

THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

Bulletin No.26



Edited by Betty Taylor
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The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings Part V: General Indian characteristics

Dagmara Ginter

Grey Owl provides in his writing some interesting snapshots of general Indian traits, such as emotionality, silence, simplicity, great patience and endurance. This description is nearly too ideal to be true but, in fact its authenticity can be confirmed by the experts in Indian culture. Grey Owl's sketchy depiction of the Indian dispositions agrees in great part with that presented by Robert E. Ritzenthaler in "Southwestern Chippewa" (1978:753). John Honingman points to the natives' ability to control their feelings, the sign of which is their reticence and facial immobility. This, for those unfamiliar with Indian disposition might betray their "emotional flatness". But longer acquaintance with them shows them to be rather temperamental (1978:736). Self-reliance and tenacity of purpose or perseverance are certainly the terms that can be applied to Indians. And this can be exemplified by an episode related by Samuel Hearne in the second half of the eighteenth century who, on his expedition from Fort Churchill to the Coppermine River, met a woman from the tribe of Dogribs that had escaped from her Cree captors and had been living alone in the bush for seven months. She had built herself a shelter, made snares for trapping hares, constructed snowshoes and a fish net, and also worked on decorating her dress (Taylor 1991:183).

In "A Mess of Pottage" (1931), an article written for *Canadian Forest and Outdoors*, Grey Owl views Indians from a totally different angle. He depicts them as war-like and viciously cruel. This much generalized opinion has some historic validity as well as the depiction of the usual Indian treatment of their beaten enemy in "The Sage of Pelican Lake" which is characterized by the beating of the corpse with sticks, mutilating it with knives, accompanied by screaming epithets and shouting out the harms that the corpse had done them (1936:60). Strangely enough, this, as pointed out by the author, was done by the Indian women, which truly was the case. As is claimed by John Ewers in "Women's Roles in Plains Indian Warfare" (1994) there is a lot of evidence that women played the leading role in mutilating the dead enemy. Karl Bodmer, for example, noted after the battle between Blackfeet and Assiniboin-Cree in the 1830s, that Blackfeet women revenged themselves on the Cree corpses beating them with clubs and pelting them with stones¹

Grey Owl sometimes makes sweeping generalizations like with ascribing certain qualities to different tribes. He, thus, presents the Pelican Lake's Sage's opinion that of all the Indian tribes the Stoneys, the Blackfeet, and the Pawnees were "the most warlike, courageous and cultured in the Indian arts" (1936:57). He further characterizes the Blackfeet as good warriors but being, on the whole, less aggressive and more level headed than the other Plains tribes. He juxtaposes these war-like Plains Indians with their war-like disposition with the Woodland tribes (such as the Saulteaux, Ojibways, and Crees), which are regarded as the most peaceful ones. Saying that particular tribes are more artistically cultured than others, is very much a matter of personal opinion. One could prefer, for example, the geometric beadwork designs of the Plains tribes to the floral ones of the Woodland Indians and vice versa. But the main division of Plains

tribes as war-like and the Woodland groups as peaceful, is quite valid. Studying the history of the Indian relationships with whites, one can see it was the Plains tribes that fiercely opposed the white onrush into their territory until the end of the nineteenth century, while the bush Indians early became dependent on trade with the white man.²

Which Plains tribes were the fiercest warriors is a debatable point. But considering the Blackfeet as the most temperate of them is certainly based on fact. Although a powerful tribe, they did not provide any organized resistance to the whites. What is more, they refused to join the general Plains Indians anti-white movement on three important occasions. It first happened when Sitting Bull wanted them to join the Sioux in their war against the Americans after the triumphant battle with Custer. Neither did they want to involve themselves in the rebellion initiated by Riel, the half-breed Cree, and they did not join the Ghost Dance movement in the 1890s (Lewis 1942:68).

Grey Owl also depicts authoritatively the general nature of Indian chieftainship. He notices that the chiefs do not have "absolute authority over their bands" acting simply "in an advisory capacity". If the majority of people accepted their ideas concerning a particular journey or battle, then they were allowed to direct their bands. However, in the case of people's disagreement with the chief, the decision was made by a vote. This sometimes gives a wrong impression that Indians lack discipline (1931:207). Edwin Thompson Denig wrote similarly about the Indians in 1930: "No man's rule over them is absolute; their government is pure democracy. Their consent to be governed by any man is voluntarily given and likewise withdrawn at the discretion of the person" (1930:435).

Although the author, as has been mentioned before, was not as familiar with the Plains Indians as with the Woodland natives, his portrait of a Blackfeet warrior in "The Tree" is full of interesting and graphic detail. The Indian chief that is about to participate in the battle with whites is depicted, thus, as "naked, save for a loincloth, a beaded belt that held a broad knife sheath, and his moccasins, [with] face and body...painted with strange devices in crimson, white and yellow" (1936:113). His head is decorated with "an eagle feather bonnet that spread wide and stood out in a huge circle". Additionally, he is seen carrying "a long pipe decorated with feathers and the quills of porcupines" (ibid.).

John Ewers in *The Horse in Blackfeet Indian Culture* points to the fact that although some Blackfeet leaders wore ceremonial war shirts and leggings during battle, the majority of them went into battle naked except for their breechcloths, or loincloths, moccasins, and face and body paint (1955:198). In *The Blackfeet Raiders on the Northwestern Plains* the same author discusses the colours with which the warriors painted their faces, mentioning red as the most favoured colour and also yellow ochre and glassy lead one (1958:38). Wearing eagle feather bonnets was a frequent custom amongst the Blackfeet leaders, although it was reserved only for special occasions like battles or religious ceremonies.³ War pipes had a high symbolic value being "utilized for both peace and war interactions", they were frequently ornamented with porcupine quills (Taylor 1993:164).

In "The Trail of Two Sunsets" Grey Owl points to other general but quite valid characteristics of Indians. The Crees, Ojibways, and Algonquins are considered the

best canoemen that Canada has ever produced and the Iroquois of Caughnawauga as the most expert Canadian bridge-builders (1931:208). These Woodland Indians, all belonging to the same linguistic stock, occupied the kind of land that imposed on them the necessity of canoe expertise. No transportation could be made without canoes and, additionally, the abundance of birch bark provided them with the best building material which guaranteed the construction of those most versatile vessels (Taylor 1991: 240).⁴ The Iroquois, or to be more specific, Mohawks of Caughnawauga in Quebec, were indeed trained as professional steelworkers. Many of those Indians were recognised as skilful bridge builders, having erected such constructions as the Sault Sainte Marie Bridge in northern Michigan and the Quebec Bridge across the St. Lawrence River.⁵

Grey Owl also provides a few snapshots of how the Indian children were being brought up. In *The Sajo and the Beaver People* both Shapian and Sajo listen very carefully to their father and even if he pauses they will not dare to interrupt. Again, an elucidatory comment is given in a footnote. Not interrupting people is, namely, one of the most important features of polite behaviour. To interrupt the elders, when one is not addressed directly, would be regarded as crass impropriety (1935:176). Sister Hilger confirms this information noting that a lot of attention was given to teaching children the "proper etiquette". Accordingly, the youngsters should treat the elders with great respect and, therefore, speak to them very politely and listening to them carefully.⁶

In "The Sons of Kee-way-keno" Grey Owl points to another equally important side of Indian upbringing, i.e. the preparation of young boys to a life of extreme hardship. The heroes of this short story are two teenage boys who, together with their father, transport their winter supplies into their hunting ground in a large freighting canoe. Their father gets drowned during the journey and they, wanting desperately to recover his body, decide to return and report this tragic event to the post manager. The return journey is of one hundred and twenty miles which includes over thirty-two portages. The description of their exasperating, yet successful, journey is summed up in the following way: "Only the intensive training to which Indian youths are subjected, together with a Spartan spirit of fortitude inculcated by a life of hardship, enabled these striplings to win through where many a grown man would have failed" (1936:13). Training Indian teenage boys was generally recognised as extremely rigorous. Diamond Jenness in *Indians of Canada* brings attention to the physical hardening of youngsters by making them, for example, bathe in cold water day after day even in winter, or to make them roll naked in the snow.⁷

Endnotes

¹ Jean Baptiste Truteau, a French trader, observed an even more horrid spectacle: "I have seen these furious old hags....cut off the hands, limbs, the virile parts of the dead enemies, hang them around the neck and at the ears, and dance thus at all the lodge doors of the village" (Ewers 1994:329)

² Johnson points to the Ojibways and Crees as "[being] from early contact days induced north and west by the fur trade activities of the Hudson's Bay Company" (1992:186). Lyford stresses the Ojibways importance in the fur trade and the fact that they began making treaties with the U.S. and Canada as early as 1815; in the years 1850-1880 all their reservations were already formed and "they have since lived in peace with both their White and their Indian neighbours" (1953: 13/4). The Plains Indians, especially the Sioux, did not end their fighting against the Americans until the end of the 19th century; for the history of their warfare see Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. An Indian History of the American West* (London: Vintage, 1970) and Stephen Longstreet, *War Cries on Horseback. The Story of the Indian Wars of the Great Plains* (London: Sphere Books Limited, 1970).

³ The Blackfeet feather-bonnets differed from the so-called flowing bonnets worn by other Plains tribes, especially the Sioux. As Ewers describes, "They were crowns of 18 to 30 upright feathers inserted in a folded rawhide headband" (1958:118).

⁴ Apart from being expert canoeists, those bush Ojibways were also recognised as professional canoe builders. They had the really skilled masters, like a Rapid Lake Algonquin, named Maranda, who enjoyed the reputation of being the last of the master constructors of birch bark canoes (he died in 1987) His canoes were characterised by "a particularly elegant gunwale line" (Taylor 1997:29).

⁵ It was a dangerous job and in 1907 the partially finished Quebec Bridge collapsed burying 35 of the Mohawk builders. The large cross in the Church at St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake in Quebec commemorates that tragic happening. Apart from building bridges, the Mohawk Indians were involved in erecting large buildings such as the Empire State Building in New York (Taylor 1997:86).

⁶ Hilger gives the whole list of things that Ojibway children were not allowed to do. Namely, they were forbidden to look at a person for too long, to watch longingly at the neighbours eating their food, to peek in the lodges after sunset, or to laugh at anybody or anything unusual (1951:97/8)

⁷ Such was the custom of Iroquois, Sarcee, and the Pacific Coast tribes. But Jenness points to the fact that Indians in the northernmost part of Canada were less demanding in the upbringing of their children since the "hardships of life [there] were so numerous that deliberate increase of them might have proved intolerable" (1977:152/3). In most Canadian tribes, therefore, the great fortitude of the youths can be attributed to both, what Grey Owl calls, "intensive training" and the extremely hard life conditions, especially in the Subarctic and Arctic regions.

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**Official Opening of the Enlarged and Refurbished
Hastings Museum : Saturday, 28th July 2007**

The re-opening of Hastings Museum, after a closure of twenty months or so, was a popular event and a great success. It was estimated that about one thousand people visited during the day. In a drear and wet summer, we were blessed with good weather – plenty of sunshine for the most part - important as one of the main events was outdoors and the public were invited to picnic in the grounds!

Hastings Museum has some very fine specimens amongst its holdings¹ but the emphasis for our members is, of course, the extended Native American and Grey Owl galleries. A number of collections are now on display, including the Brassey items², the Blackmore material (mostly Plains Indian)³, the Clare Sheridan artefacts⁴, and now a substantial part of the Taylor collection⁵, which incorporates the Callander material⁶.

The Grey Owl Gallery, with the replica cabin⁷, has additional displays of books and photographs together with artefacts – the extended captions are now in English and French. The Society has taken a part by loaning the two original copies of *Forest and Outdoors* for October 1930 and January 1931, which both include articles by Grey Owl⁸. The photo of Grey Owl without a hat, taken by Karsh, and donated to the Museum by Margaret Charko (see letter, p.9), is on the wall next to the cabinet displaying the large Karsh poster⁹. In this cabinet is also the 'Grey Owl Shirt worn by Pierce Brosnan in the Richard Attenborough film!¹⁰

The day's activities commenced at 11 a.m. with musical (song and flute) entertainment by Thunder Nation (who had appeared earlier in the summer at the Brighton Festival). The Deputy Mayor performed the official opening at 2 p.m.¹¹, after the Curator, Victoria Williams, had thanked all those who had made the project work – including many volunteers from the Hastings Museum Association¹². The cultural attaché from the U.S. Embassy, Michael Macey, then spoke a few words.

Once the formalities were over and the 'ribbon cut', the enthusiastic crowd flocked into the Museum and all the comments I heard were extremely complimentary.

Thunder Nation took to the stage again, with traditional song and dance having themselves made reference to Grey Owl, saying that although he wasn't an Indian, he was certainly Indian in his heart.

