University and the Glasgow College. He wrote a well-known textbook of Surgery and, with a colleague, an equally widely read textbook of Surgical Pathology.

Living to the age of 90, he became a much respected elder statesman.



## **William Cunningham (1903-1998)**

MB, ChB (St And.) 1924; MRCGP (1953); MD (St And.) 1969

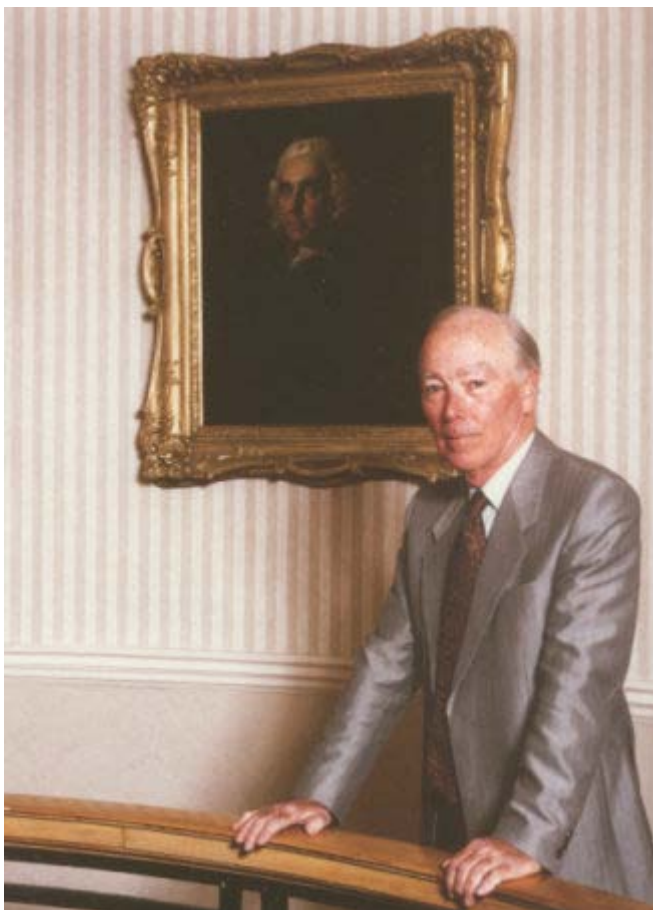
General Practitioner

Fourteenth President of the Society, 1981-84

After graduation at St Andrews in 1924, Dr Cunningham entered general practice in Bradford, where he was also Clinical Assistant in the ENT Department of the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford.

After his retirement to St Andrews he became a Clinical Assistant in the ENT Department at Dundee Royal Infirmary, and took his MD with commendation forty-five years after first graduating.

He finally retired to live in Broughty Ferry.



## **Alastair Hugh Bailey Masson (1925-2009)**

MB, ChB, DA, FFARCS, FRCA, FRCS  
Also MA (Open University) 1980

Consultant Anaesthetist

Fifteenth President of the Society, 1984-87

Educated at Bathgate Academy and Edinburgh University.  
1948-50 National Service with the Royal Air Force.  
1956-89 Consultant Anaesthetist at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.  
1978-79 President, Scottish Society of Anaesthetists.  
1968-77 Honorary Secretary, Scottish Society of the History of Medicine.  
1987-1990 President, Old Edinburgh Club.  
1991-93 President, British Society of the History of Medicine.

The author of various papers on anaesthesia and medical history, including: "History of the Blood Transfusion Service in Edinburgh" (1993) published by The Edinburgh and South-East Scotland Blood Transfusion Association; and "The Portraits, Paintings and Busts in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh" (1995) published by the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr Masson's other interests include music, travel, golf and photography.



## David A G Waddell (1927-1992)

MA (St And), DPhil (Oxon)

Professor of History, University of Stirling

Sixteenth President of the Society, 1987-1990

Educated at St Andrews and Oxford, Prof Waddell subsequently was Lecturer at the University College of the West Indies, Jamaica before returning to Edinburgh University as Senior Lecturer and then, for a year, Head of the History Department at the University of Trinidad. In 1968, he was appointed the first Head of the History Department at the University of Stirling, a post he held with distinction for over 20 years.

Professor Waddell was the first professional historian to hold the office of President of the Society.

