

HENRY BRINTON: 1901-1977

Henry Brinton died on June 1, following a fight against crippling strokes which had gone on for almost two years. His ill-health had prevented him from attending many meetings of the Association recently, but his interest remained as keen as ever.

At an early stage in his career Henry Brinton decided to enter the political arena. He fought several bye-elections on behalf of the Labour Party, though in later years his political outlook changed markedly. Before 1939 he was an active member of the League of Nations Union; he spent some time in Spain (at one period there was a price placed upon his head, by direct order of General Franco!) and on return home he was the main organizer of the large camp for refugee Basque children. After 1955 he gave up active politics, but remained deeply involved in public life; he was, for instance, chairman of the Regional Hospital Board, and did his best to improve the standard of education in southern-county State schools. In his limited spare time he wrote thrillers, both under his own name and under the pseudonym of Alex Fraser.

His interest in astronomy was long-standing, but it was only when he moved to Selsey, in 1957, that he joined the Association and began to play an active role. He served a term on the Council, and equipped himself with a fine 317 mm reflector (formerly belonging to a well-known member of past years, Robert Barker). His main work was in astronomical photography, and he produced splendid pictures of the Moon and planets—some of which are to be seen in his books, such as *Astronomy for Beginners* and *Measuring the Universe*.

In 1975 he had the first of his strokes, robbing him of the use of his right arm. Realizing that he could no longer use his telescope, he made a typically generous gesture, and presented the telescope and all his astronomical equipment to the Hatfield Polytechnic Observatory. At Hatfield the Lecturers in Astronomy, J. C. D. Marsh and Iain Nicolson, have installed the "Brinton Telescope" in a special observatory, and it is used constantly for both teaching and research.

Henry Brinton was above all a man of integrity. Most of his life was spent in helping others, and his loss is keenly felt. All members of the Association will join me in expressing sympathy to his wife and family.

PATRICK MOORE