The afternoon's activities wound to a close about 5 p.m., after a large number of visitors had joined hands with the Thunder Nation performers for the 'Round Dance'!



'Thunder Nation' performing on stage in the grounds of Hastings Museum.

Notes

¹ Including a rare Hawaiian feather cape (Brassey Collection); a late 16th century Majolica (Maiolica) dish, thought to be the largest in existence; a Tang Horse, A.D. 618-906; and a recently acquired 'treasure', J.M.W. Turner's watercolour 'Hastings Fish Market on the Sands, Early Morning' painted in 1824.

² The Brassey North American material was probably collected in 1872 and donated to the Museum in 1919; it includes a Tsimshian Soul Catcher and items from the Aleutian Islands.

³ 'Ted' Blackmore was the first President of the Grey Owl Society and his collection (mostly Plains Indian) was donated to the Museum in 1983, shortly before his death. (See Bulls. 2:24 and 21.14. Also Special Anniversary Publication, 2002:2-3).

⁴ The Clare Sheridan artefacts were brought back by her from the Blackfoot and Blood Indians, just before the 2nd World War and passed to Ted Blackmore in the 1960s. A Blackfoot 'thimble' dress brought back by her is part of the Taylor Collection. Clare Sheridan was a first cousin of Winston Churchill (see *Clare Sheridan* by Betty Taylor. Hastings Press, 2007).

⁵ The Taylor Collection includes a very fine Oglala Sioux warbonnet (c.1870-1880) which belonged to *Cinte Muzza* (Iron Tail) who worked with Buffalo Bill; items from tribes associated with Grey Owl, such as Ojibwa, Cree, Metis; and the Callender Collection – see note 6.

⁶ Items from the Naskapi / Montagnais / Inuit, late 19th - early 20th centuries, brought back by the missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs Callander, whose son lived in St Leonards-on-sea.

⁷ For further details of this gallery, see Bulls. 13:1 and 14: 1-4.

⁸ Found for the Society by Ralfe Whistler (See Bull. 25:31 for details of the contents).

⁹ See Bull. 21:7 and the Special 21st Anniversary Publication, 2002:12.

¹⁰ See Bull. 19:12.

¹¹ The Mayor, Maureen Charlesworth, was abroad at the time but wrote a letter for the Museum's 'Exhibition and Events' programme, July – December 2007: 'I have been involved with the Museum for the past twenty years and when the plans came forward to extend and re-develop the Museum, I was thrilled Nearly all the display areas have been changed and enlarged, with additional displays on Grey Owl and Native America (for which we are becoming world famous)....'. It is interesting to note the words 'world famous', as Margaret Charko telephoned on 2nd August to say that the 'Opening' had been an item on one of the Canadian television channels.

¹² The Association was formed in 1890 and is thought to be the oldest in the country. Lord Brassey was the first President.

Betty Taylor
August 2007

Hastings and St Leonards Observer. July 20th

'Hastings Museum re-opens with Mods tribute after £1m spruce up'.

'...The Johns Place site...has been extensively refurbished...'

There is 'a much-expanded Native American display, featuring another famous son of Hastings, Grey Owl who was actually a Hastings Grammar school pupil...Council Leader, Peter Pragnell said '....To celebrate the Grey Owl connection, we are privileged in having a Native American dance group, Thunder Nation, performing at the opening ceremony...'

Hastings and St Leonards Observer, July 27th

'Mods and Rockers re-open museum'. 'The final touches are being made at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery ready for its re-opening this weekend...Besides the Mods and Rockers exhibition there will also be updated displays on Hastings' very own Grey Owl and television pioneer John Logie Baird....'

Hastings handbook. Issue 9. August 2007

'Hastings History Revived at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery' by Kevin Boorman (H.B.C.). pp 8-9. 'Grey Owl. Fraudster or leading conservationist, or maybe a bit of both, Hastings' very own Archibald 'Grey Owl' Belaney has a display dedicated to his impressive work in the field of wildlife. Artefacts from his travels and life posing as a Native American are all lovingly presented here at HMAG. (Unfortunately, the photo included was not of Grey Owl but of Chief Shot-on-Both sides)!

Hastings Adnews. August 1st

'New-Look Museum Re-opens Doors'. '...Displays on Hastings-born conservationist Grey Owl and his links with Native American society have been improved...'. (Front page).

Hastings and St Leonards Observer. August 3rd

'1,000 flock to Museum re-opening'. 'Hundreds flocked to Hastings Museum for its official re-opening at the weekend...On Saturday, more than 1,000 people saw deputy mayor Vivienne Bond cut the ribbon at long last'. Victoria Williams, the Curator said 'One of the Indians who visited on Saturday is a graduate in Native American art, and she said that some of the exhibits we had on display were amongst the best she'd ever seen, which was praise indeed'.

About magazine. Summer 2007 (Hastings Borough Council). 'An Indian opening for our museum...Native American song and dance welcomed 1,000 guests back to our museum following a two year refurbishment...The crowds flocked inside to catch a glimpse of the new displays, featuring Mods and Rockers, T.V. pioneer John Logie Baird and conservationists' hero, Grey Owl'.

Television

The event was advertised and filmed over several evenings on both BBC 1 South East Today and ITV1 Meridian Tonight.

Hastings Museum
Grey Owl Society Reception – Tuesday, 31 July

Victoria Williams (Curator and member of the Society), hosted this special evening to enable members to spend time in the Native American and Grey Owl galleries. The Museum re-opened after refurbishment and extension on 28th July when around one thousand people visited (see pp. 5-6).

There were 44 members and friends for the G.O.S. evening, which was a surprisingly good turn out, some coming from other parts of the country – Birmingham, Selborne in Hampshire, Dorking and Ewell in Surrey and North Wales!

We were especially pleased to see Kristin Bonney (from Wales) whose mother, Betty Somervell, acted as chauffeur and secretary to Grey Owl on his first U.K. tour. The Society has been custodian of Kristin's unique, original material (Grey Owl's pipebag and Anahareo's beaded jacket amongst other items) for a number of years and it is now planned to transfer this collection to Hastings Museum, to enable more people to enjoy it. This is an ongoing project – more details in next year's Bulletin.

The one disappointment of the evening was that the expected visit of Margaret Charko from Ontario had to be cancelled for family illness. (However, Margaret hopes to 'cross the pond' next year and we are pleased to report that her husband, Ron, is making good progress).

Members gathered in the famous Durbar Hall – with drinks and snacks – where Victoria gave a brief outline of the refurbishment programme and the new displays in the Native American and Grey Owl galleries. We then toured at leisure through the Museum and especially noticed the Karsh photo donated by Margaret Charko (see p.9)

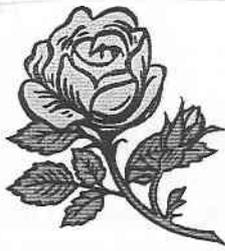
It was particularly nice to meet our new members, Tony and Anne Wharton from
and Professor John Norris Wood (of The Royal College of Art).

Our thanks to Brion Purdey and Alison Hawkins for looking after the refreshments.

It was a most enjoyable evening – plenty of time for conversation – and the event closed about 9 p.m. Again, our thanks to Victoria.



Curator, Victoria Williams with Kristin Bonney (right) in the new extension.



Margaret and Ron Charko

TO THE HASTINGS MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

I am very sorry that I have had to cancel being at the opening of the Museum and Art Gallery. It is due to the illness of my husband, Ron. He is recovering slowly.

I am very pleased and honoured to be able to present this photo to the Grey Owl exhibit. It is a photo taken by the famous photographer Karsh. Because Grey Owl was a family friend and was staying with us at the time, he gave my Mother two of the photos. When she passed away, I inherited both of them, but gave one to my brother Stanley. This one I kept because Grey Owl did not have a hat on when I worked with him in typing the manuscript for *Tales of an Empty Cabin*.

This photo had a special place in our home with a light above it, and after talking to the family, decided that I wanted to pass it on to your museum where I knew it would be appreciated. I thought it a perfect time as I was planning on being there to present it at the opening. I know it will be where it should be.

And when the late Colin Taylor visited our home, he too thought it should be in the museum in Hastings. He helped me to make the decision.

Most Sincerely

*Margaret Charko
(Wisters)*



MEMBER, PETER INGRAM*, has sent in the following list of Indian place names (connected with Grey Owl's old 'stomping ground') with their meanings. He has selected these names from a book in his possession Indian Place Names in Ontario by Captain W.F. Moore (published by The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, Toronto, 1930).

Abbetibi/Abbitibi (a beautiful lake in Northern Ontario). The word means 'halfway' as it is situated halfway between Nipissing & Hudson Bay.

Algonquin Park. The word means 'spearing fish from the end of a canoe'.

Apika. A stream flowing into Lake Temiskaming, meaning 'tumpline'.

Bawiting. Indian name for Sault Ste. Marie, meaning 'river beaten to spray'.

Couchiching. A beautiful lake near Orillia meaning 'narrows separating two lakes'.

Gowganda (Temiskaming). 'Porcupine country'.

Kenabeck/Kenebick (Temiskaming). 'sleeping place'. It also means a snake.

Kippewa (Temiskaming). 'hiding place'. When the Iroquois pursued the Alonquins, the latter sought refuge in this district.

Mattawa (East of North Bay and Anahareo's birthplace). 'meadowlands'; 'forks of a river'; or 'union of two rivers'.

Missanabie. River flowing into Moose River in Algoma, meaning 'pictures in the water'.

Nipissing. A district and lake, 226 miles north of Toronto. The word means 'little water'.

Temiscaming. (Many spellings of this word are found). A beautiful lake and district of Northern Ontario. Meaning 'at the place of deep, dry water'. (In the dry summer, parts of the lake dry up).

Temagami. The word means 'deep water'.

Toronto. Properly 'Deondo' - 'trees growing out of the water' or 'meeting place'. (Archie arrived in Toronto in 1906).

Wawa. A district in Muskoka. 'The cry of the wild goose'.

In his Introduction, Captain Moore writes 'A careful study will remove many prejudices entertained against the Indians, and create a respect to which they are justly entitled. Today I have a far higher regard for the Indian than I had before I commenced the necessary study in the preparation of this book'.

* Many members will know that Peter used to curate his own Museum in Selborne, Hampshire 'The Romany Folklore Museum'. Twenty-five members spent a memorable day there in May 1993 (See Bulletin 12:6).

Many thanks to Peter for sending in this unusual and interesting piece of research.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

We are, as usual, extremely grateful to those members who make generous donations towards the Society's projects and expenses, especially Jennifer Phiri and Margaret Charko. Our genuine thanks also to Catherine Carpenter, Paul Goble, Tom Watrous, Chris James and Tony and Anne Wharton. In addition, we are appreciative of the little extra added by many members to their sub. cheques!

Ian West has donated a copy of a signed souvenir programme 'GREY OWL: The Man and His Story', published for the First U.K. Tour 1935-36. The pages are loose and include an 'advert' from Charles Wilson (Booksellers) Ltd., of Liverpool for Grey Owl's lecture in the Picton Hall on November 22nd. This was originally given to Ian West by Barclay Lennie of Glasgow. (The archives do hold other copies of this programme). Ian has also sent in an article from Antiques Trade Gazette for 19 May (p.65). Under the title 'Something a little bit different in Sandown', there is a photo of Ian and member, Natalie Carpenter: Ian is mentioned as 'President of the Grey Owl Society, who bought a number of Native American pieces from [Natalie's] stand at Sandown Park on May 1... Grey Owl is now regarded as one of the world's first conservationists and was the subject of the controversial film Grey Owl, directed by Richard Attenborough...'. There is a short description of Archie/Grey Owl's life and the Hastings connection.

Peter Ingram has donated another Hiawatha programme. This one is a Souvenir Programme for the performance held at the Royal Albert Hall in 1931 (June 8th - 20th). A fine coloured cover by Hassall and on p.21, a photo of Os-Ke-Non-Ton as the Medicine Man. 'Oske' and our first President, Edward H. Blackmore, made the warbonnet for Grey Owl to use on his second U.K. tour (see also Bull.25:15). We are pleased to add this interesting item to the archives.

Lyubomir Kyumyurdjiev of Pleven, Bulgaria has sent the Society a Bulgarian copy of Sajo, translated by the distinguished Russian writer, Mikhail Prishvin. The title in Bulgarian is Cubama Coba and this edition was published in 1966. It appears that the first translation in Bulgarian was in 1949. It is profusely illustrated (black and white) and although without a dust jacket, we are extremely grateful to Lyubomir for donating this to the archives. For details of Prishvin's Russian translation, donated by Ralfe Whistler in 1996, see Bull.15:7, (a copy of which has been sent to Lyubomir). We now have translations of G.O.'s books in ten languages - plenty more to track down!

