

## OBITUARY

### JAMES HODGSON ARMSTRONG

OBE FREng Hon.DEng BSc FStructE FICE

1926 - 2010

James was a distinguished engineer and philosopher who I respected and admired for many years as a friend and colleague. He passed away a few days before Easter 2010.

"He had played an active role in monitoring and developing educational policies in professional education, and played a significant part in coordinating and developing the Royal Academy of Engineers Visiting Professors scheme and chaired the committee that considered design matters in engineering".

He was a Visiting Professor at several universities in the UK and elsewhere. He featured in the book " EMINENT ENGINEERS Their 20th Century lives and times" published by Whittles Publishing in Caithness Scotland, and his contribution was entitled "If you want God to smile tell him your plans." His message will inspire all those that read it.

James ended his career as a Senior Partner of the multidisciplinary practice, Building Design Partnership where he had been responsible for many highly regarded projects not least among these was the Channel Tunnel Terminal and the creation of the double parabolic roof structure of the Commonwealth Institute.

He contributed to the life and work of the Institution of Structural Engineers by serving as President for the year 1989 - 1990. He followed me in that role and I have now noted the complimentary nature of my address in 1988, "Structural Engineers, some of their wider responsibilities" and the address delivered by James in 1989 entitled "An Elegant Profession."

He was generous in his contribution to various educational charities which included the Higher Education Foundation, The Christian Industrial Movement, The Varanasi Trust and the Maryport Heritage Trust. He was largely responsible for creating a school in India. The school has recently achieved secondary status. James remained the treasurer and Trustee of the school until his death. some 40 years.

He was Chairman of The Buildings Committee of the Harris - Manchester College in Oxford, where he was made an Hon. Fellow.

James was a devoted family man and with Marjorie his wife he had the joy of celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary a few days before he died peacefully.

They had two children the late Hugh and Jane, Janes husband The Revd. Stephen Terry conducted the very well attended funeral service at the church of St Philips in Hove on the 8th April 2010.

The manner in which he was admired and respected by all those who knew him was exemplified by his Oxford college who, on receiving the news of his death raised the College Flag which was then flown at half mast.

Peter Campbell