

Lord Stonehaven

I have made mention that L. Herbert Beecroft was a pious man with religious connections. His religious paintings from the early 1930s became world- renown.

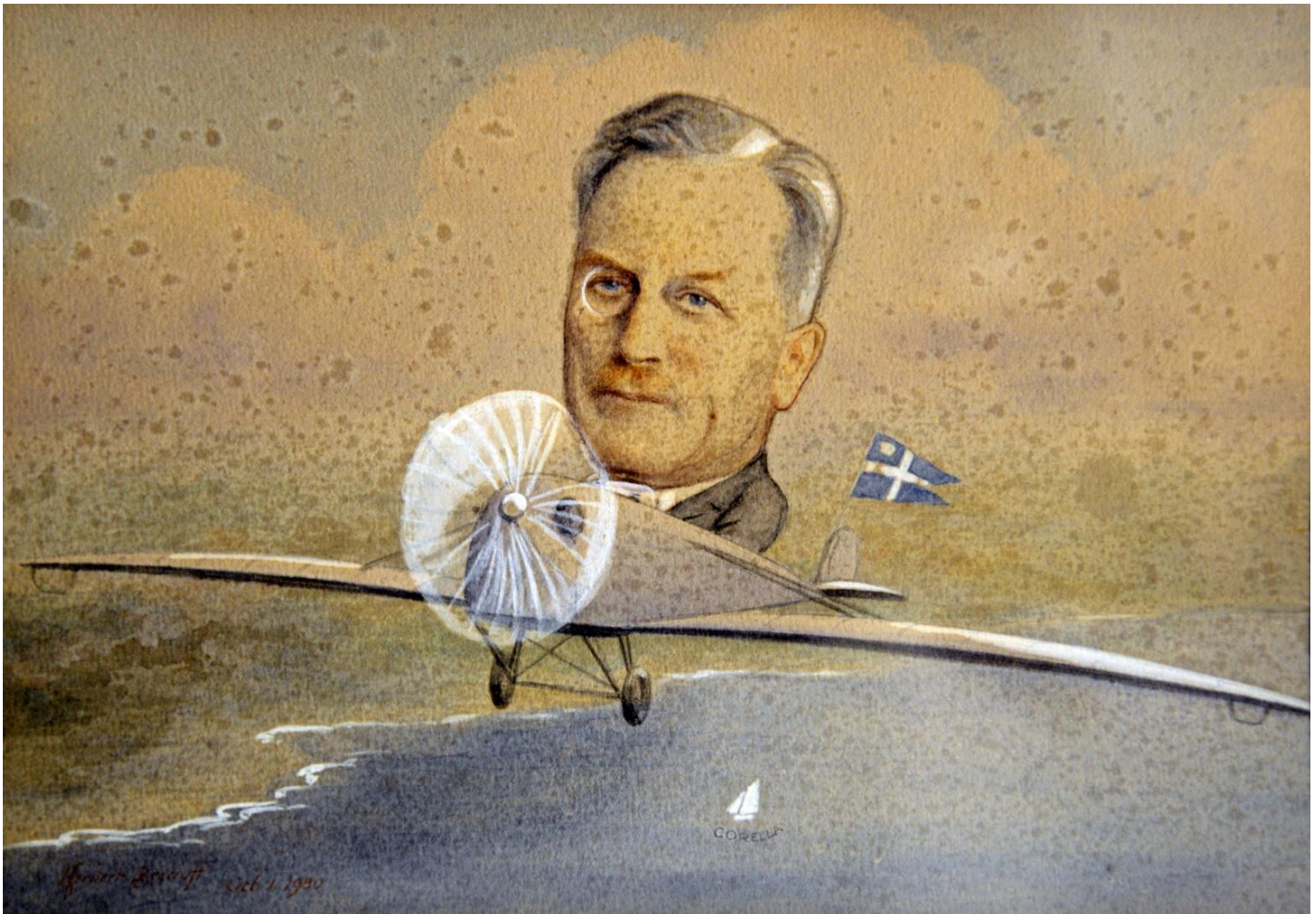
Saturday, 12th February, 1938 - Rockhampton Evening News

Sydney Man's Picture Sweeps World

Sydney, Friday.