Peter Ingram - in addition to the above - has sent some xerox pages with reference to Grey Owl from the book Guardians of the Wild : A History of the Warden Service of Canada's National Parks. Written by Robert J. Burns with Mike Schintz and published by the University of Calgary Press, 2000. Under the chapter 'Wildlife Protection', there is mention of Warden David Binkley working at Riding Mountain National Park 'with conservation / publicist Grey Owl, shortly after the latter's arrival there, to re-establish beaver colonies in the park and protect them from poachers and predators...'.(p.81). In fn.35 (p339), Grey Owl is described as 'a conservation publicist whose strength lay in his influence on the many who read his books and heard his lectures...'. Reference is made to Don Smith's 'meticulous' biography of G.O., From the land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl. There is another reference to G.O. on p.312. Good to have details of this book which must be added sometime to the Bibliog. in the Society's 21st anniversary Special Publication!

Donations to the Society cont....

Ralfe Whistler has sent in another photo of Grey Owls Reach (together with one of Whistlers Steps!). These are two new named twittens (2004) in the Milward Road area of Hastings (see also Bull.24:28).

Pat Anstey has kindly donated her late husband Rob's books on Grey Owl. (i) Grey Owl and the Beaver by Harper Cory (1935) : (ii) Pilgrims of the Wild (1939): (iii) From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl by Donald Smith (1990) which is well thumbed and has numerous interesting jottings in Rob's handwriting: (iv) Wilderness Man by Lovat Dickson (paperback 1976) : (v) The Hastings Indian GREY OWL by Geoff Hutchinson. (Reprint 1988) : (vi) Grey Owl : The Mystery of Archie Belaney by Armand Garnet Ruffo (Reprint 1997). Rob was an Hon. Member of the Society and we thank Pat for donating these books to the Society's library.

Robert Mucci has donated another copy of Meccano Magazine for December 1933. Grey Owl features on the coloured cover with an article on him inside. For full details see Bull. 19:16. It is good to have this second copy, as presumably quite rare. (First copy donated by Ian West).

John Gregg of York, Maine has sent an article from The North Bay Nugget (April 4. 2007). This refers to the Temagami Angele Project which was an exhibition held last year at North Bay, Ontario (for full details, see Bull.25:6-7). This year, the exhibition transferred to Temagami and ran from June – October to 'honour Grey Owl's first wife, Angele Egwuna. Archibald Bealaney, who became one of the first conservationists in Canada after changing his name to Grey Owl, had married twice. The exhibit features the work of North Bay painter Arlie Hoffman and 10 artists from the region...'. We are grateful to John for keeping us up-to-date on this project. He also wrote 'My best wishes to you and the Grey Owl Society'. (See also below).

Richard and Wendy Johnston of Orillia, Ontario have sent in two items covering the same exhibition from the Temagami Times. Winter 2007 * 'Celebrating the Centennial of the arrival of the future Grey Owl: The Angele Egwuna Project Comes to Temagami' with one illustration of a group of Ojibwa Indians including Angele and Agnes (see p.31 in Don's book From the land of Shadows). The Temagami Times have, unfortunately, given it the wrong caption! The article refers to the 'powerful exhibition' held last summer at North Bay, adding 'it was the largest and best-attended exhibition in the Gallery's history'. Summer 2007 'The Angele Project : Marking the role of Angele Egwuna and Temagami in the Transformation of Archie Belaney into the iconic Grey Owl'. Photo of Grey Owl in his canoe with one of his pet beavers (from the Haileybury Heritage Museum). This was held this summer on Bear Island (June-October) where, amongst other activities, the Attenborough / Pierce Brosnan film was shown. A Symposium was also being considered but no details yet as to whether this took place. (Bull. 25:6-7 for further details). Again, good to have for the archives. (See also 'John Gregg' above). (* Presumably Jan-Feb). (See also p. 41).

Brad Ryder of Blenheim, Ontario has donated a copy of an interesting book The Cabin: A Search for Personal Sanctuary by Hap Wilson. (See p.24 for full details).

Betty Taylor has traced a copy of Moonraking by A. G. Street, for the archives. New member Dave Goodwin, referred to a mention of Grey Owl in this book and with the help of a friend a copy was found on the Internet. Published in 1936 by Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, this copy is a 1st edition with illustrations by Lionel Edwards (no dust-jacket).

Donations to the Society cont....

On pp.83-84, Street is relating an anecdote about grammar: 'It was a conversation with Grey Owl, which reminded me of this tale. I was privileged to meet him the other day at the Sunday Times Book Exhibition, where incidentally, he stood out amongst the company as the most dignified looking person present. When I told him that I had spent four years in a shanty in N.W. Manitoba he thawed rapidly, and told me tales of his life and of his writings. One of his remarks sticks in my mind. 'They tell me that I split my infinitives,' he said. 'Goldarn it! I don't know what an infinitive is.' But this lack does not prevent him from being able to write interesting books, a fact which should give the purists something to think about. Too often the purist, while he may write good English, has nothing interesting to write about; the reason being, I suppose, that he has spent all his life in keeping pure- always a dull business'. (A.G. Street wrote over 30 books and was a well known broadcaster and lecturer in farming techniques and country life). Street (1892-1966) left England to work on a farm in N.W. Manitoba when he was 18 years old, but returned in 1914. His first book 'Farmer's Glory' was published in 1932 and is basically divided into 3 sections. Section II is entitled 'A Canadian Interlude'. (As many members will know by now, it is one of my 'hobbies' to trace books with a reference to Grey Owl. In addition to the 96 listed in the 21st Anniversary Special Publication, there is now an Addendum with another 21!).

Miss Josephine Halbert, who is an artist living in Chelsea, London, contacted the Society in August, with a request for a photo of Grey Owl to use in a montage for an exhibition she was involved with. We sent her the good photo on the Society postcard with the credit line to Margaret Charko / Grey Owl Society archives. Miss Halbert was very pleased with the choice of photo saying 'it is wonderful and his smile is a bonus!'. She sent a cheque for £50 for the funds. (More details in next year's Bulletin).

Betty Taylor has donated a copy (hardback) of Hastings Past by Rex Marchant, published by Phillimore & Co Ltd., Chichester, in 1997. It was very tempting NOT to donate this book written by the Hastings born author, because the section on Grey Owl (pp.123-124) makes for disturbing reading. Grey Owl is referred to as an 'opportunist adventurer' who, after marrying Angele was reputed to have said 'When I discovered I didn't like marriage, I dropped it like a hot potato'. (No reference is given for this quote!). We are all aware that Grey Owl was a heavy drinker at times and did not always have a perfect reputation with women, but virtually everyone who knew him referred to him as a 'kind' man. Anahareo said after Grey Owl died and she discovered he was an Englishman, 'to me he was an Indian and one of the best men I'd ever met'.¹ This makes the remark by Marchant, that Grey Owl was 'violent' even more perplexing. There are a number of inaccuracies in the book and dubious comments such as 'he threw his wedding ring into the sea (after his marriage to Ivy Holmes - who the author calls 'Connie')'.² However, Rex Marchant does end up on a slightly more thoughtful note when he says 'He caught the imaginations of millions.. He may not have been the noblest Hastinger of them all, but he must rank as one of the most noteworthy'. When Anahareo attended rehearsals in Toronto in 1975 for a documentary about Grey Owl, she said 'Don't make Grey Owl a saint...And for heaven's sakes please don't make me a goodie-goodie...'.³ When one builds up archives, one should include controversial and defamatory material as well as the praiseworthy. Our Society's archives are well endowed with the latter - thank goodness!

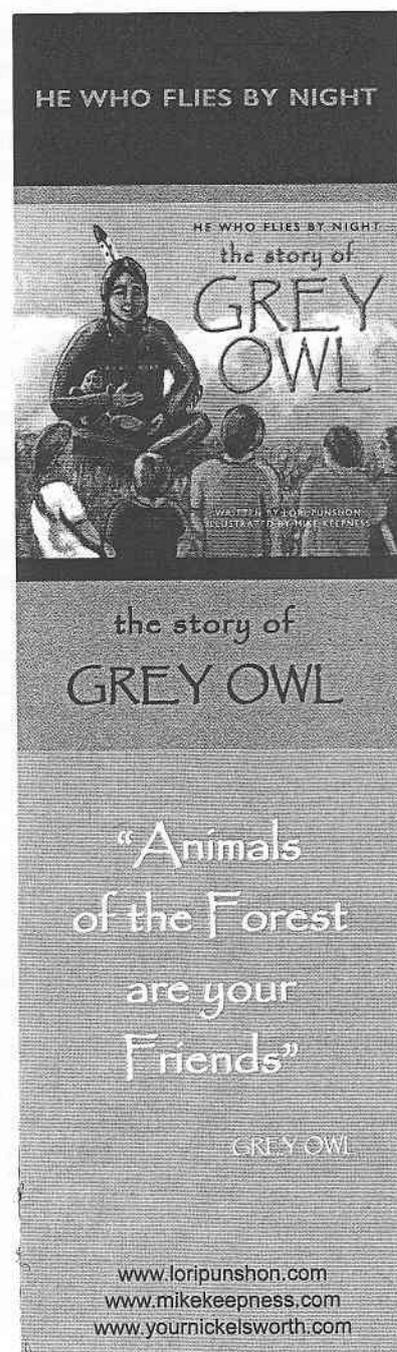
1. Obituary on Anahareo 'Prince Albert Daily Herald'. 11 July, 1986.
2. See Lovat Dickson's 'Half Breed. The Story of Grey Owl' (1939)
3. Bulletin 11:19.

Donations to the Society cont...

He Who Flies By Night: the story of GREY OWL by Lori Punshon with illustrations by Mike Keepness (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, Regina, SK., Canada. 2006). Don Smith and Audrey Sanderson brought this new publication to our attention and with the help of Ralfe Whistler, a copy is now in the archives. The 'Foreword' is written by Tanyann Grey Owl Belaney: 'Ever since I was a little girl, I've heard stories about the adventures of Grey Owl, my great-great-grandfather, and wished I could have been a part of them. His greatest desire was to protect and preserve Canada's wildlife and vast wilderness. To everyone reading this book, I hope you enjoy hearing about Grey Owl's life as much as I did. Always remember that people become what they dream'. Written for children, Lori Punshon's book is available from Ralfe Whistler (Tel.).

Don Smith has forwarded a short interesting report from the Edmonton Journal, 22 May 1937. Titled GREY OWL JOINS LOCAL SCOUT TROOP. 'Well known author and naturalist, Grey Owl, has consented to become a member of the 16th Edmonton Rover Scout Crew....' G.O. accepted 'the post of honorary member of their troop and the letter acknowledging his acceptance has just been received by Rover Leader B.H. Backus. Grey Owl also gave permission to the crew to use his name, so from now on the 16th Edmonton Rover troop will be known as the Grey Owl Crew. They plan to specialize in gaining knowledge on the conservation of wildlife'.

Dagmara Ginter has finally found for us a Polish copy of Tales of an Empty Cabin – Historia Opuszczonego Szalasu – and has donated the copy to the archives. Published by Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza in Gdansk, (1986). The original translation was published in Warsaw in 1948. It is illustrated by Jan Misiek. Dagmara did donate xerox copies in Polish of Pilgrims of the Wild and Sajo and the Beaver People (the American title) in 2001 (see Bull 20:16). We are very pleased to have an original Polish copy of Tales!



Prince Albert National Park and
Friends of the Park present.....

Anahareo's Last Visit to Beaver Lodge

by Colleen Gerwing

A 30 minute one-women show to
be held in front of Grey Owl's Beaver
Lodge located in the Friends of the
Park Bookstore

1:00 - Saturday, August 5, 12 and 19

**When Anahareo lived in British
Columbia, Colleen spent some time
with her.**

The above poster was donated to the Society by Audrey Sanderson, Administrator for 'Friends of the Park PANP' together with the text of Colleen's performance. Audrey wrote that 'Colleen lived with Anahareo in British Columbia for a short time so she got to know her and her mannerisms well'.

In 1999, Colleen was a member of the Grey Owl Society and visited Hastings with two friends. We took them around to see some of the G.O. sites (see Bulletins 18:23 and 19:33)

(Particular thanks to Ralfe Whistler for putting Audrey and the 'Friends of PANP' in touch with us - see also p. 25)

Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney
Progress Theatre, Reading – April 2007

The play, Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney, based on the book (a prose-poem) by Armand Garnet Ruffo, was performed at the Progress Theatre, Reading, Berkshire, on 10th and 11th April (see following page).¹

After the play closed, the cast spent a few days touring before returning to Canada and we were fortunate enough to meet them on their visit to Hastings.

