

I was elected a Member of the Savile Club in June 1958. I was then the Editor of *Discovery*. It was a simple affair, as I was proposed by Frank Horrabin, the well known map-artist of H.G. Wells, and I had 23 supporters who added their names, supporting my election. A large book was displayed for this purpose in the Morning Room of the Club, and one looked from time to time if anyone had been proposed whom one knew, in which case one signed one's name on the relevant page. Twice a year the Admission Committee looked at the new pages of the book, and then wrote to each individual supporting Member, asking for a written statement why the gentleman [no lady] should, or should not, become a Member.

I have a photo copy of the relevant page in front of me now, which the present Secretary Nicholas Storey kindly gave me. My most famous supporter was C.P. Snow, followed by the prestigious political cartoonist David Low whose drawings were at that time published daily in the *Evening Standard*. Then there was Michael Ayrton, renowned as sculptor, writer and universal artist and Roger Manville, the learned historian of the cinema. Now, 40 years later, many of the signatures on my page have become illegible. Of course I can read the signatures of the medical scientist John Bunyan [see Title 31] and of M.L. Anson, an American scientist retired in London, who had become good friends.

The Club was founded in 1868, and when it moved to 15 Savile Row in 1871, it changed its name from New Club to Savile Club. It never changed its name again, although it moved House three times, settling finally in November 1927 at its present premises, 69 Brook Street, London W1. The capital cost of the 90 year lease, alterations to the fabric of the two luxurious private houses, dating back to 1725 and additional furniture, was £ 29000. It was acquired from Lord Harcourt; who had been Colonial Secretary under Asquith. Lord Harcourt committed suicide in one of the two houses.

After I became a member of the Savile and later for many years, I knew little or nothing about its history and the famous scientific members of the past. Only when Garrett Anderson wrote the Club's history in 1993, published by the Club, and called it *Hang your Halo in the Hall!* did I get really curious. I was also much intrigued by Oscar Wilde's pronouncement: "Ah! The Savile Club, a true republic of letters, not a Sovereign among 'em'", but of course he was not a Member. The judgment of a member, Sir John Cockcroft, the famous nuclear physicist, was as follows: "I take my acquaintances to the Athenaeum, but my friends to the Savile". Having got to know the Club better after a few decades, I fully agree with these judgments.