

FROM THE GARTON ARCHIVE

PICTURE OF THE MONTH 69 NOVEMBER 2017

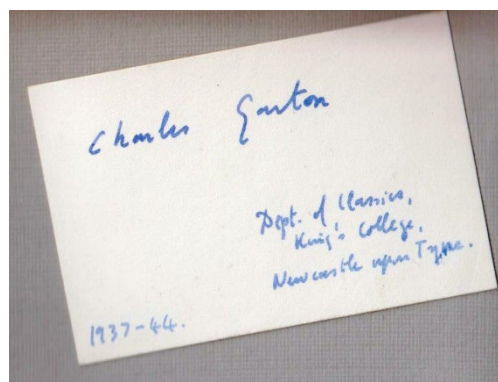
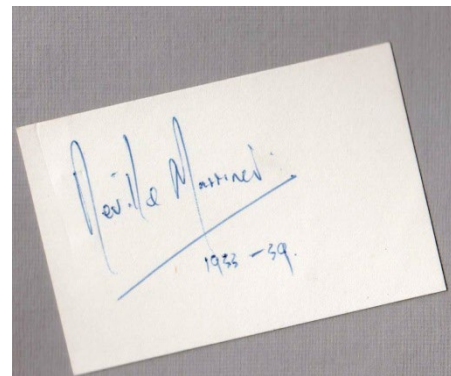
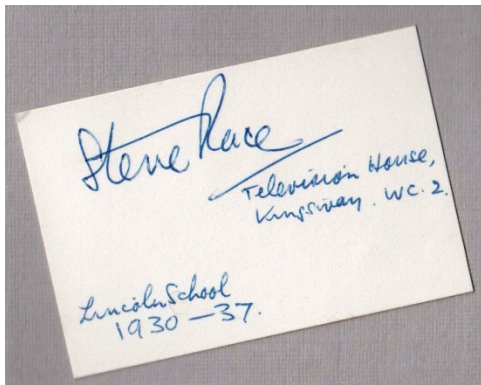


I am indebted to Margaret Jones, née Franklin, for sending me this historic photograph of Headmaster George F Franklin being presented with an album on the occasion of his retirement from his post at Lincoln School. The presentation took place at the Annual General Meeting of the Old Lincolnians' Society, held at the Grand Hotel in Lincoln, now sadly demolished to make way for a much-needed new bus station, which is expected to open in the New Year.

As so often, I turned to one of my trusty sources, *The Lincolnian* magazines, to elaborate on the picture which, for many of you, will speak thousands of words without any annotation. The December 1957 edition noted that an appeal had been made for contributions towards a presentation to the Headmaster, which would include as many autographed names and addresses as possible of members of the Old Lincolnians' Society, and Lincolnians who had left the School after he began his headship in 1937. Scrutiny of the book, which Margaret has kindly donated to the Garton Archive, revealed that a number of current pupils at the School had also signed the book.

The next issue of the magazine in July 1958 recorded the historic occasion. Mr Franklin received a Pye radiogram, and Mrs Franklin was presented with a gold propelling pencil in recognition of the support she had given to her husband, and the work she had done over many years in the School's boarding house. Included in the presentation was the leather-bound album shown in the picture above, containing the names of more than 500 Old Boys and a handful of present pupils who had also contributed.

Below are three of the cards, in the orientation in which they appear in the album, and showing the names of three distinguished Old Lincolnians; musicians Steve Race and Neville Marriner, and Charles Garton, who later became Professor of Classics at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and of course founded the Garton Archive with former Headmaster David Cox at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School.



In making the presentation, Mr H Bowden, President of the Old Lincolnians' Society and pictured on the left of the photo, thanked Mr and Mrs Franklin for their many services to the School, and not least during the war and the difficult years that followed it. Harry Bowden had been a pupil at Lincoln School from 1926-33, and had left to work as an articled clerk with Andrew, Race & Co, the local firm of solicitors.

In replying by letter from his retirement home in Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, Mr Franklin described his feelings of honour, pleasure and humility on receiving the gifts, and acknowledging the good wishes and generous words of thanks which he and his wife had received. He described the album as a beautiful and treasured possession, and wrote that he and his wife had already gained much pleasure in turning the pages, identifying the contributors, recalling them as they knew them at Lincoln School, and reviving memories of what they had achieved in their subsequent careers.

I know from recent discussions with his daughter how much Mr Franklin did in fact treasure the volume, to such an extent that Margaret was very reluctant to part with it. However, she is comfortable knowing that it now enjoys pride of place in the archives of the School that he served with such dignity and commitment, and feels that it is the right place for it to be preserved and inspected.

For those wishing to read more about Mr George Franklin's career as Headmaster of Lincoln School, I have written a tribute to him in Occasional Paper 49 from the Garton archive, which is available for reading or downloading on the LCHS website under Our School/LCHS History/School Archives, or by emailing me for an electronic copy.

Peter Harrod
LCHS Achivist for the Pre-1974 Archives