They were keen to visit some of Archie's haunts and so **Jenny Logan** and myself, taking two cars, made a circular tour starting at 32 St. James Road where Archie was born (from the outside, the house looks virtually unchanged but for the plaque to Grey Owl – and a stone owl!). Then, passing Christ Church, Blacklands where he was christened, we made our way via Milward Crescent and the house used for the Richard Attenborough film, past the aunt's house in Wellington Road and up to St Mary's Terrace where, on No.36, there is a plaque commemorating the four years (1895-1899) that Archie lived there and where he kept his 'menagerie' of snakes, lizards and beetles, up in the attic!

The route then took us by Nelson Road (but the Grammar School that Archie attended has long been demolished), past 'Grey Owl's Reach', a recently named *twitten*² and along The Ridge to the locally well-known Church-in-the-Wood, Hollington, where Archie married Ivy Holmes in 1917. This pretty church, still partially surrounded by peaceful woodland – except for the noise of chiffchaffs, wrens and woodpeckers-delighted everyone. I noticed that Mitch Grace (who played the role of Grey Owl) went up to all the buildings we visited and leaned against or touched them – perhaps trying to make a contact with the man whose life he had been so involved with over the past few months? Then back into town and along Hastings seafront, past The White Rock 'Pavilion' (now 'Theatre') where Grey Owl lectured in 1935 and 1937 and past The Queen's Hotel where he had tea with aunts Ada and Carrie after the 1935 lecture.

We continued on to The Firehills (now The Fairlight Country Park) to see the brick marker / monument to Grey Owl, erected in 1993 by the Ontario Heritage Foundation with help from Hastings College of Arts and Technology.³

There were plenty of photo sessions along the way (see p.18) and there was just time to fit in a visit to High Wickham to see some of Grey Owl's and Anahareo's original costume and for a quick look at the archives – including the Japanese translation of Sajo, which caused some interest! Jenny made us a quick round of coffee before we took the group up to Hastings Museum where the Curator, Victoria Williams, showed them around the new Native American / Grey Owl galleries, which were due to open later in the summer (see pp 5-6).

The visit seemed a great success and the group⁴ thanked us and kindly donated some photos and press coverage for the archives (see pp17-18) before having to get to Hastings Station for their train back to Reading.

¹ Published in 1997 (see Bull.16:16). As the performances were held mid-week and as none of our members live close to Reading, we did not have the opportunity to attend, but we did advise four members who lived within sixty miles or so!

² 'Twitten' is a Sussex word for a narrow passage connecting one road to another (see Bull.24:28).

³ For photo and outline of project, see Bull.12:1.

⁴ Including Mitch Grace (Grey Owl); Todd Bradley (G.O's Metis friend); and Jake Kimberly (the Reporter who kept G.O's secret). The timing and planning of this half day's tour – in glorious, warm sunshine I should add was also due to the Director, Pamela Campion, and to the cast's 'U.K. liaison' Daphne White who kept us to time and made sure no one missed their train!



Photo submitted

Theatre overseas — Mitch Grace plays Grey Owl in the play *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney* which will be performed by Penticton's Progress Theatre Company in Britain this April. The group is travelling overseas to take part in the 60-year anniversary of the original Progress Theatre in Reading, Berkshire, England, where stage director Pamela Champion grew up before coming to Canada.

Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney was performed at the Progress Theatre in Reading on the 10th and 11th April. Directed by Pamela Champion, the play was based on the book (a prose poem) by the same name written by Armand Garnet Ruffo and published in 1997 (see p.16) Armand – of Ojibway heritage – visited Hastings in 1991 (see Bulls. 10:22 and 16:16).

Theatre company takes show to its roots

PAMELA CAMPION
Special to the News

Cast and crew of Penticton's Progress Theatre have just returned from the U.K. after taking a version of the play *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney* by Armand Garnet Ruffo to director, Pamela Campion's hometown of Reading, Berkshire, England.

The play was performed at the 60th anniversary of the original Progress Theatre in Reading, after which Campion named the Penticton club of the same name in 1992.

Roy White, Campion's father, is one of the two remaining founders of the theatre at nearly 93 years old. The mandate of Progress Theatre is to produce challenging plays not often tackled by other groups.

Grey Owl, played by Mitch Grace, along with other cast members

Jake Kimberley and Todd Bradley; onscreen cast members Lori Jack, Shannon French and Barbara Jagodics with video director Marlena Dolan kept to that mandate for the U.K. tour which was well received by the audience who engaged in a question and answer time with the audience after the performances. The cast billeted with Progress Theatre U.K.'s members and saw one of their productions: *People in Cages* by David Wilson and *Decadence* by Steven Berkoff before returning Canada.

The Grey Owl Society of the U.K. took cast members on a tour of the places Grey Owl had frequented.

The cast enjoyed downtime in London, Oxford and Paris during the whirlwind two weeks in the U.K. and France. An invitation has been extended to the U.K. Progress Theatre to bring a play to Canada.



Photo submitted

Mitch Grace played Grey Owl Penticton's Progress Theatre production of *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney*.



Betty Taylor (On left) with some of the cast of *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney*. Director, Pamela Campion (in red, on the left) and their U.K. 'liaison', Daphne White, on the far right. Taken at the Grey Owl marker at The Fairlight Country Park.

Photo by Jenny Logan.

Society's Annual Donations
PEOPLE'S TRUST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

At the Committee meeting held on 27 March 2007, it was decided to support the 'Water Vole Project' which was included in the list circulated by the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

This Trust and the plight of the water vole was brought to our attention by member **Pat Held** as the Trust states that they are one of the 'U.K's most rapidly declining mammals'. The Committee agreed and a cheque for £300 was sent to the Trust on 2nd May to be used 'specifically for a water vole project'. In the letter, a short description of Archie Belaney, a.k.a. Grey Owl and our Society was given – thinking that the Trust may confuse us with ornithology!

In their acknowledgement of 9 May, the Chief Executive Jill Nelson wrote 'Thank you very much for your letter....and for your generous donation of £300 in support of our work on the water voles. We are very grateful. It is interesting that you refer in your letter to Grey Owl's interest and passion for beavers. We are currently coordinating discussions in England about reintroducing the beaver here. We are funding a brief scoping study to look at the pertinent issues and to create a shortlist of sites for public consultation and hopefully a subsequent release. We are also one of several organisations having similar discussions about a release in Scotland. We are of course talking of the European beaver in this instance. But I thought you might be interested. Thank you once again for your kind donation and please convey our gratitude to the other trustees'.

In my acknowledgement of 29 May, I mentioned that the reintroduction of the beaver in the U.K. was a special 'subject' of our committee member, Henrietta Smyth who used to work at Wildwood 'to promote beaver conservation'.* Henrietta is now in touch with Jill Nelson who has informed her that 'Scotland's venture has been held up indefinitely' but Jill will keep Henrietta up-to-date on the 'public consultation' and we hope to have more news in next year's Bulletin.

* See Bulletin 19:27-28

Anyone interested in the work of the Trust can write to them at:

15 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG e-mail: enquiries@ptes.org

Pett Preservation Trust : In last year's Bulletin (p.13) we outlined the Society's intention to donate a bench on the Trust's land at Pett Level, near Hastings. As mentioned in that Bulletin the project was delayed but we now have pleasure in advising members that the bench (made from 'forestry waste') is now in place and a cheque for £400 was sent to the Pett Level Trust. This has been reported on in their Newsletter No.11 for April 2007 (pp 4-5). This came too late for more details in this Bulletin but a full report – with photo – will be included in next year's Bulletin. (See also pp37 and 39 this Bulletin).

EARTHSHAKERS: THE TOP 100 GREEN CAMPAIGNERS OF ALL TIME

The Guardian newspaper for November 28, 2006, printed an article listing the one hundred 'green campaigners' suggested by 'experts' for The Environment Agency. We were surprised to find no mention of Grey Owl although worthy figures such as Audubon, David Bellamy, Sir Peter Scott, David Attenborough were included along with more surprising names such as Ken Livingstone and Father Christmas for his 'carbon-free delivery'!

I felt I had to write to David Adam, the Environment Correspondent of The Guardian, pointing out an obvious omission. I did not receive a reply, but thought members would be interested in the letter printed below and the attachment (see next page).

Written on Grey Owl Society notepaper and dated 14 December 2006.

Dear Mr Adam,

I read with interest your '100 green campaigners of all time' (November 28) but feel that there is one important omission. I have attached an outline of the man described as 'Canada's Thoreau' (The Globe & Mail, Toronto 5.6.06), which gives a brief synopsis of 'one of the world's most indefatigable conservationists – one of the very first men in the world to press upon governments the need to protect wildlife' (This England. Spring 1988). Our Society's archives hold dozens and dozens of articles with similar sentiments, but I have quoted only a few.

The Hastings Museum's existing North American Indian & Grey Owl Galleries are at present undergoing refurbishment / extension (with lottery funding) and are due to re-open in the summer of 2007.

How can Grey Owl be added to your list? We feel that he should not just be in the top '100' but in the top '20'!

With Best Wishes

Betty Taylor
Hon. Secretary

Copies were sent to Victoria Williams, Curator of Hastings Museum.

Beatrice Cole, Display Manager at the Museum who sent the article to me (from the Internet)

Robin Gray, who is the Twinning Officer for Hastings Borough Council and who brought this article to our attention.

.....cont

Earthshakers: the top 100 green campaigners of all time: The Guardian, November 28, 2006 (David Adam, environment correspondent).

I was amazed when I read through the list of the '100 green campaigners of all time' to see no mention of Archibald Belaney, a.k.a. 'Grey Owl' who has frequently been termed 'one of the first eco-warriors' (Radio Times, 23.1.05:p.49).

Grey Owl made an immense impact in the 1930s when he virtually saved the beaver from extinction in Canada. Referred to as the 'Father of Canadian Conservation' (Sunday Observer Magazine 'M'. 7.2.88), his cabin at Ajawaan Lake, Saskatchewan, is now 'a National Heritage Site' (Globe & Mail, Toronto, 5.6.06).

In an article headed 'The Fabulous Attenborough Boys' (The Independent, 14.7.06), the first four paragraphs refer to Richard and David Attenborough's long time fascination with G.O., who they heard lecture in Leicester, as schoolboys in the 1930's. In this article, the author refers to G.O. as someone who became '...one of the world's first conservation pioneers....!'. Amongst the films and documentaries on G.O.'s life, Richard Attenborough's Grey Owl (2000); Timewatch 'Grey Owl: The Great White Hoax' (BBC.2, 17.4.99); and Ray Mears Bushcraft Survival 'Canoe Journey' (BBC.2, 28.4.05), are probably the most well known. John Lister of the BBC (in an e-mail dated 27.2.04), wrote '....the story of Grey Owl was a great inspiration to Ray when he was growing up...'

In the book Strange Things by Margaret Atwood, she outlines her 'Clarendon Lectures' given at Oxford University in 1991 (Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1995). In her lecture 'The Grey Owl Syndrome' (pp.35-61), G.O. is referred to as 'a world-famous naturalist, writer, and lecturer...' (p. 35), and as a conservationist and naturalist 'well in advance of [his] time' (p.45). In your own paper, The Guardian (27.10.2000), he is (amongst other things!), referred to as 'also one of the world's first environmental activists'. In this article, Richard Attenborough is quoted as saying 'He was a major figure, one of the first of his kind'.

Grey Owl's books have been translated into 26 languages plus Braille. He was painted by Sir John Lavery, photographed by Karsh and invited to speak at Buckingham Palace (1937).

Finally, the 'symbol' (a green leaf) for the Wilderness Trust U.K.; the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation (U.S.A.); the Wilderness Leadership School and the World Wilderness Congress (South Africa) was inspired by Grey Owl and his quotation 'You are tired with years of civilization. I come and offer you what? – a green leaf'.

Betty Taylor
Hon. Secretary,
Grey Owl Society.
14.12.2006

Betty Somervell's First Visit to Beaver Lodge 'Letter Home'

Betty Somervell acted as Grey Owl's chauffeur on the latter part of his first U.K. lecture tour (1936) and at the end of that tour, when Grey Owl was 'tired and ill', she escorted him back to Canada as far as Toronto. Later that year, in September, she made another trip to Canada – this time to Beaver Lodge (her husband following shortly after). Her Diary of that time was reproduced in Bulletin 15:1-3, with a short profile of Betty Somervell and footnotes to the Diary in Bulletin 16:8-10 – with permission of her daughter, Kristin Bonney. Kristin has now sent the Society a copy of her mother's letter written home to the family, describing her experiences at Beaver Lodge, and the following is a slightly edited copy....

"Well I'm really here. It's not been possible to write before, as there's been no way of getting a letter out, but I went across to Trout Lake today and someone's going across tomorrow if the wind drops and that's the way the mails go here.

