

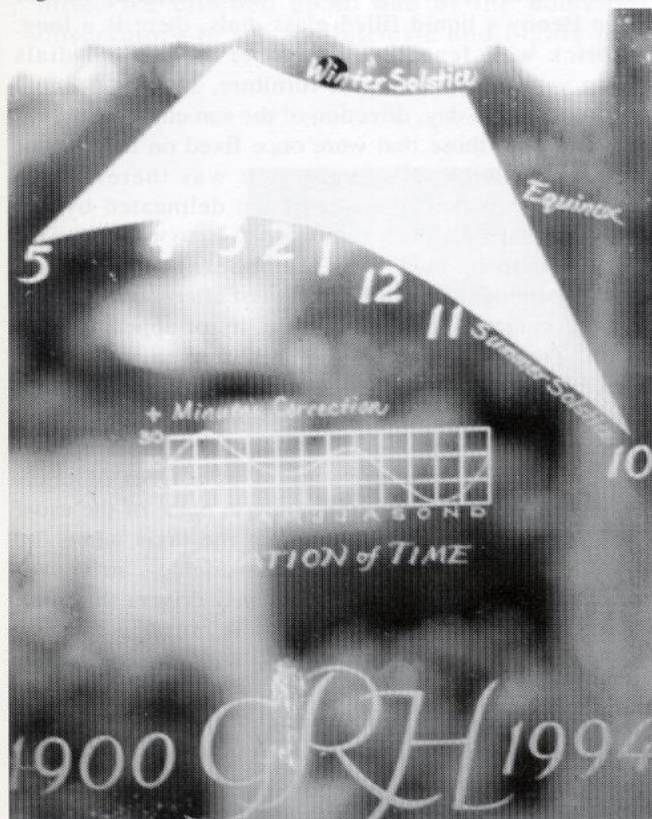
THE GEORGE HIGGS MEMORIAL WINDOW

DAVID YOUNG

On Saturday 6th July, 1996, at the Tollbooth Art Centre, Kirkcudbright, a short ceremony was conducted to celebrate the life and work of Mr George Higgs. George was our oldest member who died just before his 94th birthday in February, 1994, after a very active life culminating in his last years with an intense interest in making and restoring sundials. He also worked closely with his friend and neighbour, David Gulland, a professional glass engraver and together they were responsible for making unique engraved glass sundials, George doing the mathematics and delineating the dial.

When our Patron, Lord Perth, suggested some twelve months ago that an appropriate celebration of George Higgs' life would be to have an engraved window placed somewhere in the town in which he had lived, it was natural that David Gulland should be asked to be responsible for it. The BSS Council readily agreed and a fund was opened for this purpose. Over £400 was contributed by Society members and close friends and members of his family. After some research it was decided that the window should be installed in the town's Tollbooth Art Centre under the care of the Stewartry Council who had readily given permission. The design submitted by David was enthusiastically received; it consisted of four panes, three depicting some of the dials George had restored and the fourth being an actual dial of the type they had both made together. For the sundial it was necessary to check the orientation of the window and to calculate the hour lines and gnomon-spot position. George's son, John Higgs, found his father's hand held computer and by entering the appropriate data was able to furnish the information to engrave on the dial.

After some weeks of work the four panes were finished and fitted in the window. Fortunately I had intended to travel to Scotland at the time of the ceremony and I was therefore able to officially hand over the window to the Chairman of the Stewartry Council in my capacity as Secretary of the Society. Many of George Higgs' family and friends were present and admired the skilful work done by David Gulland and agreed that this was a fitting tribute to George Higgs.



Kirkcudbright is in a very beautiful part of Scotland and if any member should find themselves nearby I would recommend that they visit the Tollbooth where they will find the window on the second floor at the rear of the building. The Tollbooth Art Centre is usually open to the public during normal day time hours and is well worth a visit.

Note: For more information about the life of George Higgs, please see Bulletin 94.3 page 50.

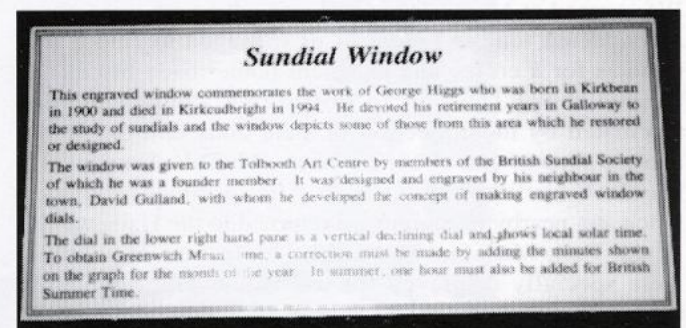


FIGURE 3