

M. B. Mencher 1935–2013

M. B. (Barrie) Mencher died on Thursday 22 August 2013 after a very long and grievous combination of illnesses.

Barrie Mencher was educated at Roundhay School, Leeds, and Downing College, Cambridge, reading English with F. R. Leavis as director of studies. After graduation he became a lecturer in English Literature at successive colleges of further education, where the genuineness of his thinking made a deep impression on a number of students, but by vocation he was a literary man, firstly a novelist and maker of short stories, then as a critic practising in the Leavis tradition.

One of his stories appeared in the first issue of our magazine *The Human World* in 1970, and he was closely involved with Brynmill for the next forty years. Mencher was company secretary, effectively in charge, for some years from 1992 onwards when otherwise the company would have liquidated.

We published his first book, the novella *A Knot*, still in print, and *Betrothal*, the revised version of the *Knot* with another novella (at present unavailable). The recent collection *Jackdaw and other Stories* is published by Durrant Publishing <www.durrantpublishing.co.uk> ISBN 978 1 905946 03 7 and reviewed elsewhere on this website. One of his most recent remarks on D. H. Lawrence and Leavis—his lifelong central critical preoccupations—makes our column 48. He was a vigorous contributor to *The New Compass*. We sold last week the last copy of *George Borrow: the Dingle Chapters*, co-edited by Barrie Mencher and Richard Shephard. Together with his wife, Mencher was also essential to the publication of our T. F. Powys series.

In later life, Barrie Mencher used his good tenor voice as cantor in Norwich synagogue, where he became President for three years.

He is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, the distinguished pianist and editor of T. F. Powys, Elaine Mencher.

to return to home page click on www.edgewaysbooks.com