....Everything is first rate and I'm having just a heavenly time and still can't quite believe I'm here. (I got to P.A. (Prince Albert) safely on Wednesday morning after a peaceful journey and was met by Margaret Winter, who took charge of me. We came to Waskesieu, 70 miles, by taxi, but the lake was too rough to get on that day so we stayed at the inn and got up at 7, but still they wouldn't risk crossing). However, at 11.30 we set off in a big motor boat across Lake Waskesieu. It was really very rough and a big gust of wind took my only hat very soon and it sailed away.... We got across after breaking down five times and I was glad when we landed! It's about 20 mile to the first portage. We made a fire there and cooked dinner outside – great fun. Some whiskey jacks came down, very tame, and we saw a black bear walking along beautifully some way off, across the lake. Then we said goodbye to the big boat, and we portaged about a mile...[Our two boatmen] had to pole up rapids and the water was so low they had to get out and push...We arrived at Roy Hubbels' cabin and Grey Owl's portage. He was there to meet us and we went and got warm and had tea with the warden's wife – very nice – all so friendly and hospitable. It certainly is the back of beyond – it had taken us 7 hours to get so far.

It was just about dark and a perfect still night when we walked across G.O's portage with the luggage. There we said goodbye to our nice boatman (at Ajawaan Lake) and got in G.O's canoe and came across in the almost dark. It was a great thrill when a beaver or two swam out to meet us, and Rawhide came and asked for bread. G.O. hadn't any, much to his grief, so galloped up to the cabin and got some and we went out to find him. We couldn't then, but he came up later and I met him – a great thrill for me. We came in then and met Anahareo and Dawn – another couple of thrills. A. is beautiful and a darling – great company and a great sense of humour – a lovely low speaking voice – I just love her. She and Margaret and Dawn sleep in the top cabin and feed and live down here – and G.O. is up and about most of the night and sleeps through our din till 11 or so. We mostly get up about 10 am and go to bed anywhere between 12 and 4.

It's all very quiet and peaceful and the days drift by so quickly – I never know quite what day, date or time it is. The weather is the only snag – it keeps raining and has been blowing an East wind, which the beaver don't like, so we haven't seen them work much. The first evening we were sitting round talking, when the door suddenly burst open with terrific force and in burst Jelly! She's very big and fat and a beautiful brown colour. She marched across and got her chocolate and sat down and ate it by hand, then sat up and flump – out with her tail and she sat and combed herself, then walked round her property to see everything was in order, had a stiff at me and marched back to the door. It opens inwards and she stands up, catches hold of the edge and flings it open and marches out – leaving a wide trail of water behind her. She pays three visits

Cont.....

every evening, the last about 4 o'clock (a.m.) I've not seen Rawhide much but did stroke him one day. He is so sweet.

G.O. doesn't look very fit yet and has lumbago and can't get about much so we sit about here most of the day. The first evening I went across the lake in the dark with Anahareo (now Pony) to fetch the rest of the kit. I love being with her and talking to her – she's about the most fascinating looker and talker I ever met. And her adventures! Boy! – as they say here. Last night she lay and I lay awake and she yarned and talked for hours and if I could write them down they'd be worth reading. The night before I sat up with him and he read me a lot of the book, and talked. There's a story in it - 'The Tree' – which is great.

Pony had a bit of bad luck last week and was pretty nervy and cut up when we arrived. She was in a canoe with a warden who wasn't a good boatman and he upset it, and she didn't know he couldn't swim and thought at first it was a joke and then found him in difficulties. She put up a magnificent fight for him and he pulled her under and struggled but at last he drowned. She just managed to get to shore and was about done in but when she got her breath and emptied the water out of her, she went back in and dived and dived but couldn't get him.

Dawn is sweet – very intelligent and awfully good. The whiskey jacks come every morning but the moose is away. Wolves nearly got him once, but he got away, and he may be back any day.

I must go and post soon – that is, either walk around the lake or get a canoe across to the portage and walk to Roy Hubbel's... We're all just counting the days till you arrive* and keeping lots of odd mechanical jobs for you that we can't do. I think you'll love it – I certainly am happy – it's so quiet and far away and such good company and everything's so real.

Could you bring some more cigars like the last – they are much appreciated. Also, choc. biscuits? A few 6-20 films – if possible some paints and a painting book or two....

Goodbye and blessings to you all – B.

*Betty's husband

Henrietta Smyth with Kristin Bonney (right). On this occasion we were looking at Grey Owl's and Anahareo's original artefacts which – after discussion with Kristin – will be transferred to Hastings Museum (more details in Bull.27).



The Cabin: A Search for Personal Sanctuary by Hap Wilson. Toronto: Natural Heritage Books (2005). ISBN 1-897045-05-0.

Hap Wilson's first book, Temagami Canoe Routes, published in 1978 by the Ontario Government, became a Canadian best-seller.

The Cabin is a type of autobiographical journey through the author's commitment to eco-tourism and amongst the many people who had influenced him were Henry David Thoreau and Grey Owl. He was introduced to Grey Owl by his maths teacher, Frank McConnaghy, who didn't teach him much maths but described his own woodland travels and told Hap about his meeting with the 'infamous' Grey Owl in the 1920's...[and] this wonderful place called Temagami'. McConnaghy spread out a map for Hap and his friends and showed them 'Grey Owl Country'. He gave them copies of Men of the Last Frontier and Tales of an Empty Cabin, saying 'Read these!'

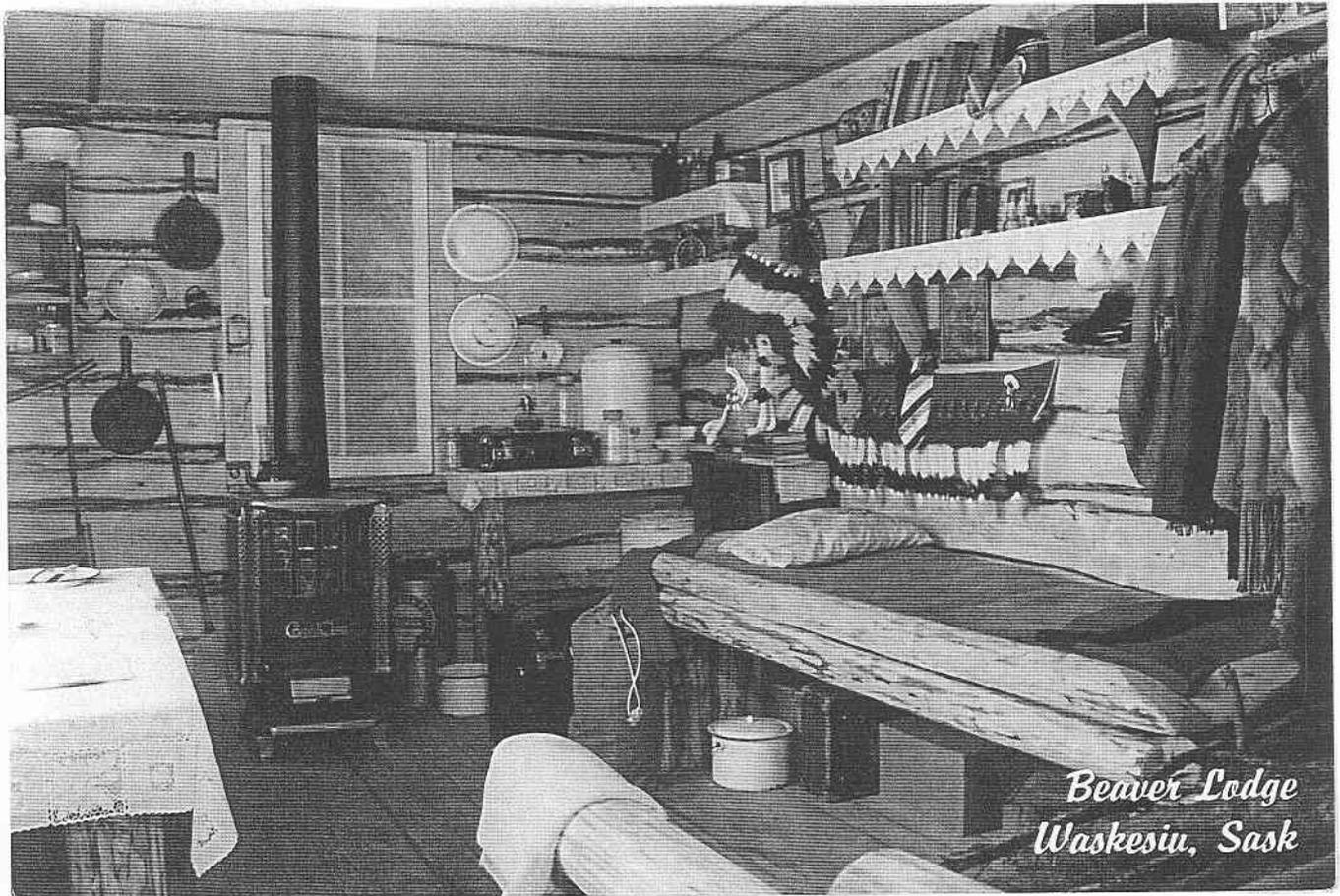
The Cabin is divided into 15 chapters and the first 'The Trout Streams' is headed with some words of Grey Owl, written in 1932: 'Thus it has lain since the world was young, enveloped in a mystery beyond understanding and immersed in silence, absolute, unbroken, and all-embracing...'. (Temagami – or as he tells us, 'Temagaming – as the ancients called it').

Wilson refers to Men of the Last Frontier Grey Owl's 'most enduring book....capturing the essence of northern Canada's backwoods lifestyle'. This 'wilderness' life that the author enjoyed as a youngster, where he would 'run wild' and practice throwing tomahawks, was to bring interesting rewards thirty years later – it landed him in 'Hollywood as Pierce Brosnan's personal trainer for the Attenborough film, Grey Owl'.

There are references to Grey Owl on pp.v, 1, 11-14, 30, 52-53, 124 and 173.

The Cabin was generously donated to the Society's archives by our Ontario member, **Brad Ryder**, and we are very pleased to add it to the 'library'.

(See also p.12 and 26)



The photo above is a replica of Beaver Lodge which was 'officially opened' in July 2005. It is situated in the Friends of Prince Albert National Park Book Store in Waskesiu, Saskatchewan. Using an old catalogue that 'itemized all of Grey Owl's possessions' and which included pictures of the interior of the cabin, the Friends were able to construct a realistic appearance. Audrey Sanderson is the Administrator for 'Friends of the Park PANP' and she kindly sent us the above post card (together with other information) and outlined details of their venture, which was helped by a \$2000 grant from the Grey Owl Nature Trust Fund** and the Saskatchewan Centennial Heritage Commemoration Program. (I told Audrey, that the replica cabin in Hastings Museum also contained copies of items known to have been in Beaver Lodge).

We are particularly pleased that Audrey has arranged for the 'Friends' to join The Grey Owl Society and the last Bulletin has been sent to them which Audrey described in one of her letters as 'fascinating reading'!

Audrey also sent us a copy of the text of Colleen Gerwing's '30 minute one-woman show' entitled 'Anahareo's Last Visit to Beaver Lodge' (see 'Donations', p. 15)

**which The Grey Owl Society supported in 1999 with a donation of £200 (see Bulletin 18:16). This name replaced the 'Rivers and Lakes Foundation of Canada: The Grey Owl Fund'. (See Bulletin 17:21-22).

Members' and Friends' Correspondence

Lyubomir Kyumyurdjiev of Pleven in Bulgaria (who kindly donated the Bulgarian copy of Sajo (see p. 11), wrote in January to say that he had found Bulletin 25 – sent to Lyubomir in return for Sajo – very interesting: ‘... ‘The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl’s writings’ and especially the part on Indian Cosmology is something of great interest not only for me but also for the other Eagle Circle Society people here. The Bulletin is full of interesting materials...’. In Bulletin15:7 we gave details of a Russian book just entitled СЕПАХ СОБА, simply ‘Grey Owl’. We wrote to Professor Milner-Gulland in the Russian and E. European Studies Department at Sussex University re the translation and he kindly sent us details, adding that he could give no explanation for the ‘mysterious words Vesha Kuonnezin (neither Eng. nor Russian) in brackets below’. In March 2006, Lyubomir wrote ‘...By the way, I am able to ‘decode’ what the ‘mysterious words Vesha Kuonnezin’ (written in brackets below in the Russian edition) actually mean. Yes, these words are neither English, nor Russian. This is a corrupted form of the Grey Owl’s Ojibway name Wa-Sha-Quon-Asin- the way a Russian ear heard it! It could sound strange but I am absolutely sure that it is so’. Fascinating!

Henrietta Smyth wrote after the re-opening of Hastings Museum : “I very much enjoyed seeing the re-vamped exhibits at the Museum and its very impressive new wing, which I think really lifts the Museum into the 21st Century! I particularly enjoyed meeting Kristin Bonney...and felt it was a great privilege to be able to hear some of Grey Owl’s own words from someone so close to him (via her mother, of course)...”. (see pp 8 and 23).