His main interest was the history of Latin America. He contributed to knowledge of the influence of yellow fever in the liberation of South America from Spanish colonial rule, writing extensively and contributing to Vol III of the *Cambridge History of Latin America*





## **John Samuel Greene Blair (1928-)**

OBE KStJ, TD, BA, Hon DLitt (St And) ChM, FRCSEd, FSA (Scot)

Consultant Surgeon and medical historian

Seventeenth President of the Society, 1990-93

Educated at Dundee High School and St Andrews University. National service in the RAMC 1952-55. Consultant Surgeon at Perth Infirmary 1965-96. President of the British Society of the History of Medicine 1993-1995

Author of a number of books including "History of St Andrews University OTC" (1982); "History of Medicine in St Andrews University" (1987); "Ten Tayside Doctors" (1990); "The Dundee Doctors" (in the Dundee Book ed Billy Kay) (1996); (jointly with Major-General A C Ticehurst) "The Royal Army Medical Corps 1898-1998--Reflections of One Hundred Years of Service" (1997); "Medical Services in the British Army" (US Medical Corps Series of 20th Century Medical Military History 1998), and "The Royal Army Medical Corps: A Centenary History",



## **Elizabeth Margaret Rose (1916-2011)**

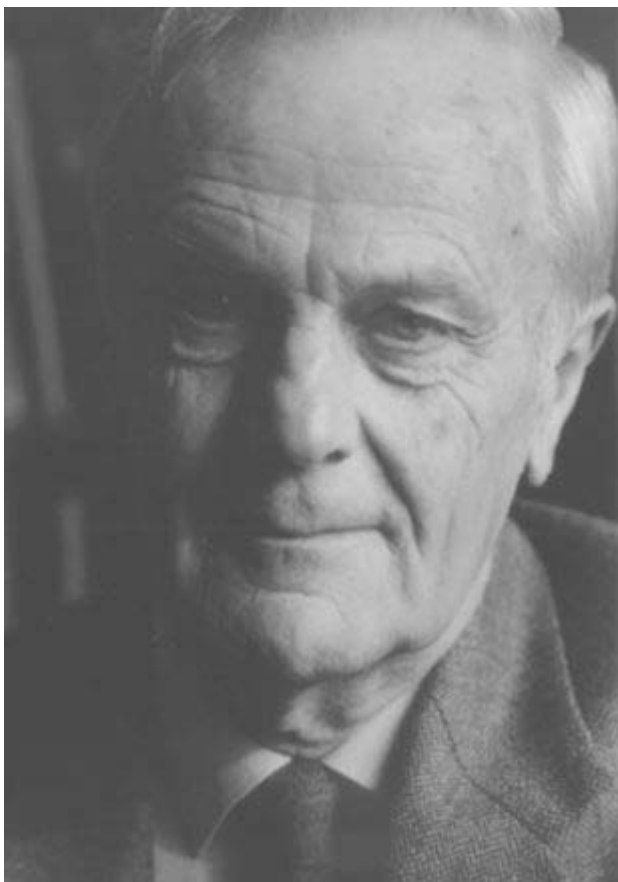
MB, ChB (Edin.), FRCOG

Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

Eighteenth President of the Society, 1993-95

Born in Edinburgh, and educated there and in Oxford, Dr Rose was a Consultant in Forth Valley for many years.

With wide interests in sport, art, gardening, travel and the particular problems of adolescents and professional women, she was active in local council politics before becoming the first female President of the Society.



## Harold Thomas Swan (1922-2011)

MD, DLitt, FRCP(L), FRCP(E), FRCPath, DCH

Consultant Haematologist

Nineteenth President of the Society, 1995-98

Born in Peterhead, son of the manse, and educated at Peterhead Academy and Edinburgh University. Surg. Lieut, RNVR mainly in the Far East. Served in HMS Yingchow, which in its civilian days was famed in the China Seas for the size of its cockroaches; and was seconded to a merchant navy high-octane petrol tanker. Senior Medical Officer to 7th Algerine Minesweeping Flotilla sweeping Japanese mines. Registrarship with Prof. Sir Stanley Davidson. Fellowship at Postgraduate Medical School, New York University.

Most of his subsequent professional life was spent at the United Sheffield Hospitals, and he was also Clinical Dean at the Medical School of Sheffield University. President, British Society for Haematology 1981-82. Amassed and then catalogued all the worthwhile artifacts from the former Sheffield Infirmary and Sheffield Royal Hospital before the move to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in 1979.

Published an updating of the 1828 beginnings of the Sheffield Medical School and other works. Discovered and published two important Sheffield Royal Infirmary case-notes recording the successful clinical use of penicillin in 1930. Always interested in research, and applied that interest later to medical history.