*Copies of a picture of Christ by **Mr. Herbert Beecroft**, the 73-year old Woollahra artist, have been distributed all over the world. The picture is claimed to be divinely inspired, portraying a remarkable strength of expression combined with a singular tenderness. It has caught the imagination of religious bodies throughout the world, and thousands of copies have been distributed. "I will never sell the original painting to be shut away in some private gallery," said Mr. Beecroft. Its popularity has made the original of great value. At the request of the Council of Christian Education, London, the original was sent to England. After its exhibition at Manchester, Birmingham, Southend, and Reading thousands of copies were printed and distributed to all Sunday schools in England. Reproductions have also gone to American Sunday Schools, representing 3,000,000 scholars! The picture was painted eight years ago, and is known as "Peter's Christ."*

It was at the time that Beecroft painted Christ that he also painted Lord Stonehaven who retired as Governor General and left Australia. He had completed his 5 year term. Up until this time, the Commodore of the Club was always a high ranking official.



The painting, which is in need of restoration, is the only one which does not closely resemble the subject when compared to photos of the period. Since I am confident in Beecroft's accuracy, we can assume that the photos

of Lord Stonehaven I have included here are not of the right proportion. In the painting, Lord Stonehaven's head is more elongated in the vertical. Beecroft has placed his subject in a light plane over the coast line with a small yacht way below. Lord Stonehaven was a great supporter of aviation and if you look closely at the painting, the yacht has underneath it the name "Corella." Lord Stonehaven wore a monocle which Beecroft has depicted. The Squadron burgee is flying from the tail of the plane.



Tuesday, 13th October, 1925 - Northern Star Lismore

LORD STONEHAVEN

GREAT PERSONAL CHARM

UNBOUNDED ENERGY IMPRESSIONS OF AUSTRALIA

Lord Stonehaven is a man of great personal charm. That is the impression which he conveys to the interviewer from the initial handgrip to the genial good-bye, and which lingers long after the interview is over. You feel that having been entrusted with the high and delicate office of representative of the King in a large dominion, he is just the sort of man for the job. When Australia gets to know him, it will think that, too.

The new Governor-General lacks the commanding presence of Lord Forster, but he more than makes up for that deficiency in many other ways. When he speaks you are immediately aware that here is a man of unbounded energy. You would not be surprised if one of these days he indulged in some pretty straight talk to the people of Australia—talk of the kind which, while not imperiling the neutrality of his high office in controversial matters, would carry an inspiring exhortation in those things which we have set up as our national ideals. The problem for Lord Stonehaven will probably be not how to say the conventional thing (he is a diplomat and politician, so that will be easy), but how not to say the unconventional thing. In politics he must have been a keen debater and a great fighter.

GENIALITY AND FRANKNESS

His quality of geniality and frankness will carry him a long way into the affections of Australia. Prepared for the worst you approach him in your stiffest manner, equipped with many formal, well thought out phrases. He

offers you a cigarette, and you become human; he speaks frankly and genially, showing a keen sense of humour, and the well-thought-out phrases go sky-high. Then you talk as man to man, and find him an easy, unaffected talker and forget that he is the Governor-General, and a person who, during the next five years at least, will be enveloped in a certain amount of formality. No formality, however, will ever stop those human qualities of his from issuing forth. If Australia loves a man, then Lord Stonehaven will find roomy habitation in its heart. We open fire (writes the Melbourne "Argus") with the unremarkable remark that he must have had a busy day. Busy? Not at all. He has enjoyed every minute of it. So has Lady Stonehaven. If he had been approached in other circumstances he might easily have said he was having the time of his young life; but Governors-General do not use phrases of that kind officially although they may think them. And talking of young life reminds us that the Governor-General is a young man. His actual years do not count. A man is as old as he feels, and looks, and Lord Stonehaven looks young. That impression of pent-up energy does not belong to senility or approaching senility. It is a manifestation of the quality of youth. If you asked Lord Stonehaven how old he felt he would probably reply, "Twenty-five."