Brian and Jan Lewis, new members from Worthing in West Sussex wrote that they ‘recently developed an interest in the history of Grey Owl following a visit to Canada and a tour of his initial stamping grounds around Northern Ontario with a Canadian guide who was a policeman there in the 1950’s. When writing back, I mentioned that our member Joe Mould from Lethbridge, Alberta, comes over and visits friends in Worthing and that I had lived there as a child. They wrote back ‘It’s amazing how many people with an interest in Grey Owl have connections with Worthing! The wife of our Canadian correspondent in Alberta [not Joe Mould] comes from Worthing too – may-be it has something to do with young Archie having a holiday here when he was sixteen’. In another interesting e mail, they wrote that their ‘Canadian informant was a Dennis Brewer of Edmonton, Alberta, who as a small boy played with Grey Owl’s daughter Dawn, and had a photo of them playing together at Grey Owl’s last cabin published in the Worthing Sentinel free newspaper...’.

Brad Ryder from Ontario (who kindly donated the copy of The Cabin: A Search for Personal Sanctuary by Hap Wilson – see pp. 12 & 24), included this interesting letter of meeting up with Albert Lalonde – grandson of Archie and Angele: ‘...I ran into Albert by chance when my friend and I were loading my canoe into Lake Temagami and he came by and started to chat, asking what lakes we were going to etc. when he asked me if I had ever heard of Grey Owl I immediately recognised him as Grey Owl’s grandson from the documentary film I had viewed. He told me to phone him once we had finished our canoe trip and he took us to the Kennedy Gallery in North Bay where they had the Angele Project on display [see p.12 and Bull.25:6-7]. Lots of neat stuff there including signed copies of Grey Owl books... Albert had mentioned to me that he would like to have the display brought to Hastings in the future. I also went to Biscotasing in mid-September (my 2nd trip there). I was glad to see old pictures of Archie on the back wall of the store – I hope it stays that way as the Biscotasing General Store is up for sale. I just stayed and camped on Lake Biscotasi (?) mostly in the northern part of the lake. The beaver

cont.....

Members' and Friends' Correspondence cont.....

population seems very healthy on Bisco Lake –better than most other northern lakes I have been to. This summer I plan to canoe the 177 km stretch of the Mississagi River from Bisco to Aubrey (?) falls and collect photos of the places Grey Owl wrote about in Tales'. We hope to include an illustrated article on this journey in next year's Bulletin.



Brad Ryder with the late Albert Lalonde (right) – Archie and Angele's grandson. Taken at The Angele Egwuna Project in 2006. Kennedy Gallery, North Bay, Ontario. (See Brad's letter above)
(Sadly, see p.35)

Dave Goodwin of Tonbridge, one of our new members, wrote in July that he would like to join the Society : 'About 10 years ago I read an old book 'Moonraking' by A.G. Street. In the book he mentioned he had met Grey Owl, so I decided to look for G.O. books. I have now got G.O.'s four books plus a few of those written about him....'.
(I have been able to trace a copy for the archives – see p.p. 12-13).

Grey Owl Society – Junior Sector
Henrietta Smyth

Since typing the outline of last year's AGM and the Committee Meeting held on 27th March (see pp 37 and 39), Henrietta has sent the following 'summary...of my revised proposals regarding attracting a younger membership to the Society'.

GREY OWL SOCIETY – Junior Sector

I was very grateful for the comments made by the Committee members at our meeting in March and I have given a lot of thought to the various ideas and points that were raised. There were two comments which I thought were particularly important and they were (a) John Goodman's point that there are already so many extremely good organisations promoting wildlife and conservation in general, with children in mind, that perhaps we should concentrate on something more specific, and (b) Jenny Logan's suggestion that, especially considering our very limited resources, I should select a group of local children to work with first, in order to have more direct contact with them. From that, of course, interest in membership of the Grey Owl Society could well arise.

I spent a number of years giving talks to various Beaver Scout groups when I lived in Hertfordshire, so I decided to contact the organizers of the Beaver Scout movement on the Isle of Wight and offered to visit their Beaver colonies (of which there are surprisingly many!) to give similar talks. My approach this time, however, will be slightly different, in that I intend to concentrate more on the story of Grey Owl as the main introduction to the world of beavers, their conservation, and related topics.

....I would like to see the story of Grey Owl, his ideas, books and general writing made more accessible to a new generation. To this end, through my contact with the Beaver Scout Movement, I hope to be able to produce a series of small publications specifically for children, initially to support my talks, and I have in mind a resumé of Grey Owl's life and writings, for example, and some explanatory material about beavers and other topics related to Grey Owl's own experiences. I feel that such material could also be of benefit to the Society to distribute to its membership with the younger generation in mind.

Beaver Reintroduction Programmes

As a further encouragement to my project, there are now hopeful signs of a renewed interest in trying to bring our native European beaver back to Britain. Although the recent campaign in Scotland seems, unfortunately, to have met with too much resistance, two English organisations are now actively pursuing the idea of an eventual reintroduction:

1. The People's Trust for Endangered Species: as members will have seen, the Society's donation for 2007 was given to this Trust to help them with their work with water voles, but in their letter of thanks they also informed us that the Trust is now embarking on research, on behalf of a number of conservation bodies, into the possible reintroduction of the European beaver into the English countryside. (See p.19)
2. The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust have just announced plans to redevelop part of their site at Slimbridge to recreate an area of wetland with various native species of animals and birds on display, including the European beaver. The project, called Back from the Brink, 'will stimulate people's imagination and illustrate the plight of native species. Extinction and the implications of species decline and wetland loss will be explained using innovative visual displays and regular presentations from staff. The aim is to enable visitors to understand the solutions and how they as individuals can contribute to saving endangered wetland animals'.

Cont.....

Grey Owl Society – Junior Sector Cont.....

The Trust point out that 'WWT's Founder, Sir Peter Scott, believed the best way to engender a love and understanding of wildlife was to allow people to experience it. Only then will they be motivated to take action when the wildlife they know and love is threatened'.

The fact that the WWT will be providing an educational resource with real beavers in situ is a very positive step, I feel, and one that I am sure Grey Owl himself would have supported enthusiastically. I am also very pleased to report that, when I informed the WWT of my own long-standing interest in beavers and my involvement with the Grey Owl Society and the Beaver Scouts, their Director of Centre Developments responded by inviting me to meet their design team at Slimbridge in the near future, and bring my 'expertise' (!) to the Slimbridge exhibit. So I look forward to being involved in some way with their exciting plans.

In conclusion, I hope very much that my proposals, as summarised above, will be acceptable to the Society as a means of bringing Grey Owl's message to the attention of a younger generation.

Henrietta Smyth

August 2007

P.S. See also the 21st Anniversary Special Publication (2002) pp.47-50 (1st ed.). 'The Beaver Towns are Filling Up Again' by Henrietta Smyth.



Beaver mother and kit (the first to be born at Drusillas, Alfriston, East Sussex (summer 1990))

Contents of Bulletins 16-25 (1997-2006)

In Bulletin 16, we listed the MAIN topics of Bulletins 1-15. The MAIN subjects of Bulletins 16-25 are now listed below. This is a record to specifically help those members who have missed some of the Bulletins.

Bull.16 (1997)

Stan Winters (1917-1997). Remembrances. 'The experiences of Stanley and his sister Margaret (Charko) when staying and working with Grey Owl at Beaver Lodge in 1936'.

Arthur Spencer Roberts (1920-1997). Obituary on the Society's first Vice-President – mural painter / illustrator.

32 St. James Road, Hastings. Erection of a plaque on the birthplace of Archie Belaney.

'Christmas at Birch Lake'. (From 'Pilgrims of the Wild').

Profile on Betty Somervell. Grey Owl's chauffeur on the latter part of the 1936 tour. She also accompanied the ailing Grey Owl back to Toronto, by ship & train.

Drusillas Park. Activities there at the Grey Owl Cabin

Bull. 17 (1998)

Agnes Lalonde (1911-1998). Obituary on Agnes, Grey Owl's first daughter with Angele Egwuna.

The Attenborough film, Grey Owl. (Newspaper/radio/television coverage plus, Filming Grey Owl in Hastings), and Visits to the film set in Canada by Henrietta Smyth and Colin Taylor .

Rivers and Lakes Foundation of Canada: The Grey Owl Fund

Bringing back the Beaver...to Britain

Margaret Charko's first visit to Hastings: 10-12 September, 1998.

(See Bull.16, item 1, above).

Bull.18 (1999)

The Attenborough film Grey Owl – press coverage in Canada and the U.K.

Timewatch: 'Grey Owl: The Great White Hoax'. (Television – BBC 2).

Grey Owl: a new illustrated Biography by Jane Billingshurst.

Discovering Ellis Ruley: The Story of an American Outsider Artist, by Glenn Robert Smith with Robert Kenner (1993). Introduction and Art Study Essay by the Museum of American Folk Art. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. 'Grey Owl's philosophy, based on tolerance and respect for all living creatures had a profound effect on Ellis Ruley's art'.

Cont.....

Contents of Bulletins 16 – 25 cont....

Bull 19 (2000)

The Attenborough film Grey Owl. The Brighton Preview. Gardner Arts Centre, University of Sussex plus Media coverage and members' comments.

Exhibition at Hastings Museum: (28th October – 3rd December). 'The Making of Richard Attenborough's Grey Owl.'

'The Life and Times of Grey Owl'. Two small exhibitions (i) Hastings Central Library and (ii) Hastings Information Centre.

Timewatch: 'Grey Owl: The Great White Hoax'. Comments from Australian members after the documentary was shown there (SBS, 20 May 2000).

'Little Wild Rose, Shirley Dawn'. Song written by the 'accomplished singer and musician' Inez Bower (1948) for Anahareo's and Grey Owl's daughter, Dawn.

Society's visit to Wildwood, Herne Bay and a list of Society's previous visits.

Bull.20 (2001)

The Film Grey Owl: A visit to Twickenham Studios and more media coverage.

Indian Heart. A musical based on the life of Grey Owl. Nipissing Stage Company, Temagami.

The True Story of Grey Owl. A performance by local historian, Geoff Hutchinson at Eridge Rocks Nature Reserve, Kent.

A Face Beside the Fire: Memories of Dawn Grey Owl Richardson by Bob Richardson (2001). A Review.

The Diamond's Ace: Scotland and the Native Americans by Tom Cunningham (2001), with entries on Grey Owl. A Review.

Iroquois Women by Wm. Guy Spittal (1990). A short biography of Gertrude Bernard 'Anahareo' from this book.

Poland: Interest in the writings of Grey Owl in Poland, by member Dagmara Ginter.

The 'First' Grey Owl Society. Details of this Society founded by Derrick Faux in Haslemere, Surrey in 1942.

Bull.21 (2002)

The Film Grey Owl: more media coverage.

Kenneth Conibear (1907-2002). Obituary on Grey Owl's Tour Manager for the second U.K. tour (1937). Ken also participated in the Society's centenary year events in Hastings in 1988.

Auction. Grey Owl's artefacts and 'old treasures' put up for auction at Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

Cont...

Contents of Bulletin 16 -25.....

Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002). Short obituary and media coverage on the famous photographer, Karsh, who photographed Grey Owl in 1936.

Robert Belaney's books at the British Museum. (Grey Owl's great uncle!).

Don Smith's visit to Hastings. July 2002.

Collectors: Individuals and Institutions. Contributions in Critical Museology and Material Culture (2001). Published by the Horniman Museum, London with Museu Antropologico da Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal. Chapter 2 'The North American Indian Collection in the Hastings Museum' by Colin and Betty Taylor. References to Grey Owl.

Translations of Grey Owl's Books: an update.

Homage to Grey Owl (1970). Painting by Jean-Paul Riopelle in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The Buckskin Man (2000). Poem by Trevor Harrison.

Waskesiu Memories: Personal Stories about Prince Albert National Park (1927-1999). Edited by Dorell Taylor. 2 Vols. (1998-99). Dorell is a member of the Society and there are many references to Grey Owl, Anahareo and Dawn.

Richard Gralewski: A short obituary on Rich who had been a tireless promoter of Grey Owl's and Anahareo's conservation efforts and a great supporter of The Grey Owl Society.

Bull.22 (2003)

The Film Grey Owl: more media coverage and members' comments.

Native American Press and Grey Owl by David Devenish

The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings. Part I by Dagmara Ginter.

Visit by member Henrietta Smyth to Grey Owl's Cabin, Ajawaan Lake.

Second Skin (poem referring to Grey Owl): Coastal Currents Programme, Hastings.

Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex: Visit to Hastings on the Grey Owl Trail!

Memories of a Meeting with Archie Belaney. Nottaway River Trip. 1928. by Erhart Muller.

