

## **OBITUARIES**

### **PROFESSOR WILLIAM BEATTIE**

It is with much regret that we report the death, on March 28th 1986, of Professor William Beattie, President of this Society from 1976 to 1979, at the age of 82.

William Beattie was born in Jedburgh, and was educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University. He spent most of his working life in the library service, including forty years in the National Library of Scotland, initially as Keeper of Printed Books in 1931, until his appointment as Librarian in 1953. After he retired from the National Library in 1970, he became the first director of the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Edinburgh University, where his international outlook and kindly organisation endeared him to many visiting scholars.

His interest in the Scottish Society for Northern Studies stemmed from several different aspects of his wide-ranging interests. Apart from being unusually interested in Scandinavian life and literature, his eldest daughter married a Norwegian. His scholarship embraced many fields relating to Scandinavia, particularly its links with Scotland, and the award of the St. Olaf's medal in 1977 was a source of enormous pleasure to him, as well as to his many friends in both Scotland and Scandinavia. Besides being awarded honorary doctorates from the University of St. Andrews and Trinity College, Dublin, he was created a CBE in 1963.

His many friends in the Society will mourn the passing of an accomplished and highly-regarded scholar, and a kind and gracious man.

I.F.

## GLADYS HIRD

The Scottish Society for Northern Studies announces with regret the death in hospital at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on January 6, 1986, of Gladys Hird, a member of its Committee and Lecturer in Swedish at Newcastle University.

Gladys Hird graduated BA in German in the first place then in Scandinavian Studies at Newcastle and studied also at the Universities of Uppsala and Reykjavík. She worked for several years as assistant in the English Department at Uppsala, took her MA degree on a Swedish literary topic in Newcastle, then taught Swedish and Old Icelandic in the Universities of Melbourne and Aberdeen before returning to Newcastle as Lecturer in Swedish sixteen years ago. Her grammar-reader, *Swedish*, which first appeared in 1977, is a standard University text-book.

Gladys Hird was in private life the wife of Dr. Zdenek Hauptman of Durham University to whom the Society extends its sympathy in his bereavement.