

OBITUARY: Charles Hackett

Charles Hackett, widower of Olwen Brogan, and a very good friend of the Society, died at the age of 85 on 29th May. He is to be remembered for the enterprise of his career, for the range of his curiosity and for the strength of his friendships. He joined the Royal Air Force as a boy apprentice and rose to be Wing Commander, showed a talent for the ingenious solution of a variety of problems and enjoyed to the full his service in many different parts of the world (of which he could tell good stories). After retirement and a period in Britain he felt the urge to go overseas again, and went to Libya to use his experience of electronics in the establishment and maintenance of telecommunications there; when he was retired from his post at Misurata he undertook a job for the Libyan Oil Company, in high delight to be 'beginning a new career at the age of 70', as he put it. While he was at Misurata his first wife died and he set himself to cure loneliness by an enhanced interest in everything about him. Among other things he became a generously welcoming host to visiting parties of British archaeologists; and so he met Olwen. After their marriage, and for as long as she continued to work in Libya, he supported her activities, and often accompanied her on her trips, with genuine interest. In his final years arthritis increasingly limited his movements; but the last letter that I received from him, only a few weeks before he died, showed as real enthusiasm as ever for the projects of those concerned with Libyan archaeology.

Joyce Reynolds