

MEMOIR

JOHN HENRY GUNLAKE

JOHN GUNLAKE died on 11 September 1990 aged 85. He qualified as a Fellow in 1933, and served on the Council for 21 years from 1941 to 1966. He was President from 1960 to 1962.

His professional life was distinguished—he was both an actuary and a statistician and many of his activities allowed him to excel in both. After leaving Epsom College, he started his actuarial career with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and later worked for both the Guardian and the General Life Assurance Companies.

In 1935 he joined R. Watson & Sons, Consulting Actuaries, and became a partner in 1937. John was Senior Partner at Watsons from 1963 to 1970 when he retired from full-time practice. He was Chairman of the Association of Consulting Actuaries from 1962 to 1964.

During the Second World War he and Sir William Elderton served together in the Statistics and Intelligence Division of the Ministry of Shipping and its successor body, the Ministry of War Transport. He attended the Washington, Quebec, Cairo and Yalta conferences as statistical adviser to his minister, Lord Leathers, and was awarded the C.B.E. in 1947 for this work.

He was actively involved in a series of Government Committees and Commissions including the 1953/4 Commission on the Economic and Financial Problems on the Provision for Old Age. Later in the 1950s he served as Chairman of the Statistical Committee of the Pilkington Commission on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration and for many years was a member of the Review Body which was established by that Commission. It was a role he clearly relished as it allowed him to combine the two roles he most enjoyed—actuary and statistician. It is no surprise that he became a Fellow of the Institute of Statisticians in 1952 when it was yet in its early days.

Not only was John Gunlake actively involved with the Institute of Actuaries and the Institute of Statisticians, but also throughout his working life carried a heavy burden of client work and administrative duties in his firm. He was author of the standard text book 'Premiums for Life Assurance and Annuities' and was a leading figure in this Institute's Committee on Professional Guidance which produced the 1965 'Memorandum on Professional Conduct and Practice'.

He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues in the various fields to which he devoted his not inconsiderable energies and time. He was a model consulting actuary and a respected statistician.

LJM