

OBITUARY NOTICES

VINCENT ARTHUR SMITH

THE Society records with sorrow the death of Dr. Vincent Arthur Smith, which is a great loss to it and to all students of Indian history.

He was born in Dublin on June 3, 1848, the son of Aquilla Smith, M.D., a well-known numismatist and archæologist, whose collection of coins is now in the British Museum. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his degree, winning the highest distinctions. He passed the open competition for the Indian Civil Service in 1869 and the final examination in 1871, standing at the head of the list, and was appointed to the United Provinces (then called the N.W. Provinces and Oudh). He served through the regular magisterial and executive offices, with a period from 1874 in the Land Settlement Department (which led him to write the *Settlement Officer's Manual*), and with a further period from 1880 on special duty. He became a district and sessions judge in 1895, was Chief Secretary to the Government in 1898, and finally became a Commissioner that year.

His duties thus made him acquainted with all the features and conditions of the country and people in the principal arena of Indian history. His inclinations and interests turned him early towards studying its archæology and history. His first publications appeared in the *Journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society*, and dealt with Bundelkhand and its popular songs, early inhabitants, and history in 1875, 1877, and 1881. He soon formed the resolution of writing the ancient history of Northern India from the monuments. Accordingly he collected materials and began researches, though official duties prevented him from devoting the time and attention necessary. He made, however, detailed preparatory studies of particular matters and published them from time to time

in anticipation of the complete history, in the Journals of the Bengal Asiatic Society, of this Society, and of the German Oriental Society, in the *Indian Antiquary*, and elsewhere. In 1892 he read his "Observations on the Gupta Coinage" before the International Congress of Orientalists in London,¹ and published at Allahabad two treatises, *The Remains near Kasia in the Gorakhpur District*, in 1896, and *The Jain Stūpa and other Antiquities of Mathurā*, in 1901.

The call that history made on him led him to retire from India comparatively early in July, 1900, in order that he might devote undivided attention to it. He settled first in Cheltenham, but moved in 1910 to Oxford, where he joined St. John's College, and was appointed a Curator of the Indian Institute.

Dr. Smith in 1901 published his book, *Aśoka, the Buddhist Emperor of India*, a popular yet scholarly account, of which he was engaged on the third edition when he died. He completed in 1904 the first part of his contemplated history as the *Early History of India*, which fashioned all the evidence scattered in many publications, his own and those of others, into a reasonable account of the period from 600 B.C. to the Mohammedan conquest. This was so highly appreciated that a second edition was published in 1908, and a third and enlarged edition in 1914. In 1906 he issued the first volume of the *Catalogue of Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta*. He also wrote the *Oxford Student's History of India*, a short work that has gone through seven editions.

His *History of Fine Art in India and Ceylon*, published in 1911, was acknowledged to be the first comprehensive and masterly survey of fine art in all its branches from its beginning to the present time. The next year was issued his *Oxford History of England*, for Indian students; and in his *Life of Akbar, the great Mogul*, he gave in 1917 an admirable account of that great emperor. His last work was the *Oxford History of India*, published last year, a compendious and

¹ Published JRAS. 1893, p. 77.

valuable account from the earliest times to the present day, based on the results of modern research. He edited *Bernier's Travels* and *Sleeman's Rambles and Recollections*, contributed to the *Oxford Survey of the British Empire*, and wrote *Indian Constitutional Reform viewed in the light of History* in 1919.

Dr. Smith became a member of the Council of this Society in 1915 and a Vice-President last year. The Society awarded him its gold medal for his historical works in 1918, and they were acknowledged by the Government of India with a C.I.E. and honoured by Dublin University with a Doctorate last year. He was assiduous in the discharge of his duties on the Council, and aided the Society's interests in all that appertained to his fields of learning. His health began to fail seriously last December and he died on February 6.

Dr. Smith devoted much attention to Indian numismatics and some to inscriptions and original research, but his activities and strength lay chiefly in collating the results supplied by other scholars in their various departments. Thus his knowledge of Indian history and art and all their connexions was comprehensive and unrivalled, his experience in India enabled him to use his materials with judicious discrimination, and he co-ordinated and wrought them up into complete treatises that were acknowledged as authoritative. He accomplished a great work that lay beyond the scope of the researches of other individual scholars, and conferred notable boons of permanent value not only on them but also on all persons interested in India.

