

IAN LOVECY

Ian was born in 1947 in Fulham, and educated at the City of London School for Boys and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read English, and gained a Ph.D. under the supervision of Rachel Bromwich for a thesis on the supernatural in Welsh, Gaelic, and Irish mediaeval romance. He was a member of this society from the 1970s. A distinguished career in librarianship culminated in his appointment as Librarian and Director of Information Services at what is now Bangor University. It was a demanding post, but he found time to improve his Celtic languages, proudly acquiring a GCSE in (modern) Welsh in the same cohort of candidates as one of his daughters. Running a library rich in Arthurian materials drew him more into the society's work: he was an outstanding treasurer of the Branch from 2004 to 2012. The day job restricted how much he could publish: his most relevant publications for us are probably his papers on *Peredur* (1977/78) and on Celtic myth (1981), and his chapter in *The Arthur of the Welsh* (1991). His conference papers were strikingly lucid and judicious; I particularly remember one he gave in Bucharest on the Once and Future King.

As a scholar, a colleague, and a human being, Ian was outstanding for clarity of mind and objectivity. Perhaps more in universities than elsewhere, the young men (and women) see visions, and old men (and women) dream dreams; and persuade themselves that they can all be realized here and now. Ian would listen courteously, pause for a chilling moment, and in the quietest of voices set out methodically what resources were needed to create the earthly paradise. If he thought you were an idiot, you would never find out. He was a man of strong feelings, but they were not for display. What was worth debating was valid arguments and viable administrative structures.

He leaves a loving family: a widow, two daughters, and three grandchildren. He also leaves this society an example of how to be an Arthurian.

Peter Field