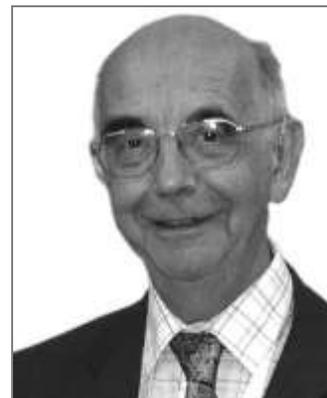


Aston Medal 2006

John Todd



John obtained his First Class Honours BSc degree in Chemistry in 1959 from the University of Leeds, from where he also gained his PhD degree and was awarded the J.B. Cohen Prize in 1963; he was a member of the radiation Chemistry group led by the late Professor F.S.(later Lord) Dainton, FRS. From 1963 to 1965, he was a Fulbright Research Scholar and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Chemistry with the late Professor Richard Wolfgang at Yale University. In 1965, he was one of the first faculty members appointed to the then new University of Kent at Canterbury. John's research interests, spanning some 46 years, have encompassed positive and negative ion mass spectral fragmentation studies, gas discharge chemistry, ion mobility spectroscopy, analytical chemistry, and ion trap mass spectrometry.

His work on 3D quadrupole (Paul) ion traps commenced in 1968, when he first developed the "Quistor/Quadrupole" instrument for the characterisation of the behaviour of ions confined in radiofrequency electric fields and as a vehicle for the study of gas phase ion chemistry. As a consultant to Finnigan MAT during the 1980s and 1990s, he was a member of the original team that developed the first commercial ion trap mass spectrometer. In another consultancy role, John has been involved with one of the most extended single mass spectrometric investigations ever undertaken: The use of an ion trap mass spectrometer for the isotope ratio measurement of cometary material as part of the "Rosetta" Project (launched 2004, scheduled arrival at its target comet in 2014).

John has published and/or co-authored some 116 scientific papers and over 118 conference contributions, concentrating mainly on various aspects of mass spectrometry. With Professor Dennis Price, he co-edited four volumes of Dynamic Mass Spectrometry and he edited Advances in Mass Spectrometry 1985 (which contained the proceedings of the 10th International Mass Spectrometry Conference, Swansea, at which he was also a plenary lecturer). In addition, he was an editor of the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes from 1985 to 1998, has served on the Editorial Boards of Organic Mass Spectrometry, Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry, and is currently a member of the Board for the European Journal of Mass Spectrometry. With Dr. Raymond E. March, John co-edited five volumes entitled Practical Aspects of Ion Trap Mass Spectrometry, published by CRC Press. In addition, John was a co-author with Dr. Raymond E. March and Dr. Richard J. Hughes of Quadrupole Storage Mass Spectrometry, published by Wiley in 1989; a second edition of Quadrupole Storage Mass Spectrometry, co-authored by John and Dr. Raymond E. March was published in 2005.

John is a Chartered Chemist and a Chartered Engineer, and has served terms as Chairman and Treasurer of the BMSS. In 1988, he was a Canadian Industries Limited Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Trent University, Ontario. In 1997, he was awarded the Thomson Gold Medal by the International Mass Spectrometry Society for "outstanding contributions to mass spectrometry," and in 2006 he was awarded the Aston Medal by the BMSS, of which he is also a Life Member. In 2007 John was admitted as an Honorary Fellow of Canterbury Christ Church University, and in 2008 accorded Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Society of Chemistry. From 1979 to 1989, he also served as Chairman of the Mass Spectrometry Sub-Committee, Commission I.5 of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), and between 1995 and 2007 he was Chairman of the Management Advisory Panel for the EPSRC National Mass Spectrometry Service Centre, based at the University of Wales Swansea.

updated from Ray March's article in Mass Matters November 2009

