

of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome



NEWSLETTER

The crew's descendants recall T.E. Lawrence's air-crash in Rome



Frederick Prince (family collection)

On May 17 we held a ceremony marking exactly 100 years since the aeroplane carrying T.E. Lawrence to Cairo crashed at Centocelle aerodrome, killing the two Royal Air Force (RAF) pilots aboard (see *Newsletter* 5). This year's commemoration of Second Lieutenants Frederick Prince (aged 27) and Sidney Spratt (aged 19) enjoyed official recognition. The UK Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, and the British Ambassador to Italy, H.E. Jill Morris, represented the British government. The Rev'd (Flt Lt) Caroline Harrison of the RAF and the Rev'd Robert J. Warren, Chaplain of All Saints' Church in Rome, conducted the service. A RAF piper played the lament "Flowers of the forest" as the ceremony ended.

Other than the official presence, the commemoration was deeply felt thanks to the family descendants who had travelled from England to attend. Frederick Prince's niece, Jackie Clews, and her daughter had visited the grave last year, and Stephen Goodman,



The pilots' graves at their funeral, 1919 (family collection)



Photo: P. Varriale



Photo: RAF

Jackie Clews with daughter Jo, Mrs Goodman with son Stephen



Photo: RAF



Photo: P. Varriale



Photo: RAF

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great-grandson of Prince's sister, did so in 2014. Unlike the two pilots, Lawrence escaped from the crashed plane with only light injuries. Frederick Daw, one of two mechanics on the plane, pulled Lawrence free of the wreckage. Daw's son Peter and his granddaughter Jane Pine and other family members were present – the story of the incident at Rome has always been part of family lore. After the crash Lawrence wrote to thank Daw for his rescue, sent him a cheque, and later visited him at home to thank him in person. Supposedly, he started to write *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* while convalescing at the British Embassy in Rome before leaving for Cairo.

The association with T.E. Lawrence has given unusual prominence to the deaths of Frederick Prince and Sidney Spratt; but they too were pioneers, their ill-fated flight part of an ambitious plan to establish regular air-routes between Europe and the Middle East and India (see *Newsletter 5*). Their names will always be remembered.



NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY

How to remove a cypress tree

The pine and cypress trees help give the Cemetery its 'green' appearance and its shaded feel in the hot months. All trees bear numbers for identification and are inspected annually in case pruning is recommended. Despite all our precautionary measures, it takes only one exceptional gust of wind to cause damage. In spring this year one half of a tall split-trunk cypress fell in the night. The tree stood on one of the diagonal avenues in Zone 1, not far from the newly restored Obolenskaya tomb (see *Newsletter 46*). Damage to gravestones was, fortunately, minimal but how to remove the standing remnant trunk, estimated to be 25-28m. high?

Vehicular access between the graves is rarely possible. Removing trees by renting cranes that operate from outside the walls (as we have in the past; see *Newsletter 7*) is extremely



Tomography analysis in progress

expensive. Meanwhile a large area surrounding the damaged cypress was closed to visitors. The tree-specialists at Alberando called in expertise in sonic tomography to assess possible cavities in the remaining trunk. Fortunately, it proved safe enough to climb and to remove from the top down. Straw bales covered all the nearby graves to prevent any damage to them. Counting the tree-rings gives the tree's age as around 170 years. Its age and location indicate that it was planted as a young specimen when the First Extension was laid out in the years 1856-59.

Information and photos kindly supplied by Stefano Raiano of Alberando

The Cemetery featured in photography exhibitions

For six weeks in May and June the Garden Room hosted an exhibition of Livia Selli's photographs of monuments of notable women who lie in the Cemetery. Elsewhere in the city, the Museo di Roma in "Rome in the camera oscura. Photographs of the city from the nineteenth century to today" included a rarely exhibited print by the German photographer, Oswald Ufer. His view of 'Shelley's tower', seen on the right, can be compared with Walter Crane's watercolour (1873; no. 40 in our tercentenary exhibition catalogue). The large clay jar shown by both artists in the right foreground is still there today. Ufer's photo, which is earlier than Crane's painting, is also unusual for showing two gardeners and a wheelbarrow among the graves.