Bull.23 (2004)

Colin Taylor, Ph.D: Founder of The Grey Owl Society. Obituary/Appreciation.

Grey Owl Society postcards FOR SALE!

The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings. Part II by Dagmara Ginter.

Grey Owl Society Exhibition: Hastings Museum: 'Hastings Week'.

The Trip of My Life: Impressions of a Visit to Grey Owl's Cabin by Dagmara Ginter.

Hastings Museum: 'Grey Owl Collection grows with 120 new Native American artifacts' (Hastings & St Leonards Observer. September 17, 2004).

Contents of Bulletins 16 – 25 Cont....

Bull.24 (2005)

The Bear Island Indians and the Gey Owl Connection by Michael G. Johnson.

'...Of The Right Heart' by Brad Muir, a guide with Prince Albert National Park.

The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings. Part III by Dagmara Ginter.

A Bulgarian translation of Sajo and her Beaver People. Lyubomir Kyumyurdjiev.

Chiaroscuro: The Life of Arthur Spencer Roberts (First Vice-President of The Grey Owl Society).

(2003). A Review. The book includes Spencer's portraits of Grey Owl.

Ray Mears' Bushcraft (Television Series: Grey Owl Episode: BBC 2).

Bull.25 (2006)

Derek Norcross (1930-2006). Derek was a very active committee member and initiated numerous projects/activities for the Society.

The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings. Part IV by Dagmara Ginter.

The Angele Egwuna Project: Arlington Hoffman's Exhibition, Kennedy Gallery.

Celebrating the Centenary of Anahareo's Birth, Mattawa.

Grey Owl Discovered in Norfolk by Sheila French

'How the Indians Tanned Buckskin' (1954). Anahareo as Informant.

An Italian Translation of Pilgrims of the Wild (1978?).

Colin Taylor: Ethnologist of the Plains Indians. A Memoir edited by Barry C. Johnson (Full details). (2006).

Update of Hastings Museum's refurbishment/extension programme by the Curator, Victoria Williams.

Poem: 'Solitude' and small sketch of Beaver Lodge. By member Cathy Carpenter, aged 14 (1938).

A Grey Owl Discovery in Eastern and Southern Africa by Berry White.

Cont.....

Contents of Bulletins 16-25 cont....

All the Bulletins have regular sections on:

Society's donations to conservation projects
Donations and additions to Society's archives
Members' and Friends' Correspondence
Details of Society's summer visits
Details of Society's AGM / Christmas Dinners
STOP PRESS – which covers a variety of news items relative to the Society
Up-to-date membership list

Contents of 21st Anniversary Special Publication

Edited by Colin Taylor with assistance of Dagmara Ginter (Hastings, 2002)

(2nd Edition in course of publication:)

Main Topics:

Grey Owl: Some Personal Reminiscences by Edward H. Blackmore (First President of The Grey Owl Society).

Some Memories of Grey Owl; Bexhill 1938 by Ian West (President of The Grey Owl Society).

Working with Grey Owl by Colin Taylor. A short description of Stan and Margaret Winter's time in the summer of 1936, when they worked for Grey Owl.

Mission Accomplished by Rich Gralowski.

Grey Owl's Writings: We Need A Full Study Of His Literary Contribution by Professor Donald B. Smith. Don, an old friend and one of our Vice-Presidents is the author of the definitive biography: 'From the Land of Shadows. The Making of Grey Owl' (1990).

Poetic Renderings of the Wilderness Life by Dagmara Ginter.

Grey Owl: Knight Errant of the Canadian Wilderness by Philip Chester.

Grey Owl: Great White Hoax or Visionary Conservationist? by Timothy Carroll, producer of the BBC's Timewatch documentary.

Grey Owl's Associations With The Plains Indians by Colin Taylor.

Grey Owl: Bibliography by Betty Taylor. This list of books about, or including a reference to Grey Owl, is in chronological order (to show the development of interest in G.O.) and numbers 96, from 1935 to 2001.

The Addendum in the 2nd Edition includes another 18 from 1947 to 2006 (and another 3 have since been traced from 1936 to 2005!)

Grey Owl's Family Background: Exhibits belonging to Ada and Carrie Belaney and Ivy Holmes at the Hastings Museum by the Curator, Victoria Williams.

'The Beaver Towns Are Filling Up Again' by Henrietta Smyth.

In the Spirit of Grey Owl by Mavis Roberts.

Grey Owl: A Famous Son of Sussex by Derek Norcross.

THIS SPECIAL PUBLICATION IS PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED

STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mary Moyes, Bexhill-on-Sea
Audrey Sanderson, Administrator for the Friends of Prince Albert National park
Tony and Anne Wharton of Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea
Pamela Campion of Penticton, British Columbia
Brian and Jan Lewis of Worthing
Dave Goodwin of Tonbridge
Professor John Norris Wood of Royal College of Art, London; and Wadhurst
(who, when he was four years old, shook the hand of Grey Owl!)
Audrey Brooke of Leeds
Kristin Gleeson of County Cork, Ireland

We are saddened to report that we have lost the following loyal members (including two Hon. members) who have died during the last year:

William Carmichael. William, who was Pierce Brosnan's step father, was in Hastings for the filming of Richard Attenborough's GREY OWL and visited both the Museum and High Wickham, to peruse the Society's archives and see Kristin Bonney's original artefacts (see p.p.8 and 23).

Janet White, Brede. A close friend of member Norman Epton, Janet attended our summer events and the A.G.M. / Xmas Dinners after she joined in 2004.

Jane Taylor-Lowe. When Jane died in March aged 98, she was our oldest member. She played an active part in the 1988 Centenary year programme of events and was so impressed with the reading performance of The Tree at the Stables Theatre on the Wednesday of that week, that she asked us to find a copy of the book for her. We presented her with one shortly after and she read it many times. For Jane, it became a 'special' piece of writing. (See Bull. 7:3).

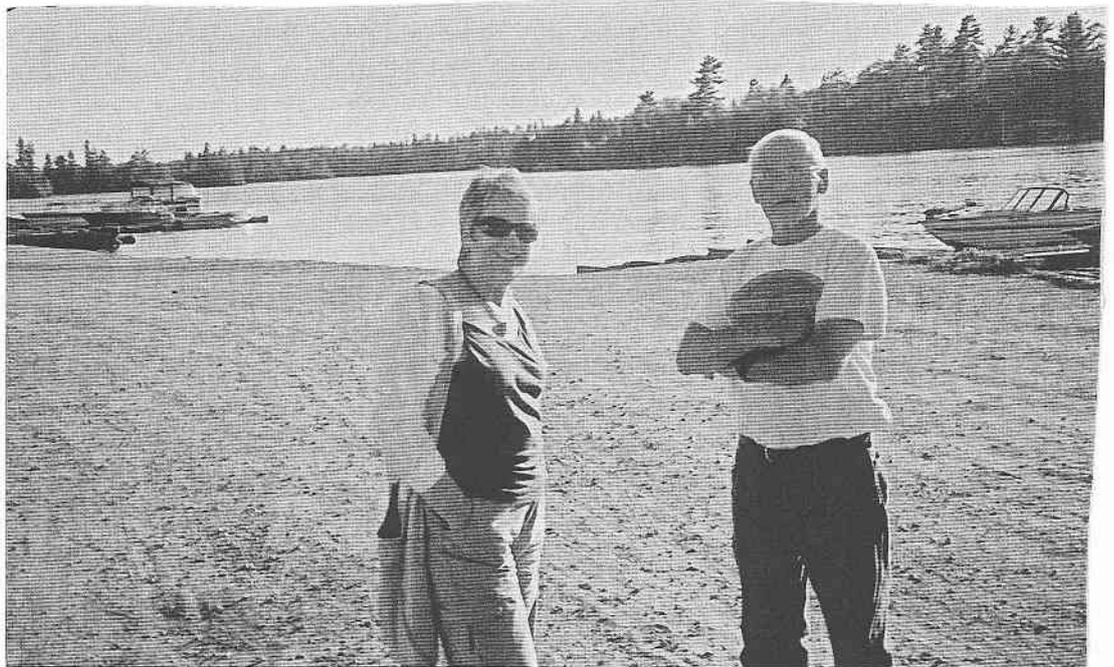
Bob Richardson. Bob was an Honorary Member and had been married to Dawn, the daughter of Grey Owl and Anahareo. Some of us will remember their first visit to Hastings in 1984, when Dawn was suddenly taken ill and died. Dawn had come to open the Grey Owl Exhibition at Hastings Museum and accompanying the 'historic' part of the displays was an exhibition of Bob's paintings entitled 'Images of Grey Owl's Wilderness', which ran from 26 May -17 June. Like Dawn, Bob was totally committed to the conservation of wildlife in Canada and Victoria Williams, as Curator at the time, wrote '...Bob's closeness to Dawn and Anahareo has put him in a unique position to understand the wildness and hardship of the landscape and events associated with Grey Owl...'. Thirty paintings were on show, all accompanied by quotations from Grey Owl's writings. At the end of the exhibition, Bob presented the Museum with one of his paintings 'Trek to Birch Lake'. In 2001, Bob published a 'memorial' to Dawn:

A Face beside the Fire : Memories of Dawn Grey Owl-Richardson (available in the U.K., from Ralfe Whistler,). Colin also met up with Bob on the film set for GREY OWL, in Mastigouche in Quebec in June 1998. see p.36 (see also Bulls. 2:25. 3:1a-4. 20:10. 21:27.).

Albert Lalonde. We were very saddened to receive an e-mail from Tracey Armstrong in September, to say that her father, grandson of Grey Owl (Archie) and Angele Egwuna, had died suddenly at the age of 73. Albert died tragically in a lumbering accident. Both Colin Taylor and Henrietta Smyth got to know Albert quite well when they all met up on the set of the Attenborough film GREY OWL and Colin wrote later... 'it was a particular pleasure to make the acquaintance of Albert Lalonde...Albert had a family photograph album and, with great interest, Pierce Brosnan joined us to look it over' (Bull.17:11). In the same Bulletin (p.8), Henrietta wrote '...we both had the privilege of meeting a very special person on set - Grey Owl's grandson...whose Ojibwa grandmother, Angele Egwuna, from Bear Island, Temagami, had been Grey Owl's first wife. A charming man...[he] looked so like the photos of Archie Belaney that it was quite uncanny, and it was certainly enough to shock Pierce Brosnan...'. A letter was sent to Tracey on 4

September sending the Society's condolences. Private donations were sent to the Heart and ~~Stroke~~ ^{Stroke} Foundation. (See also p.36). Richard and Wendy Johnston, members from Orillia, Ontario, wrote on 20th September that they had made three visits this summer to 'Lake Temogs' and that on their first visit, August 4th, they 'started chatting with this very friendly guy who had said he'd been on the lake 'all his life'. Within a few minutes we realised that 4 or 5 years ago we had met him in North Bay at the premises of the G.Owl drama (*see below) – of course it was Albert Lalonde, G.O's grandson – what a great guy!! They have a cottage on the lake as well. He was very pleased that finally his grandmother was being recognised for her contributions with the exhibit in Temagami re Angele..'. (See p.12). Albert's death was announced in the 'fall issue of Temagami Times', (p.27).

* 'Indian Heart', a musical produced by the Nipissing Stage Co. in Temagami. Opening night, August 2nd, 2001. '...This play does a skilful job of telling the story of Archie Belaney, also known as Grey Owl'. Richard wrote at the time 'We went to 'Indian Heart' on opening night and it was excellent....We talked to Albert Lalonde who was a guest of honour....'. (See Bulletin 20:6 for a Review and Photo).



Wendy Johnston with Albert Lalonde at Lake Temagami. 4th August, 2007. (This is probably the last photo of a member of The Grey Owl Society with Albert).