## John McColl Forrester (1923-2017)

Twentieth President of the Society, 1998-2001

After graduating with Honours in Classics at St Andrews, John Forrester served in World War II as an anti-aircraft gunnery officer in London and elsewhere. He trained in medicine at Oxford. He went on to spend 9 years in general practice, then 15 years as a physiologist at the University of Edinburgh, during which he returned for some years to St Andrews, as an external examiner, but in Physiology, not in Classics. Then he served for some 11 years in medical administration and did editorial work for the Scottish Department of Home & Health--after a career displaying either flexibility or indecision, according to one's prejudice.

Publications in the history of medicine and medical science include:

- "An experiment of Galen's repeated." *Proc. RSM*, 1954, 47: 241-44.
- "Lydgate's [medical] research project in 'Middlemarch'." *The George Eliot--George Henry Lewes Newsletter*, September 1990: 1-5.
- "The Homoeomeric Parts and their replacement by Bichat's Tissues." *Medical History*, 1995, 39: 477-492.
- "Postal diagnosis: breaking the bad news in the 17th century." *BMJ*, 1995, 311: 1694-96.
- "Tobias Smollett consults a French physician in 1763." *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 1999, 92: 258-63.
- "The origins and fate of James Currie's cold water treatment for fever." *Medical History*, 2000, 44: 57-74.
- "The Marvellous Network and the History of Enquiry into its Function". *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 2002, 57: 198-217.



## David John Wright (1944-)

MB BS FRCA DHMSA  
Consultant Anaesthetist

Twenty first President of the Society, 2001-2004

Trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London and came to Scotland in 1973. Consultant Anaesthetist, with an interest in Intensive Care, at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, from 1979-2005.

Secretary of the SSHM from 1982-1990, President of the British Society of the History of Medicine, 2007-2009 and Editor of Vesalius, the Journal of the International Society of the History of Medicine, 2002-2008.



## **Bryan Ashworth (1929-2012)**

MD FRCP (London and Edinburgh)

Neurologist

Twenty Second President of the Society, 2004-2007

Qualifying in medicine at St Andrews, he worked as a Consultant Neurologist in Manchester, before moving to a post at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh.

He wrote several books on neurology, a biography of Sir Byrom Bramwell and an autobiography.

From the early 1980s to 1992 he was the Honorary Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



## **Roy Miller (1935-)**

MB ChB Glasgow FRCPSG

Consultant ENT Surgeon

Twenty third President of the Society, 2007-2010

Qualified in medicine at Glasgow University in 1957. He was Consultant ENT surgeon at Monklands District General Hospital, Coatbridge.

He became Honorary Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 2002 and was a joint editor of the book Treasures of the College, published in 1998.



## David Hugh Aird Boyd (1927 -)

MB ChB Edinburgh MD FRCPEd

Retired Consultant Physician

Twenty fourth President of the Society, 2010-2013

Graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University in 1949. From 1950-52 he served as a Captain in the RAMC in West Africa Command. In 1963 he became the first Consultant Physician for Caithness and Sutherland. From 1970 he was a Consultant Physician in Edinburgh where he worked at Leith Hospital and the Western General Hospital. He wrote 'Leith Hospital 1848-1988', (published in 1990), 'Amulets to Isotopes, a History of Medicine in Caithness' (published in 1998) and 'Straying from the Path ; Doctors involved in Politics' which was published by the RSM in 2012.





## Anthony Robert Butler

BSc. PhD

Retired lecturer in Chemistry

Twenty fifth President of the Society, 2013-2016

Anthony Butler graduated B.Sc. and Ph.D. in chemistry from King's College, London. After a short spell at Northampton Technical College he went for further study to Cornell University in upstate New York. Following a year at the University of Sussex, he was appointed lecturer at the University of St Andrews. His teaching duties were in both the chemistry department and the medical school. From 1987 onwards his research was largely directed on the role of nitric oxide in the cardiovascular system and he was fortunate enough to collaborate with a number of distinguished Scottish physicians. Since retirement he concentrated on a longstanding interest in the history of medicine. Publications from that period include *Life, Death and Nitric Oxide* (RSC 2003), *The 1918 Flu Pandemic in Scotland* (Journal of the RCPE 2007) and *Artemisinin: From Chinese Herbal Medicine to Modern Chemotherapy* (Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, 2019). He was also one of the authors of a book on a stick-and-ball game played in mediaeval China with certain similarities to modern golf.