The simultaneous exhibition at MAXXI, entitled 'Mondo perduto', showed the remarkable photos taken by Paolo Di Paolo that documented Italian culture and fashion in the 1950s and 1960s. It was after Di Paolo had taken his famous photo of Pier Paolo Pasolini on Monte Testaccio that the two of them visited the grave of Antonio Gramsci. The year was 1960. Three photos were on display: two showing Pasolini at the grave and one (reproduced here) in which he is walking back through the Zona Terza.



Oswald Ufer, *Cimitero dei Protestanti alla Piramide* (Museo di Roma, Roma), c. 1865

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Paolo Di Paolo, Pier Paolo Pasolini in the Non-Catholic Cemetery, Rome, 1960



Photo: Mick Phillips

The anniversary of Gramsci's death, 27 April 2019

New President of the Assembly

June saw the departure of H.E. Janne Taalas, Ambassador of Finland to Italy, whom we thank warmly for his great interest in the Cemetery during his term as President. As his successor we have welcomed H.E. Jill Morris, the British Ambassador.

Thanks to the Friends

Our heartfelt thanks to the Friends for helping to fund restoration projects and the removal of the damaged cypress tree.



Jill Morris with Amanda Thursfield



WHO THEY WERE

Jean Grandjean, Dutch Huguenot painter

On a dark evening in November 1781 twelve friends in three coaches set off from the centre of Rome in the direction of the Pyramid. They followed the body of their beloved friend, the Dutch artist Jean Grandjean. Under the light of torches the group of German, English and Dutch, mostly fellow-artists, buried him in the Protestant cemetery. They also collected money to erect a gravestone, which unfortunately can no longer be traced.

After the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 by Louis XIV, the French Huguenots went into a "diaspora". As skilled professionals in many crafts they introduced the French Louis XIV-style to Germany, England and The Netherlands. Jean's father Pierre, born in Amsterdam, worked as a glove-maker. He married Ida Hendriks and they had six children. Jean was born on 5 February 1752, so he was only 29 when he died in Rome.

As a young man he developed a talent for drawing and painting. He was encouraged by his father who put Jean's work in his



View from the Villa Conti of Villa d'Este and part of Frascati (pen and grey ink, grey wash; signed and dated 1780)



Celebration of spring, oil on canvas

shop-window. After lessons at the Amsterdam City Drawing Academy, in the summer of 1772 Jean had an apprenticeship in the workshop of Jurriaan Andriessen, a well-known producer of painted wallpaper and wall-paintings who also had a reputation as a good teacher: among his many pupils was Hendrik Voogd, also buried in the Cemetery, in 1837 (see *Newsletter* 41). In 1777 Jean was one of the founding members of the drawing department of the Felix Meritis society. Founded in the spirit of the Enlightenment, the society had four other departments: Music, Physics, Commerce and Literature. Its neoclassical building (1788) by Jacob Otten Husly can still be visited in Amsterdam – it had an observatory on the roof.

During a trip abroad in 1777 Grandjean discovered in Dusseldorf the Italian painters of the Renaissance and Baroque and was highly impressed. Already speaking French, he quickly learned Italian and wanted to travel to Rome. With the financial help of two patrons he was able on 2 June 1779 to leave by boat from the island of Texel, then the roadstead of Amsterdam. On 6 July he arrived in Civita Vecchia, the papal harbour, where he had to stay in quarantine for two weeks. Finally on 21 July he entered Rome through the Piazza del Popolo. With a letter of introduction he presented himself to Cardinal Alessandro Albani, who

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became his patron. He joined the “Trippelsche Academie” founded by Alexander Trippel, a sculptor born in Schaffhausen in 1744 (and in 1793 buried in the cemetery, grave unknown). Here Grandjean certainly met the painter Wilhelm Tischbein (1751-1829). Rapidly he left behind what he had learned in Amsterdam and adopted the style of international neoclassicism. Grandjean made some paintings but most of all drawings – elegant topographical views of Rome and its surroundings. Many of those he sent to his two patrons (Jan Tersteeg and Dick Versteegh) in The Netherlands where they were in great demand.

In late August 1781 he went down with a fever (malaria?) but recovered. Too soon, however, he went out again drawing in the Campagna, the illness returned and he died. His friends sent his property back to Amsterdam where his art was sold. After deducting the costs of Grandjean’s medical care, his funeral and the transport of his belongings, the estate came to 230 guilders.