PROGRESS OF AUSTRALIA

As he spoke to us, so let him, speak to you. "Ever since landing, after thirty years' absence," he says, "the progress I have seen throughout the country I have passed through gives the impression of an old-established concern. I am everywhere struck with the magnificent loyalty of the public. Everywhere people have turned out simply to welcome the King's representative. Believing as we do that the British Empire is the greatest force for peace in the world today, and that the Empire would be nothing without the King, to find the people of the community seeing eye to eye with me is one of the most splendid experiences which I have gone through. Both Lady Stonehaven and myself were specially delighted with the children whom we saw today. Home without children is a dismal sort of place, and these were such a fine lot of youngsters. So keen and alert looking, so well dressed, and well developed and healthy."

Like his predecessor, Lord Stonehaven is fond of yachting. "I have all Lord Forster's enthusiasm for the sport," he says, "but not his expertness. He was a first-rate helmsman, but a man can be just as great an enthusiast even if he lacks other things. Flying? Well, I don't think flying is altogether a sport. I look upon it as being on all fours with wireless. It is a sign of present-day development, and of the triumph of science, courage and skill. When I was Under-Secretary for Air during the war I took out a pilot's certificate because I thought it proper that if I were to speak in the House of Commons for the Air Force, I must have knowledge."

VALUE OF AVIATION

"I have come here realising the magnificent work which has been done in aviation, and it is my aim and object to carry on that work if I can help in any way. It seems quite possible that flying may prove to be the process of keeping places in touch with one another before railways and roads are laid down. If you have to provide for your air defence, and I say this without in any way depreciating what may be done by the League of Nations, and you want to ensure it, undoubtedly the air is the sphere in which you must provide protection. It is an undoubted fact that during the war Australian pilots displayed the qualities which aviation calls forth. They were most efficient flying men, with nerves of steel, splendid physiques and calm, resourcefulness. These qualities existed in a larger proportion among Australians than perhaps any others who took part in the war. From that point of view, it is a good thing to make full use of those qualities, both, from the point of view of air travel and defence. We mean to travel about as much as possible," said Lord Stonehaven. "Both Lady Stonehaven and myself intend seeing as much of the country as our duties will permit. Coming out after thirty-one years' absence has afforded me an insight into what the Empire really means, and into the duties of citizenship which the word Empire implies. We had a splendid trip out. I can't exaggerate the comfort we experienced nor the kindness and courtesy which was extended to us on the Nestor, from Captain Owen, down.

How do I pronounce my name? Just as it is spell. There is a Scottish way which makes it Steenhive, but Stonehaven is right."

We go away feeling that Australia has once again experienced great good fortune in her new Governor-

General.

From “**Sydney Sails**”:

*“At that annual meeting (1926), the newly arrived Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, **Lord Stonehaven**, was elected commodore of the Squadron in succession to Lord Forster. At fifty-two years of age, Lord Stonehaven had a long experience in the British parliament, in which he had held cabinet rank, and had also a distinguished war record. He was not an active sailing yachtsman like his predecessor, Lord Forster, but showed his interest in yachting by purchasing Corella, and also presenting a trophy for 12-foot dinghies, the Stonehaven Cup, for interstate competition.”*

Monday, 22nd March, 1926 - Sydney Morning Herald

LORD STONEHAVEN.

In a Collision.

DURING SATURDAY'S YACHT RACE.

*The Governor-General, **Lord Stonehaven**, made his first appearance as a yachtsman on Sydney Harbour on Saturday afternoon, when he had a noteworthy experience. The boat, of which he was one of the crew, came into collision with another competitor in the race. His Excellency suffered no injury, and his boat continued in the race, running into second place.*

The accident occurred in the 21ft restricted class event for the Wattle Cup. Shortly after rounding the Manly buoy, his Excellency's yacht, Corella, in charge of Mr. W. D. M. Taylor, was close-hauled on the work to windward when she came into collision with Cherry Too, which was running free, with spinnaker set. The big sail evidently prevented the skipper of Cherry Too from seeing the Corolla until it was too late to avoid the collision.

