

Obituary

Derek Justin Schove (1913-86)

A Londoner, educated at the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, and then later at the University of London, Derek Schove was in the RAF during the Second World War serving as a meteorologist. But his professional career was as a highly successful schoolmaster. He taught at St David's College before the war and later became the school's Principal and Owner, posts that he held for over 45 years. A flourishing co-educational preparatory school, due not a little to Schove's immense sense of dedication, it celebrated its 60th anniversary this year.

Derek Schove's main interest was the knotty problem of dating historical events, and to this end he began his well-known "Spectrum of Time" project. This took into account all kinds of natural phenomena (most of them astronomical), ranging from the appearance of aurorae, sunspots and eclipses to storms, floods and climatic fluctuations, as well as studies of tree rings and ice cores. He used these to help fix historical dates. Author of more than 150 papers, articles and books, Schove's very useful chronological work will stand as a permanent monument to his industry.

A charming man, a regular attender of meetings of the Association which he joined in 1948, Schove was also a



Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. He was also Chairman of the Bromley and Beckenham Branch of the Historical Association. An avid collector of material for his project, he will be sorely missed by both family and friends.

I am most grateful to Mrs Michael Dandridge for help in the preparation of this note.

Colin A. Ronan