Contributed by Herbert Jan Hijmersma of Trevignano Romano, who thanks Kollenburg Antiquairs and Onno van Seggelen Fine Arts for the illustrations.

Barbara Yelverton, fossil collector and geologist



Barbara Yelverton
(engraving dated 1828)

I am an English geologist working in the oil industry, but my hobby is woodwork. While looking for early Victorian locks, I bought a rosewood box dating to the 1830s. To my amazement, its spectacular escutcheon plate (see photos) bore the name and initials of ‘Barbara Grey de Ruthyn’, whom I discovered to be an early fossil collector and geologist.

She was born at Brandon House, Warwickshire, in England in 1810. Her father, Henry Edward Yelverton, 19th Baron Grey de Ruthyn, died before her first birthday whereupon, as the only child, she inherited his title. On her first marriage in 1831 she became Marchioness Barbara Rawdon-Hastings and had six children. After the death of the Marquess in 1844 she married a naval officer, Hastings Reginald Henry, who changed his surname to Yelverton as being more socially eminent.

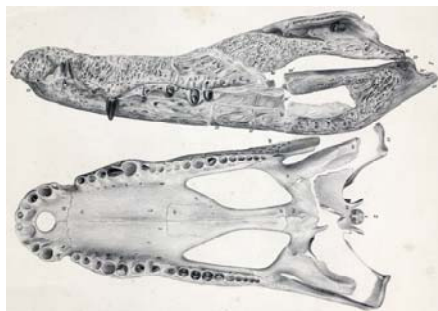
From the late 1830s, Barbara developed an interest in the rapidly developing subject of geology, particularly fossils. The family moved in 1846 to Efford House near the Hampshire coast where the neighbouring cliffs (Eocene, ca. 38 million years old) provided good opportunities for collecting fossils. Her remarkable work there led her to recognise turtle- and crocodile-like species, which had evidently lived in a lagoon in a climate much warmer than that of southern England today. She corresponded widely with leading scientists of the time such as

Charles Lyell, William Buckland and Gideon Mantell. But our main evidence for her activity is from letters that she wrote to another eminent geologist, Richard Owen, the main founder of the Natural History section of the British Museum (which holds these letters and much of her fossil collection including the originals of many of her published fossils). Owen recognized her ability, illustrating her fossil discoveries in his own books with beautiful engravings. He also named species of fossil turtle and crocodile after Barbara, for example *Trionyx barbarae* and *Crocodylus hastingsae* (illustrated here; now called *Diplocynodon*), “in honour of the accomplished lady by whom the singularly perfect example of the species had been recovered and restored”.

Her letters prove, contrary to what some have asserted, that she did herself go on collecting expeditions in cold and muddy conditions, and spent long days and weeks preparing and restoring fossils. She recognised new species, and worked with others to develop the best description and interpretation of them. She readily lent specimens from her substantial collection (which she called “my museum”) and she published papers in London and Paris under her own name. The geologist Edward Forbes described her as “one of the most excellent (and without exception the cleverest) woman I ever met”. She became a member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and spoke at their meeting in 1847. But a downturn in the family fortunes (due to significant theft by a steward) caused the family to move to London and she had to auction her remaining fossil collection.

In 1858, whilst staying in Rome on her way to meet her husband, by now Captain of HMS *Conqueror* in the Mediterranean, she suffered a stroke and died, aged 48. Her impressive tomb (Zone V.4.1.; restored in 2013, see *Newsletter* 26) records her death and her titles while her correspondence and fossils survive to be studied at the Natural History Museum in London.

Contributed by Matthew Harvey, Houston, TX, USA.



Crocodylus hastingsae illustrated by Owen in 1849



The escutcheon plate with ‘Barbara Grey de Ruthyn’ initials and full name

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

This Newsletter is made possible by the contributions of the Friends of the Cemetery.

The Friends also help fund the care of the trees in the cemetery and the restoration of tombs. Please can you help us by becoming a Friend? You can find a membership form at:

www.cemeteryrome.it

THE NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

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OPENING HOURS

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Sunday & Public Holidays: 9.00am - 1.00pm
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NEWSLETTER of the Friends of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome

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ROME, 2019

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Disponibile anche in versione italiana

All previous Newsletters and an Index of contents are at www.cemeteryrome.it/press/newsletter.html