The following list contains, it is hoped, all the important papers that he published on Oriental subjects. His smaller pieces were numerous.

THIS SOCIETY'S JOURNAL

Coinage of the Early or Imperial Gupta Dynasty (1889).
Observations on the Gupta Coinage (1893). Iron Pillar of
Delhi (Mihrauli) and the Emperor Candrar; Samudragupta
and his Conquests; Birthplace of Gautama Buddha (1897).

Iron Pillar of Dhār; Kauśāmbī and Śrāvastī; Piprahwa Stūpa (1898). Śrāvastī; Buddhist Monastery at Sohnāg (1900). Kuśinara or Kuśinagara and other Buddhist Holy Places (1902). Kushan or Indo-Scythian Period and the Autonomous Tribes of the Panjab conquered by Alexander (1903). White Hun (Ephthalite) Coins from the Panjab and the White Hun Coin of Vyāghramukha (1907). History of Kanauj and King Yaśovarman (1908). Gurjaras of Rajputana and Kanauj (1909). Vākātaka Dynasty of Berar (1914). Treasure of Akbar; Consideration of Albert de Mandelslo's Travels (1915). Death of Hemū (1916). Akbar's Mother and Humāyūn's Senior Widow; Akbar's House of Worship (1917). Invasion of the Panjāb by Ardashīr Pāpakān (Bābagān), the first Sasanian King of Persia, A.D. 226-41 (April, 1920); Identification of the "Ka-p'i-li Country" of Chinese Authors (*ibid.*); see pp. 221-9.

JOURNAL OF THE BENGAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Catalogue of Gold Coins of the Imperial Gupta Dynasty (1884). Græco-Roman Influence on the Civilization of Ancient India (1889). Further Observations on the History and Coinage of the Gupta Period (1894). Numismatic Notes and Novelties (1897).

INDIAN ANTIQUARY

Inscriptions of Mahāmāman at Bodh Gayā (1902). Meaning of Piyadasi (1903). Aśoka Notes, I-XII (1903, 1905, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1918). Most Southern Hoard of Bactrian Coins in India (1904). Rumindei Inscription; Aśoka's alleged Mission to Pegu; Alexander, Porus and the Panjab (1905). History and Coinage of the Chandel Dynasty of Bundelkhand (1908). Pāla Dynasty of Bengal (1909). Archæological Notes from Burma (1910). Outliers of Rājasthāni; Indian Painting at the Festival of Empire (1911). Architecture and Sculpture in Mysore; Date of Akbar's Birth (1915).

JOURNAL OF THE GERMAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY

Andhra History and Coinage (vols. 56, 57). Indian Kings named Śilāditya and the Kingdom of Mo-la-p'o (58). Indo-Parthian Dynasties (60). Śakas in Northern India (61). Identification of the Aśoka Pillar N.E. of Benares (63). Monolithic Pillars or Columns of Aśoka (65). Indian Travels of Apollonius of Tyana (68).

OTHER JOURNALS

Indian Sculpture of the Gupta Period, A.D. 300–650 (*Ostasiatischen Zeitschrift*, Jahrg. iii, Heft i, 1914).

F. E. P.

James Kennedy

The Society has to mourn the loss of one of its old members in the death of James Kennedy. He was son of the Rev. James Kennedy of the London Missionary Society in North India, and was educated at the High School and University of Edinburgh. He passed the open competition for the Civil Service of India in 1862, and went out there the next year, being appointed to the North-West Provinces and Oudh (now called the United Provinces). Serving through all the grades of revenue and criminal administration, including land settlement, he became a Magistrate and Collector in 1884 and retired comparatively early in 1890.

He then joined this Society in 1891, became a member of its Council in 1898, and was Treasurer from 1904 to 1917, and again for a short while in 1919 after the death of Mr. Crewdson, who had succeeded him. Though he suffered from a severe malady of the eye for years, he was always most assiduous and genial in his duties, a most prudent custodian of the Society's purse. His health began to fail seriously early this year, and he died on June 20 at the age of 78.