

Thomas Tiplady

Thomas Tiplady (1882-1967) was elected to membership in The Hymn Society on November 16, 1931—one of its early members in England. His innovative writing as part of his ministry at the Lambeth Methodist Mission in South London drew the attention of THS and began a correspondence that continued for decades. His integration of social ministries and hymnwriting to engage the unchurched was unique and attractive to THS members. He was exempted from dues by the Executive Committee on May 21, 1935.

Tiplady became an advocate for a similar organization in his own country and was among the founders of The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 1936. He served that body as a member of its Executive. As the second World War became more likely, Tiplady sent his published works and manuscripts to THS for safekeeping. Additional materials followed in subsequent years, as did granting of his copyrights to the Society

The relationship between THS and Tiplady was reinforced when President Deane Edwards visited Tiplady at Lambeth Mission in 1948. In the following year, Society members contributed to purchase a pulpit Bible, cross, and candlesticks for the mission's chapel, which was being reconstructed after the devastation of German air strikes. Tiplady wrote with gratitude that these items would "keep your Society and our Mission linked together. . . . Your gift has struck the imagination and will be much talked about, especially in Methodism. It is the first gift toward the rebuilding of our destroyed Mission." George Litch Knight and Ruth Ellis Messenger wrote about this connection in the first issue of *The Hymn* (October 1949). Merritt Queen spoke on behalf of THS at the new building's dedication and wrote about the occasion for the January 1952 issue. Knight was to have prepared a *Paper* about Tiplady, but this did not occur.

In 1962, Tiplady was elected a Fellow of The Hymn Society. This action was unusual, in that he was named with four others, but the minutes of the Executive Committee and his certificate refer to him alone as an "Honorary Fellow." What may have been intended is no longer known.

