

The **BUDGE ADAMS** *Collection and Memorial*

Derek Leach

It is some time since Budge Adams, a Dovorian, a stalwart of the Dover Society, a researcher into its history and a collector of Dover memorabilia, died. Similarly, it is some time since the Society decided that a suitable tribute to Budge would be to publish some or all of his collection of 2,000 slides/photographs of bygone Dover - many of them taken by himself over the years. With his hands-on computer expertise (not bad for a ninety years old chap) we thought it would be appropriate to produce a CDROM containing all his images with suitable captions as well as a conventional book with a somewhat smaller selection of photographs.

So, why such a delay? Budge's family liked the idea and as we pondered how to progress the project, the Adams family decided to loan permanently to the Society Budge's Dover collection, which comprises not only the slides and photographs but over one hundred books, many old maps and legal property documents plus a lot of memorabilia. This was on condition that the collection would stay in Dover as requested by Budge. Robert Adams was kind enough to provide a room in his home to house the collection and I spent the winter months examining every book and document and scheduling them. The Executive Committee decided that we were not in a position to maintain the collection properly or to provide easy access to the collection for members and the general public; therefore, we opened negotiations with Dover Museum to store the collection on our behalf. In the meantime, the Adams family decided to give, rather than loan, the collection to the Society.

This has made our negotiations with the Museum somewhat easier and we have reached informal agreement for permanent loan, which awaits the drafting of a formal agreement by Dover District Council. During these somewhat protracted negotiations, the Executive decided that it would be more practical to split the collection with the books and certain maps going on permanent loan to Dover Library, which has better facilities for storing maps and providing access to them and better facilities for the public to access the books or even to borrow those books of which the Library has more than one copy. The Adams family has no objection to this arrangement and has formally handed over the Budge Adams Collection to the Society. The next step is to move the collection into a secure room in the Town Hall where a team of (Society?) volunteers can work on the collection - putting bookplates in the books before taking them to the Library, cataloguing and registering everything going to the Museum and scanning all the slides and photographs into the Museum's computer system.

It is this scanning project which has delayed progress in producing the CDROM and book. It will be a major task to scan 2,000 images, since we shall have to decide a suitable text for each one and a suitable 'key word' location to make retrieval simple eg all Snargate Street photographs would be displayed when the computer is told to search for Snargate Street. Fortunately, Budge cross-referred every slide to his computer database where he recorded what the image was, when it was taken and where he obtained it! Once the images are on the

12 Museum's system, it should be relatively easy to produce the CDROM and any book. We have agreed with the Museum that any profit from the CDROM should be donated to the Museum to help cover the costs of storage and maintenance. The profit from *Dover - Collected Memories of a Century*, which Budge

put so much effort into, will be used to underwrite the cost of the book.

By the time you read this I hope that we shall have started the registering task and the scanning. If you can give some time to this project, perhaps two or three hours per week, please let me know.

The Philomena Kennedy Memorial Award

from Sheila and Jeremy Cope

ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD JULY, five members of the committee attended the Dover Grammar School for Girls, where our Chairman, Terry Sutton, presented the prize to Rachael Wade, the first winner of the Philomena Kennedy Memorial award. The award is to be made annually to an art student in the Lower Sixth Form. Sheila Cope spoke to the group of sixth-formers, outlining the career of Philomena, explaining her role as founder member of the Dover Society and the decision of the Executive Committee to make the award in this way to a pupil from the Lower Sixth to encourage them in what proves to be a difficult year. The Society was thanked by the Headteacher, the head of Art and Mrs Thompson, head of Sixth Form, who told us that the winner had been chosen by the girls themselves and that the choice was unanimous.

The brass memorial plaque, together with the two original works, created by Philomena and donated by Gordon King, has been installed on the wall facing the door at the Girls' Grammar School entrance in Castle Avenue. Each year the winner will receive £25 to spend on art materials, the amount to be reviewed by the committee after five years.

After the ceremony there was an opportunity to chat to the pupils and to view their art work in the lower sixth's own building.

Mrs Thompson, head of 6th form, and the staff of the School Art department have been very receptive to our ideas for the memorial and have made various suggestions with the aim of retaining links between the School and the Society. These include an exhibition at one of our meetings of the art work of the winner and her fellow students with an opportunity for them to explain their objectives; also a "master class" at the School for Society members to develop some artistic skills. The committee hopes that the prize will enable Philomena Kennedy's life work to continue by fostering creative ideas in young people.



Rachael Wade receiving her prize from Chairman Terry Sutton