

EMILE EDOUARD MOREAU CBE (1871-72)

Emile Moreau was born in Oise, France on the 11 July 1856.

Emile was the son of Auguste Moreau, a Frenchman, and his English wife Mary. Though born in France, Emile finished his schooling at Framlingham, where he was a Pembroke Scholar in 1871-72. After school he appears to have lived life very much as an Englishman.

At Framlingham, he was among that hardy generation which helped to excavate the original College swimming pool, and he was no mean sportsman, playing First XI cricket in 1872.

In 1873 he took a steamship to India, where he joined the family firm of Bird & Co (founded in 1860 by his uncles Sam and Paul Bird), working in Calcutta, Benares and Ghazee-pore. In 1886 he and T K Bannerjee, an Indian businessman, started the bookstore chain 'A H Wheeler & Co.', which later spread to have its book stalls in a great many small and big railway stations in India, especially in the north. The company's name was borrowed from a then-successful London bookstore, Arthur Henry Wheeler's.

He came to know Rudyard Kipling and, in 1889, became his first publisher – no small achievement. "Soldiers Three" was the first of seven books published by him through A H Wheeler & Co.'s Indian Library and sold at a cost of 1 Rupee per volume. The other volumes were: "The Story of the Gadsbys"; "In Black and White"; "Under the Deodars"; "The Phantom Rickshaw and Other Eerie Tales"; "Wee Willie Winkie and Other Stories" and "The City of the Dreadful Night".

His business career soon extended multi-nationally, with directorships spanning India, Java and Malaya to the East, and Trinidad to the West.

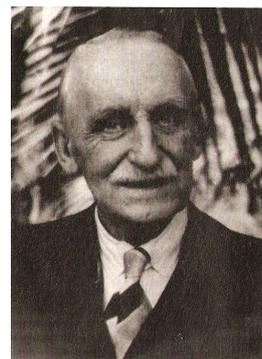
At the start of WW1 he returned home to join the Ministry of Munitions, where his international experience soon took him back to India to organise the distribution of propaganda across the nation. His contribution to the war effort was recognised by the award of a CBE in 1919.

He kept in close touch with his old school, giving The Moreau Cup for Gymnastics in 1909, scientific apparatus in 1920, and additions to the Library in 1922. He also gifted £1000 to the Wallace Scholarship (founded by **Charles William Wallace 1870-71**). He was President of the SOF in 1919 and 1920, and became a Trustee. He also became a member of the Corporation of the College and a Governor in 1920, and remained one until his death in 1937. While on the board, he gave £4,000 (the equivalent of about £200,000 today) to help with building improvements and, as if this weren't enough, he left bequests to both the College (2/7th of his estate) and the Society (1/7th of his estate) in his Will, totalling the equivalent of well over half a million pounds in today's terms.

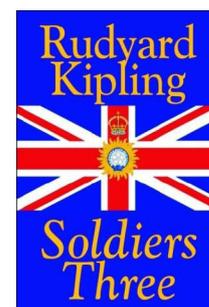
He left the use of the funds in his bequests very much to the discretion of the Trustees of the respective organisations. Over the years, successive OF Trustees have employed the income for a host of purposes in support of OFs and the School (creating the Library at Brandeston Hall, jointly with **Roy Denby (S23-30)**, for example). There is now sufficient capital and income in the SOF Trust to allow the Society to address Moreau's particular desire to help deserving OFs in establishing themselves in their chosen careers. It is with this aim, and in Moreau's memory, that the Trustees have recently established the Moreau Leaving Scholarships.

In developing the scheme, the Trustees have combined his wish that such scholarships should extend over a three-year period, with a desire to ensure that those winning awards should best exemplify the qualities of an ideal OF. The Society also wants to be sure that Scholars will commit themselves to support the fundamental objectives of the Society. Up to two scholarships will be awarded each year with a value of £800 per annum for each of three years, subject to the scholar continuing to meet the conditions of the scheme to the satisfaction of the Trustees. More details on the Scholarships can be found at

<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20050531101040143>



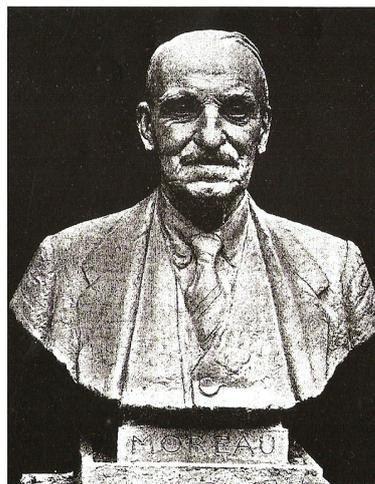
*E. E. Moreau, CBE, 1871-72.
A generous benefactor to the School & SOF.*



The name Moreau is a familiar one to Framlinghamians of every vintage but, in some respects, the fact that one of the Houses is named after him makes us take him almost for granted. We shouldn't; apart from his productive and eventful life, he was probably the most significant individual benefactor to the School and the Society, both of which continue to make use of his bequests to this day.

He died on 20 February 1937, aged 80.

The following pictures of a bust of Moreau were included in the Autumn 1999 OF Magazine, but I don't know where the bust is placed.



Bust of Emile Moreau by Mr. Whitney-Smith

PS

In 2004 the Indian Railway Minister (Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav) has decided to break A H Wheeler's monopoly on station platforms. In the middle of his railway budget speech he said "Wheeler, Wheeler, Wheeler, why do we have a Wheeler bookstall everywhere? The English have left this country long back."! What he seems to have forgotten is that there is nothing English about Wheeler but its name! For more details see the following story <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/07/09/wheeler09.xml&sSheet=/news/2004/07/09/ixworld.html>