

MEMOIRS

JOHN FARRANT BUNFORD

JOHN FARRANT BUNFORD, former chief executive of National Provident Institution and an eminent actuary, died on 5 July 1992, aged 91. He was born on 4 June 1901.

John Bunford will be remembered especially for leading the return of the Institute of Actuaries to Staple Inn in 1955, following the skilful restoration of the original building, devastated by bomb damage in August 1944. The celebration was attended by actuaries world-wide, and his capabilities in orchestrating and hosting the occasion, coupled with his unique charm and humour, ensured its success. It was fitting that he should be the first President to wear the coveted badge of office—a gift from former Presidents—and the one to obtain the Institute's Grant of Arms.

He was educated at Christ's Hospital and St Catherine's College, Cambridge. His early actuarial career was spent at the Scottish Amicable and, later, the Royal Exchange Assurance, where he qualified as a Fellow in 1930. Two years later he joined NPI, and succeeded Henry Melville as Manager and Actuary in 1947. He retired from executive duties in 1964, and continued as a non-executive director until 1985. His stewardship covered the difficult years of post-war development, a period of substantial change and expansion of life insurance and pensions business. The growth of NPI's business during that time led him inevitably to redeveloping the company's century-old head office in the City, and to the commencement shortly afterwards of its Tunbridge Wells administration—itsself one day to become the head office, as well as the town's largest single employer outside the public sector.

His business career was punctuated by high office in the life insurance industry, including chairmanship of the Life Offices Association and of the Investment Protection Committee of the then British Insurance Association. While President of the Institute of Actuaries in 1954–56 he frequently represented the profession abroad, notably at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Actuarial Societies. The Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland elected him an Honorary Fellow at its centenary in 1956.

At home, Hurst Green, he became involved in Church and community activities. Unsurprisingly, he was drawn into planning and fundraising activities for the extension of the local church, where he was chairman of the development committee. After moving to Liphook in his later years, he maintained his active interest in the Church, and became founder chairman of the local branch of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. He was also a donations governor of his old school, Christ's Hospital.

He was a truly gentle man, balanced in judgement, but resolute in following it through. His office door was always open, as if to emphasise his approachability and his interest in others, which remained to the end.

His wife, Penelope, predeceased him. He is survived by 2 sons and a daughter.

G.V.B.

JAMES BASIL HOLMES PEGLER

JAMES BASIL HOLMES PEGLER died on 22 September 1992, little more than a month after his eightieth birthday. The high point of his long and dedicated service to the Institute was his Presidency from 1968 to 1970. He was a man of wide cultural interests who, in his Presidential Address, surprised his audience with literary quotations in French, Italian and Russian as well as several in English. In that address he suggested "... that a serious interest in some cultural field unconnected directly with one's professional responsibility is a major factor in promoting the ability to form balanced judgements in that responsibility." He ended with a plea that "encouragement might be given to even wider cultural interests, to the benefit of the profession generally".