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Members of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq will have learnt with a deep sense of personal loss of the death on June 3rd, 1972 of Lionel Smith, a founder member, and will wish to extend to his widow a message of heartfelt sympathy.

He was born in 1880, the eldest son of A. L. Smith, Master of Balliol. From Rugby he went on to his father's college, where he won high distinction as both scholar and athlete, reading first Greats and then History, and excelling as oarsman as well as at cricket, tennis and especially hockey, at which he represented both his University and England. From 1908 he was a Fellow of Magdalen, where he was one of the tutors of the Prince of Wales. From 1904-1908 he was a Fellow of All Souls and at the time of his death was the college's oldest *quondam*.

In 1914 he obtained a commission in the Hampshire Regiment and served in India until the end of the war, when his battalion was moved to Iraq. Here, in January 1919, he joined the Civil Administration of the Occupied Territory and spent his first year as Political Officer on the Middle Euphrates, a sensitive area which included the holy city of Najaf. In February 1920 he was transferred to the Department of Education, of which he became Director a few months later.

When the Arab Government was set up in 1921 he became Adviser to the Ministry of Education, the Ministry responsible for the Department of Antiquities founded by Gertrude Bell. He held the post for ten years, and so shares with Miss Bell herself and her successor, Sidney Smith, the credit for the tradition of harmonious and friendly co-operation between the School and the staff of the Department, a tradition that has persisted without interruption.

One of Smith's duties in the early days was to visit the various digs at the end of each season to preside, as conciliator and umpire, over the division of the finds between the excavators and the museum, and our President has recalled how at Ur the Adviser generally found himself cast for the ungrateful role of buffer between two redoubtable antagonists in the persons of Gertrude Bell and Leonard Woolley, often incurring the displeasure even of the former.

But this was only one of Smith's manifold duties. More congenial perhaps was that of travelling on tours of inspection to the remoter parts of the country where the claims of education were apt to be neglected. Another colleague recalls how on the several occasions when they went together on tour in the Kurdish highlands he always insisted, to the great astonishment of their police escorts, on walking every yard of the way, consenting to mount his horse or mule only to ford a stream too deep to cross by stepping stones; and how his ability to put a name to almost every shrub and flower they saw, and every bird they saw or heard, added a constant interest to the daily march.

In 1931 he was appointed Rector of Edinburgh Academy. Among the younger boys at any rate perhaps the two qualifications that contributed most to the prestige of their Rector were his refusal of the headmastership of Eton (when it became known), and his winning the cup in the squash tournament open without distinction to boys, Old Academicals, and masters of all ages.

After his retirement in 1945 he undertook no further regular work. But the lively correspondence he continued to exchange with his many friends, and the warm welcome reserved for those who found their way to Edinburgh, bore witness to his abiding interest in a wide range of subjects, not least the history, ancient and modern, of Iraq.

C.J.E.