Note

An Additional Note on the Rawlinson Papers

ROGER PARSONS

Since my article on the Rawlinson papers was written the Society's new archivist Nancy Charley has drawn my attention to some correspondence in the Society's archives which sheds further light on the acquisition of its Rawlinson papers. It consists of letters from Miss Elmira Wade, who in 1972 was employed as archivist both at Corsham Court, Wiltshire, the seat of the Methuen family, and at the RAS. Miss Wade had been a friend of Harry Rawlinson and his wife Meredith up to the time of the latter's death in 1951, and was named as executrix of her will.

The most important of these letters is the first, from Miss Wade to the RAS dated June 26 1972. This makes it clear that Meredith left no clear directions as to the disposal of the Rawlinson papers and that Miss Wade had acted on her own initiative in 1951 in inviting the British Museum and the Royal Geographical Society to make their own selections from the material. The remainder of the material remained in her own possession, although she allowed a Mr Gordon Waterfield to borrow some of it while he was contemplating a biography of HCR, a project which he subsequently abandoned.

At some time after 1951 Miss Wade took up her appointment at Corsham Court and the Rawlinson papers were transferred there. They were finally transferred to the RAS in December 1972, although a letter dated 1st January 1973 indicates that the papers which had been borrowed by Waterfield sometime before 1964 were not included. At present it is not clear when, if at all, the RAS received these additional papers. Perhaps further work by the Archivist will clarify this. It seems likely though, that it was during the papers' long sojourn at Corsham Court that some of the items in Box I which have no obvious connection to Henry Rawlinson or his family, particularly those relating to the Methuen family, were added to the collection.

ROGER PARSONS

JRAS, *Series 3*, 25, 3 (2015), p. 499
doi:10.1017/S1356186315000140

© The Royal Asiatic Society 2015

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186315000140 Published online by Cambridge University Press