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ObituaryThe Late James Hilton, F.S.A., Hon. Treasurer Of The Institute

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Obituary.

THE LATE JAMES HILTON, F.S.A., HON. TREASURER OF THE INSTITUTE.

The Institute has recently lost one of its most devoted and generous friends. The late Mr. James Hilton had been a member for forty-two years, and for twenty-five years had filled the responsible post of Honorary Treasurer. It was his careful management of its finances which largely secured for it a healthy and prosperous condition, and enabled it to maintain its *Journal* at the high level which it has always occupied. He and his devoted daughter, Mrs. Hale-Hilton, have been very regular attendants at its annual gatherings and also at its meetings in London. It was a notable event when, not long ago, the chairman at one of these meetings was able to convey to Mr. Hilton, who was present, the congratulations of the members on his ninety-second birthday. His genial, gentle and ever welcome presence will be much missed among us.

Mr. Hilton was born on 6th June, 1815. He sprang from the old Lancashire family of the Hiltons, and was educated as a solicitor. His practical ability attained its natural result in a successful career; but his friends will be chiefly concerned to remember how he spent his leisure and his means in furthering the two objects he loved best, namely, archaeology and philanthropy. He was for many years on the committee of the Church Building Society, and greatly assisted in the work of restoring the church of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield. He was an active member and auditor of the accounts of the Egypt Exploration Fund and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. His particular and personal taste was the study and explanation of chronograms, on which he was the first authority. He had collected a large series of books on the subject, many of them of the greatest rarity, and himself published three volumes

dealing with it, which were written with great thoroughness, acumen and learning. This collection of books he has bequeathed to the British Museum, to which he also left his fine and choice collection of Chinese jade objects. To the Institute he left a legacy of £200.

These things will keep his memory fresh with those who did not know him as well as some of us who were privileged to be his friends, and who cherish most the recollection of his simplicity, modesty, and perennial kindness and urbanity, qualities that are seldom so prominent in those otherwise so well endowed. It is a pleasure to us to feel that his tie with the Institute is maintained, and we hope may be long maintained by the fact of his son-in-law, Mr. Hale-Hilton, being our Honorary Secretary.

H. H. H.