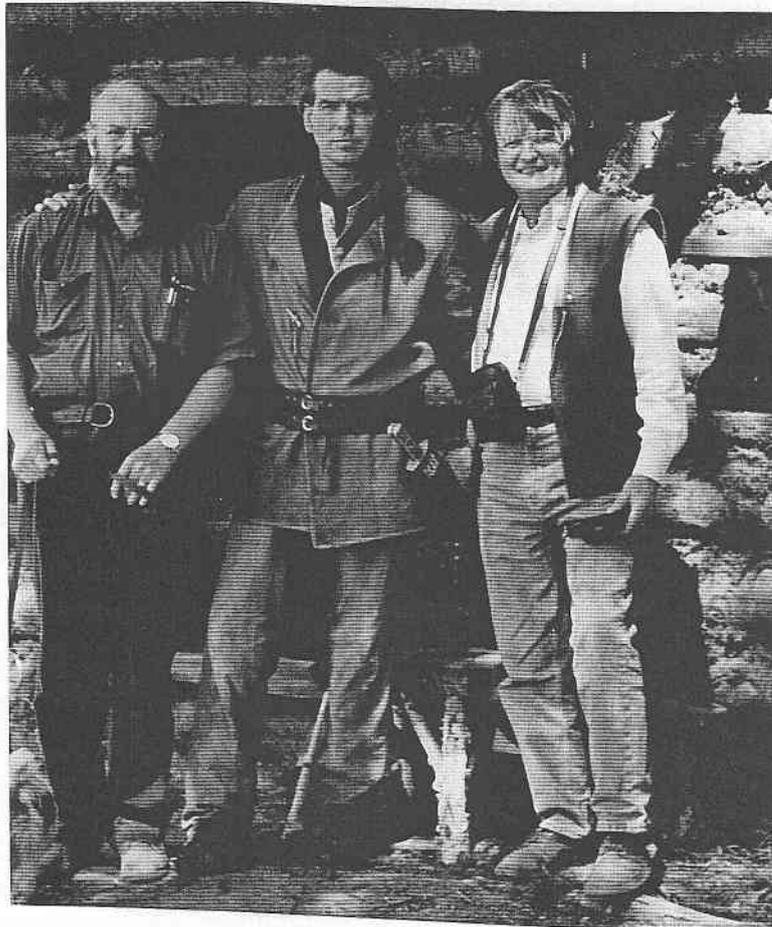
Lapel Badges. The Society lapel badge is now available (see Bull.25:31)

Cost is £2.50 each, including postage. Cheque made out to The Grey Owl Society sent to Betty Taylor – address p.42

An Introduction to HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS. This is the title of Geoff Hutchinson's new booklet. Amongst his eleven other similar books is, of course, 'Grey Owl – The Incredible story of Archie Belaney, 1888-1938'. There is a small section on Grey Owl and St. Mary's Terrace on p.16 and mention of Hastings Museum and the Grey Owl exhibition – with sketch – on p.23. (Copy in the archives).



Above. Henrietta Smyth (left) with Albert Lalonde and family, in Quebec on the set of the Attenborough film GREY OWL in May, 1998. (See this Bull, p35, also Bull, 25:6)



Above. Bob Richardson (left) and Colin Taylor with Pierce Brosnan on the film set in Quebec, May 1998.

(See this Bulletin, p.35)

St. Helen's Park Preservation Society. SHPPS, a 'Local Nature Reserve' of 104 acres quite close to Hastings town centre and with whom our Society is 'twinned', has issued a new brochure. There is a photo of Grey Owl under 'Past, Present and Future': 'The estate has many historic associations with notable people, including the conservationist Grey Owl and a former curator of Kew Gardens....'. Hastings and St Leonards Observer for April 20, under the heading '104 acres of natural beauty in Hastings' refers to the brochure... 'It includes detailed information on the history of St. Helen's Park, including its association with renowned conservationist Archibald Belaney, or Grey Owl'. In 1987, the Society planted an oak tree in the Woods with a bronze plaque : PLANTED IN MEMORY OF GREY OWL ARCHIBALD STANSFELD BELANEY AUTHOR AND CONSERVATIONIST BORN IN HASTINGS 1888 DIED IN CANADA 1938 GREY OWL SOCIETY 1987. The tree is thriving and our members Rodney and Margaret Turner as well as Dagmara Ginter and friend, help clear the brambles! Our thanks to them.

AGM/CHRISTMAS DINNER : 7 December 2006.

The informal AGM and Xmas Dinner was held as usual at The Beauport Hotel, Hastings. A traditional menu was served and thirty-six members were present (by coincidence, the same number as in 2005)! Ian West commenced the evening by referring to the sadness we all felt over Derek Norcross's untimely death and saying how much he will be missed. Ian then took over the 'role' of saying Grace. After the 'flamed' Xmas pudding and whilst coffee and mince pies were being served, Betty Taylor welcomed two new members – Mrs. Jo Taylor and Mary Moyes, both from Bexhill. Mention was made that this was our 20th AGM/Dinner at the Beauport, once the home of General Sir James Murray who became Governor of Quebec (previous to 1987, they had been held in the Old Town). Then the Apologies were read out. Betty spoke briefly about Derek's association with the Society and referred members to p.lb in the Bulletin (No.25) that had been circulated earlier in the evening, which outlined Derek's activities with the Grey Owl Society. A card from Margaret Charko from Ontario was then read, sending condolences to Audrey Norcross and the Society. Mention was also made that Audrey firmly wanted to remain a member and planned to attend next year's meeting. Finally, Bill Van Draat was thanked for all his hard work handling the Society's finances and 'distant' thanks were sent to Tom Watrous in Winnipeg, who acts as our North American Treasurer. Bill then gave his Treasurer's Report and said funds were healthy, around £2,000, but that the donation for the Pett Level bench had not yet been made (this had been delayed by Derek's death). It was hoped this would be resolved early in 2007 (See p.19). Bill then thanked those members who so generously supported the Society before rounding off with some amusing anecdotes – as is his tradition! Victoria Williams, as Curator of Hastings Museum, then brought members up-to-date with the progress of the extension at the Museum and said things had moved on since her outline in the Bulletin (pp.21-22). Finally, Henrietta Smyth outlined her ideas and hopes for a 'junior section' to be added to the Society, especially as Derek had been so involved with "introducing" Grey Owl to many children in Hastings and E. Sussex. These ideas were to be added to The Agenda of the next Committee Meeting, which was planned for March (see p.39). The general feeling of the members present appeared to be favourable (although how it would actually work was in its infancy). Jenny Logan then ran the raffle which made the surprising sum of £65 – clear profit for the Society ...thanks to Jenny and all those who participated so generously. There were no further comments and so reference was made to the Archive Table where there was a selection of the year's new additions (including the two early (1930 and 1931) issues of Forest and Outdoors with articles by Grey Owl, which had been found for us by Ralfe Whistler). It had been an extremely wild, wet, windy day (a tornado in London), but although still rainy, the wind had eased somewhat by the evening. Mention should be made of the

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sterling effort by member Hilda Daya to attend the evening! Down from Birmingham, train diverted because of the tornado and wild weather, arrived a little late and had to return very early next morning on the same route to arrive in time for her duty at Walsall Hospital!

AGM/CHRISTMAS DINNER 2008 : Thursday 4th December. Please make a note in your diary now!!



Left to right : Henrietta Smyth, Barry Johnson, Victoria Williams and Bill Van Draat at the Christmas Dinner, 2006.

Grey Owl Golf Tournament. We first reported on this 'unusual' event in Bulletin 10:5 (with some rather amusing anecdotes). We have subsequently mentioned it once or twice and member Audrey Brooke from Leeds has written to say that a friend in Canada has confirmed that this Tournament is still running! Audrey first contacted the Society in 2000 after reading about Grey Owl and the Attenborough film in the November issue of SAGA Magazine.

The Newsletter of the Nautical Heritage Association. December 2006. In a short obituary of Derek Norcross on p.23, written by our member, Adrian Barak.... 'I knew Derek from his, and my, involvement with the 'Grey Owl' Society in Hastings. He originally hailed from my own county of Lancashire. He was a larger than life figure, with boundless energy....He was an enthusiastic supporter of our Association and the Museum. He will be greatly missed'.

Great Days Out. Hastings Observer Publication, March 2007. There is a short piece on Hastings Museum under the heading 'Step back through time'. Reference is made to the 'eccentric personalities' of John Logie Baird, Grey Owl and Robert Tressell, adding that 'there are plenty of special features for children....Native American galleries complete with tepee and buffalo, and a display on Hastings born conservationist, Grey Owl'.

Tom Watrous. We thank Tom again for acting as our North American Treasurer and for 'prodding' those members who occasionally forget to pay their subs!

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Tea and Tips : Indianists in Great Britain by Silvia M. Koros. M.A. Thesis. University of Washington. 2003. 'A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts'. Program Authorized to Offer Degree : Art History. 'Grey Owl was fully aware that he was deceiving people about his identity, yet he also believed that his messages regarding environmental conservation and Native rights would have greater impact if people believed they were coming from an Indian rather than a white man. During his lifetime, through his books and lecture tours, Grey Owl greatly increased British awareness of contemporary issues facing Native Americans...his environmental accomplishments have since outlived his notoriety regarding his deceptive identity' (p.46). The Grey Owl Society Archives and the Taylor Archives are included in the list of Acknowledgements (p.viii). There is a photo of Grey Owl on p.105 and pages 44-47 and 170 have references to him. Copy in Taylor Archives.

Committee Meeting. This was held at _____, Hastings on Tuesday, 27th March.

1. Three projects were still on-going: (a) the reprint of the 21st Special Anniversary Publication. This has run into difficulties as the original printers have expanded their business and seem to have put our publication on one side! There will be a few corrections and some up-dates, especially with the Bibliography. It is hoped to resolve this before the year is out! (b) Lapel Badge. These are now available – see p.36. (c) Bench at Pett Level. The first 'model' did not appear suitable, so another design was requested...see p.19.

2. Society's 2007 Donation. The committee agreed with the suggestion by member, Pat Held, to support the People's Trust for Endangered Species, specifically the 'water vole' project (see full details, p.19).

3. It was decided that the re-opening of the enlarged and refurbished Hastings Museum should be the venue for the summer activity (see p.p. 8-9).

4. A long discussion then took place to consider in more detail the idea of a Junior Section being introduced to the Society. This is a theme that Henrietta Smyth has been keen on for some time (Henrietta talked briefly about this at the last AGM) and the committee were all in favour. However, the idea is in its infancy and Henrietta agreed to 'take over' the project and come up with ideas. The main stance seems to be to keep away from the Internet and to start with a small group of children (nominated by members?) and introduce them to Grey Owl in 'an old fashioned way'! Rather like the Society itself operates! This project, if it comes to fruition and we hope that will be the case, will be run by Henrietta and anyone interested or with ideas can write to her at _____ (see pp.28-29).

5. Finally, under Any Other Business, it was decided to print the Bulletin on better quality paper but double sided (an idea first put forward by Tom Watrous!)

6. A third cheque signatory was needed (in an emergency) to replace Derek Norcross. Either Jenny Logan or Ralfe Whistler will take on that role. At the end of the meeting, we continued our discussions 'informally' with a buffet supper!

The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections. Don Smith has sent us an extract from these Archives on a woman called Gisela Commanda (1908-1993). Gisela was born in England but left for the U.S.A. in 1939 and then moved on to Canada in 1940. She was 'Trained as an artist, and she was inspired by hearing Grey Owl speak about Canadian Indians during a tour of England, likely during his first British tour in 1935-6... Wanting to learn Ojibwa, she had been in touch with Grey Owl's canoe man in the making of his 1937 Mississagi River film... and married him at Bisco in 1942.....'. After their divorce 'she worked as an advocate for and promoter of native culture, teaching native crafts

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and often dressing as an Indian, just as Grey Owl had done'. Reference is also made to Don Smith's From the Land of Shadows: the Making of Grey Owl, 1990 (see pp. 175 and 178). These archives are held at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

St. Mary in the Castle. In SMIC's Newsletter (Autumn 2007), there is a short section entitled 'Memory Corner', referring to the time when this venue was alive as a dynamic and 'non-commercial' arts centre (before Hastings Borough Council decided they could no longer afford it)! The photo on this page shows Sir Richard Attenborough and Judith Clark, the original Director of SMIC with the caption "...at the Grey Owl Premiere Party...The colonnade doubled as Buckingham Palace in the film but you have to be quick to spot it!!" (See Bull.19:3-5).

Hastings and St. Leonards Observer (31.8.07). Under the heading 'A town blessed with more than its fair share of charm and attractions' '...And on the open air theme we've got the superb Country Park, which inspired both Grey Owl (Actually Archibald Belaney who passed himself off as an Indian) and John Logie Baird, who invented television here in the town...'.

Hastings Week 2007: 6-14th October. In the 'Events Guide' (p.8) under 'Places to visit during the week' : 'A museum containing displays of dinosaurs, local wildlife, Native Americans and Grey Owl, paintings, ceramics and features on John Logie Baird and Robert Tressell....'.

Temagami Community Foundation NEWSLETTER: Spring 2007. Front page: 'Bear Island's Angele Egwuna Remembered'. An outline of the Kennedy Gallery exhibition held in the summer of 2006 and details of the movement of the exhibition this summer to the Temagami 'Train Station', adding 'Coincidentally, 2007 is the 100th anniversary of Archie Belaney's arrival in Temagami, and the 100th anniversary of the station'. The article also states 'Archie's conservationist message and his support of native rights were well ahead of their time...Thanks in part to Angele, Archie's brilliant transition as an author, conservationist and native rights advocate is one of Canada's great success stories'. This interesting Newsletter was sent to us by Richard and Wendy Johnston (came too late to be included under the 'Donations to the Society'. Sorry!)