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## Obituary- Siggers

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## OBITUARY

### *DR. C.J.S. SIGGERS*

We were sorry to hear of the death on March 9th. of Dr. Siggers who had been a life member of the Fellowship since 1971.

If you have the good fortune to live in a house once occupied by George Eliot, it is natural that an interest in the novelist will develop. This happened with Dr. Siggers, for his home in Devizes was the scene of Mary Ann Evans' visit in 1843 to the home of Dr. Robert Brabant. Her holiday lasted a month; it might have been longer if her relationship with her host, nearly forty years her senior, had not given cause for alarm to the other two ladies in the house - the doctor's blind wife and her resident sister. The story is well told in the Haight Biography.

Dr. Siggers' interest was apparent when a coach load of members was welcomed to his home some years ago as part of our annual literary outing. He proudly showed us his growing collection of George Eliot books as well as his lovely old house, and it was not difficult to imagine the impressionable Mary Ann in that setting. He and his wife made us most warmly welcome - and there were about fifty of us!

For the 16 years of his membership he maintained an interest in the Fellowship and his last letter, in 1987, was to tell us that, at last, a plaque had been placed on the wall of his home to mark George Eliot's visit 145 years ago. He also told us, with great courage, of his terminal illness, but his life ended sooner, it would seem, than he had expected for he had ordered another book about George Eliot to add to his collection only two weeks earlier. Our sympathy has been sent to his wife and sons, one of whom continues to practice medicine in the house which seems to attract doctors!

K. A.