



Obituary



Robert Macrae
(1950–1993)

Rob Macrae was born on 7 February 1950. After a successful school career at Kings' College, Taunton, he studied chemistry at Keble College, University of Oxford, and then remained at the University performing research for a DPhil with G. T. Young on 'Studies in Peptide Synthesis'. He continued researching into methods for the semi-synthesis and analysis of proteins whilst holding a Royal Society Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Institute for Molecular Biology, ETH., Zurich (1974–5). After a period as a forensic scientist with the Home Office (1975–7), he joined the University of Reading as a Research Associate and was rapidly appointed to a lectureship in the Department of Food Science and Technology.

Rob was a popular member of the Department with both staff and students. His lectures were full of interest and humour, and he proved a stimulating supervisor for many research students. Rob set himself high standards in all tasks which he tackled with characteristic energy and enthusiasm. He always found time to help students with problems, but was not slow to make his views known if colleagues or administrators failed to match his expectations.

Rob's research was directed towards analysis of foods and he played a major role in developing high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) for food analysis. Through his research, he also became a recognised authority on coffee. As a recognised international expert on HPLC with a lively lecturing style, he became much in demand as a lecturer at conferences and at overseas universities.

He left the University in 1987 to become a self-employed consultant, concentrating on scientific publishing and food analysis. He showed enormous energy and vision during his career in publishing scientific books and journals, initiating several major

projects. His books included *HPLC in Food Analysis*, which was the major book in the field for several years. Other books that he edited or wrote included *Instrumental Analysis in the Biological Sciences* (with M. H. Gordon), and a six-volume work on *Coffee* (with R. J. Clarke). He initiated and edited the *Journal of Micronutrient Analysis*, *International Analyst*, and *Chromatography and Analysis*, and also joined *Food Chemistry* as an editor. He was also one of the editors of two major reference works, namely the *Encyclopaedia of Food Science, Food Technology and Nutrition*, published in 1993 and the *Encyclopaedia of Analytical Chemistry*, which will be published in the near future. During the last few years he also contributed to the teaching in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Hull as a part-time lecturer.

Rob died suddenly on the 19 November 1993, and was buried in All Hallows' Church, Walkington. He will be sorely missed by a large circle of friends and colleagues. Rob leaves a wife, Jenny, and two children, Victoria and James, to whom our heartfelt sympathies and condolences are extended.

Michael H. Gordon

On behalf of Elsevier Science Limited, Peter Desmond (Associate Publisher at Elsevier Applied Science) adds the following:

Dr Rob Macrae's involvement with Elsevier Applied Science was wide ranging. He was the founding editor of the *Journal of Micronutrient Analysis* and pursued its launch and successful development with vigour. His contribution to the process of integrating that journal with *Food Chemistry* was characteristically effective, as was the way he took on a new role as one of *Food Chemistry's* editors. This created new possibilities we were all exploring but which must now, sadly, move forward without him.

In addition to the editorship of journals, Rob was instrumental in the creation of conferences, in conjunction with Elsevier Seminars. He was also co-editor (with Ron Clarke) of the six-volume book series on Coffee—which stands as the definitive work on that subject. Other collaborations include contributions to individual book projects.

It was sometimes hard to see how Rob fitted his work with EAS into his many other activities. Yet he did so, and always matched unflinching enthusiasm and creativity with reliability. It was a pleasure to work with him. We feel his loss keenly and offer our sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.