

MEMOIRS

ARTHUR WOLFE JOSEPH

ARTHUR WOLFE JOSEPH, the son of a leading jeweller in Birmingham, died suddenly on 5 August 1974 at the age of 69. At a very early age he showed mathematical inclinations. From King Edward's School, Birmingham, he won a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he qualified as a Wrangler, having achieved first-class honours.

Coming down from Cambridge in 1927, he joined the staff of the Wesleyan & General Assurance Society. From 1949 he was Actuary and Investment Manager. He was appointed to the Board in 1968. On his retirement in 1970, he gave up executive responsibilities but continued as a Director. As a member of the Board his actuarial knowledge and his knowledge of investments and computers were greatly valued.

His interest in his profession was strongly sustained to the end. He was a member of the Actuaries Club and also an active member of the Gallio and Denarius Clubs and of the Birmingham Actuarial Society.

The devoted service which he gave to the Institute and its members can be measured by the long catalogue of appointments which he held, as follows:

- Tutor—2 years from 1937–39
- Examiner—5 years from 1945–50
- Served on Council for 8 years between 1955 and 1963
- Treasurer—2 years from 1960–62
- Assistant Editor of the Journal from 1948–56
- Joint Editor from 1956–58

It is said that the Editor could turn over to him any mathematical paper in complete confidence that he would make a thorough assessment, deal with any weaknesses in the treatment and give a fair view of its suitability. As Joint Editor he brought the same meticulous care to proof reading and to the difficult decisions that editors have to make.

His own contributions to the Journal consisted of notes on various mathematical aspects of an actuary's work. He also, on numerous occasions, participated in discussions at Institute meetings; he could be relied upon for a thoughtful constructive questioning of any mathematical analysis. To his credit, he made a very witty speech at the 1971 Annual General Meeting. One of the notes in the Journal related to a gambling game called 'Minoru' which, in his own words, 'forms a good basis for the discussion of the application of some interesting statistical methods to the science of betting'. Although certainly not a betting man himself, it was a relaxation for him to think out the chances of beating the bank in any form of gambling game.

He contributed several papers to the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society and to the Institute of Actuaries Students Society.

He did everything possible to keep himself fit; every day, even after his retirement, he could be seen walking from his home in Edgbaston to the office in the centre of Birmingham where he would spend time applying the computer in the investment field. Recently he became interested in croquet and, indeed, he was entertaining a group of croquet players when he collapsed in the course of a game.

Arthur Joseph had many friends at home and abroad who admired his intelligence, his fairness of mind and his sincerity. He enjoyed two happy marriages, first for nearly thirty years to Edna, by whom he had two sons now married with six grandchildren. Edna died in 1966 and he subsequently married her youngest sister, Lena, who survives him. D. R. WOODGATE