

disparate walks of life, comprising various professional sub-cultures, exuding political fervour, displaying mainly well-mannered disagreements alongside bridge-building, and a quasi-formal conviviality in very comfortable surroundings. Yet that elite association of individuals, crucially sporting democratic and altruistic instincts, was gifted with the capacity to generate an extraordinary social and cultural impact on a scale far beyond its numbers, aligned with the broader progressive vanguard from which it drew nourishment and into which it injected urgency and imagination.

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- 1 J. S. Mill, *Essays on Politics and Culture*, ed. G. Himmelfarb (Anchor Books, 1963), esp. pp. 1–8.
- 2 *Minutes of the Rainbow Circle 1894–1924*, edited and annotated with an Introduction by Michael Freeden (Royal Historical Society, Camden Fourth Series, vol. 38, 1989).
- 3 *Minutes*, p. 170.
- 4 A. Parsons (ed.), *Second Chambers in Practice* (P. S King & Son, 1911), p. v.
- 5 H. Samuel, *Liberalism: An Attempt to State the Principles and Proposals of Contemporary Liberalism in England* (Grant Richards, 1902).
- 6 *Minutes*, p. 28.
- 7 See M. Freeden, *The New Liberalism: An Ideology of Social Reform* (Clarendon Press, 1978).
- 8 For the full list, see the *Minutes*, appendix II.
- 9 H. J. Golding, *The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ethical Movement* (D. Appleton, 1926), p. 180.
- 10 S. K. Ratcliffe, *The Story of South Place* (Watts & Co., 1955), pp. 60–76.
- 11 J. A. Hobson, *Confessions of an Economic Heretic* (George Allen & Unwin, 1938), pp. 57–8.
- 12 Parsons (ed.), *Second Chambers*, p. v.
- 13 (Viscount) H. Samuel, *Memoirs* (The Cresset Press, 1945), p. 24.
- 14 'Introductory', *Progressive Review*, vol. 1 (1896), pp. 1–2.
- 15 *Minutes*, p. 68.
- 16 See M. Freeden, *Liberalism Divided: A Study in British Political Thought 1914–1939* (Clarendon Press, 1986).

Letters to the Editor

Asquith

I enjoyed Radio 4's recent dramatisation of Robert Harris's latest novel, *Precipice*.

The actor reading out the book gave Asquith a conventional 'received pronunciation' accent. However, I'd always been under the impression that he had a very slight Yorkshire accent, but perhaps I'm wrong? (Similarly, I'd been given to understand that

Gladstone had a slight Liverpool accent – but again, perhaps I'm wrong.) Can anyone advise?

Incidentally, Asquith's Wikipedia page has an audioclip of him supposedly delivering his Budget speech in 1909. Does anyone know if this recording is genuine?

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