The Corella continued the race, but had a hole in her hull above the water line. Cherry Too suffered more damage, her bowsprit being carried away, bringing down her mast.

Saturday, 1st March, 1930 - The Port Macquarie News and Hastings Advocate

LORD STONEHAVEN.

RESCUES YACHTSMEN.

*During the height of the tempest which raged in Port Phillip on Saturday, the Governor-General (**Lord Stonehaven**) sprang over the side of the yacht Corella, which was taking part in the race for the Forster Cup, and swam to the pier, to obtain mooring ropes for that craft and half a dozen others which were in difficulty in the bay. With the aid of several St Kilda yachtsmen he obtained mooring ropes and returned to the racing boats.*

From “**Sydney Sails**” again:

*“At the annual meeting in 1931, **Lord Stonehaven**, who had completed his term as Governor-General, retired as commodore, and was succeeded by Paul Ross, while E. J. Bayly-Macarthur was appointed vice-commodore and J. L. Milson rear-commodore.”*

Lord Stonehaven's death was worthy of significant coverage in 1941 although he died back in his home country of Scotland, 10 years after his departure from Australia.

Thursday, 21st August, 1941 - Sydney Morning Herald

EX-GOVERNOR DEAD

Lord Stonehaven

*LONDON, Aug. 20. (A.A.P.). **Viscount Stonehaven**, Governor General of Australia from 1925 to 1930, died today, after a heart attack. Lord Stonehaven was shooting game near his home in Scotland yesterday. The heart attack occurred last night, and he died this morning.*

Lord Stonehaven, who was 67 this year, succeeded Lord Forster as Governor-General of Australia in 1925. He came to the Commonwealth with a fine record of service to the Empire in politics, in the Diplomatic Service, and the Army. Before being raised to the peerage on his appointment as Governor General, he was Sir John Lawrence Baird, his father having been created a baronet in 1897. Sir John succeeded to the baronetcy in 1920. He was created a baron in 1925, and in 1938 became first Viscount Stonehaven of Ury. He entered the Diplomatic Service after being at Eton and Oxford, and served at Vienna and Cairo before going to Abyssinia in 1899. After a term in Egypt, he returned to Abyssinia as political agent and Consul General in 1902. He was political officer with the Abyssinian Army in Somaliland in 1902-3. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded a C.M.G. Later he saw diplomatic service in Paris and Buenos Aires.

In the 1914-18 war he served as an intelligence officer and won the D.S.O. He applied himself vigorously to a parliamentary career, and was keenly interested in the problems of air defence, being first Parliamentary member of the Air Board and then Under-Secretary of State for the Royal Air Force. He was Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, from 1919 to 1922, and Minister of Transport and First Commissioner of Public Works from 1922 to 1924.

Lord Stonehaven did not come to Australia as a stranger, because he had been for a year in Sydney as aide-de-camp to Sir Robert Duff in 1894. His wife, who had been Lady Ethel Keith-Falconer, was in Adelaide at that time, her father, the Earl of Kintore, being Governor of South Australia. He travelled widely in Australia, often by air. He was keen on racing and yachting. His reputation as Governor-General was that of one who conscientiously performed the duties and upheld the dignity of his office.

After his return to England in 1930, Lord Stonehaven became chairman of the Conservative Party Organisation, a post which he held until 1936. In 1939 he emerged as a strong critic of Britain's "shilly-shallying" foreign policy and of appeasement. He vigorously opposed any suggestion that Germany's colonies should be returned to her. He refused the presidency of the Kincardine-West Aberdeenshire Conservative Association because of Mr. Chamberlain's references to colonies. "The return of Germany's colonies would be a calamity," he said at Oxford. "You will never buy Herr Hitler off."

He retained a keen interest in Australia and especially in migration problems. He claimed publicly to have been the first person to walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge. After war broke out Lord Stonehaven undertook the supervision of arrangement to trace wounded soldiers who were missing in base hospitals. He visited the United States last year on private business. He told American Pressmen, "There is not one defeatist to be found in all England."

Lord and Lady Stonehaven had two sons and three daughters.

September, 2015