

D.G. Crighton (1942–2000)



D.G. Crighton, 1997

Professor David G. Crighton, Vice President and former President of the European Mechanics Society since 1993 died on 12 April, 2000 at the age of 57.

He studied mathematics at Cambridge University entering St. John's College in 1961 and went down in 1964 with Firsts in Parts I and II of the Mathematical Tripos to teach mathematics at the Woolwich Polytechnic. His research interests became more important than teaching and he was appointed Research Assistant at Imperial College to J.E. Ffowcs Williams in 1967, who diverted Crighton's research successfully from turbulence to the physics and mathematics of noise problems (aeroacoustics).

Crighton took his doctorate in 1969 and within five years wrote or partwrote a series of 18 influential papers on jet noise, scattering of sound waves, acoustic beaming and reflection from wave-bearing surfaces, and similar topics. In 1974 he was appointed Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Leeds where his organisational and administrative talents first became apparent. He was elected to his chair in Cambridge in 1986 as successor to G.K. Batchelor whom he succeeded as Chairman of the EUROMECH Committee in 1988. David Crighton, who had been a member of the EUROMECH Council since 1984, won the sympathy, the respect and the support of the Committee and the mechanics community in Europe at large in a very short time. This was due to his wide knowledge of the field, his great enthusiasm, his immense energy, his diplomatic skill on the European stage and his human warmth and charm,

documented in his many letters and conversations. David Crighton led the discussion resulting in the extension of the activities of the European Mechanics Council and effected its transformation into the European Mechanics Society in 1993 thus expanding the range of the Conferences it presented at European level in the whole field of fluid and solid mechanics. He was the first President of this Society until 1997 when he was elected as Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, another of his full time jobs.

Since 1991 he had been Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics and from 1996 Editor of the *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, having been an Associate Editor since 1979. With this experience he was always a very co-operative consultant to the Editors of *EJM/B-Fluids* when general problems arose with authors or reviewers. The quality of his own work earned him many honours

including the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1993, three honorary doctorates and several medals and awards.

The EUROMECH Society has lost a great promoter and adviser and many of us an invaluable friend.

H.-H. Fernholz
Hermann-Föttinger-Institut für Strömungsmechanik
Technische Universität Berlin
Straße des 17. Juni 135
10623 Berlin, Germany