

PAPERS  
OF THE  
BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME



*(Photograph by courtesy of the British Academy)*

### M. AYLWIN COTTON

Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton—Molly to a host of friends and colleagues all over the world—is eighty in August 1982. It is difficult to believe, although many of us cannot remember the time when Molly was not part of the British School at Rome, first as Honorary Director of the ‘camerone’ and latterly as the most regular of Library users, at her desk in the Churchill Room surrounded by the notebooks and cards from which she created *Posto* (published by the School in 1979), *S. Rocco* (to be published shortly) and parts of the *Gravina* report. Molly had two careers in practical archaeology: in Britain, where she worked at Maiden Castle with Sir Mortimer Wheeler, before directing her own excavations; and in Italy, where, in association with John Ward-Perkins and Peter von Blanckenhagen, she excavated the two Roman villas mentioned above. In 1972, she began a third ‘career’ by establishing the M. Aylwin Cotton Foundation, which has the purpose of awarding fellowships and publication grants to senior (and not-so-senior) scholars in the fields of the archaeology, architecture, history, language and art of the Mediterranean. Archaeology in Italy, and life at the School, owes her a great debt of gratitude.

Molly, from your innumerable admirers: Happy Birthday!

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