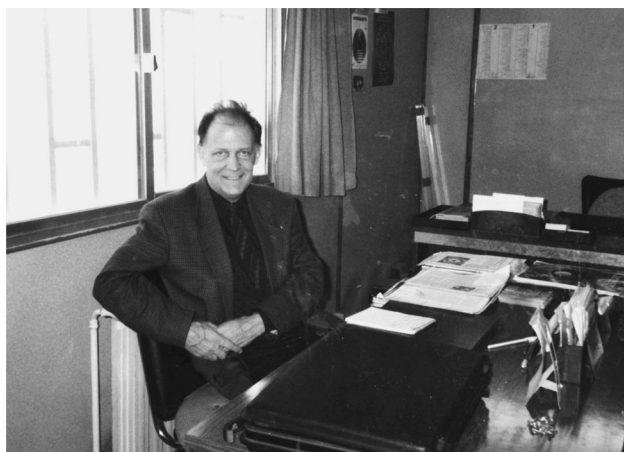


David Walton, 1936–2014

Founding Editor of Transition Metal Chemistry

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It is with deep sadness that we pause in this issue to mark the death of David Walton, the Founding Editor of *Transition Metal Chemistry*. From its inception in 1975 until his retirement in 2007, he worked unceasingly to make TMC a successful and respected international scientific journal.

David obtained his BSc degree from London in 1959, followed by MSc and PhD degrees from Leicester in 1961 and 1963. In 1964, he joined the faculty of the newly established University of Sussex, where he remained as Reader in Chemistry throughout a long and distinguished career. His scientific achievements were recognised by the awards of a DSc degree from London, an Honorary Degree from the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, and the RSC's Bader award for eminence in organic chemistry. Throughout his career, David maintained a keen interest in the development of science around the world, and especially on

the Indian subcontinent. He helped to establish a new university at Batticaloa in Sri Lanka, devoting much of his time to working within this region, as well as being an effective advocate for the university whilst back home in the UK. Perhaps his most remarkable achievement in this regard was his work on a completely new edition of the Malalasekera English-Sinhala Dictionary. David devoted a very great deal of his own free time over several years to this project, which included the development of a Tamil-Sinhalese-English word-processor. The motivation for such a monumental task came naturally to him, just as he would spend many hours correcting the English of manuscripts submitted to TMC; he believed in the value of people, and the values of science and understanding to make a better world for all.

David's interests extended well beyond his chemical expertise. He was a very talented classical pianist and choral singer, as well as an all-round sportsman, especially enjoying rugby, cricket and athletics. More adventurously, he was a keen international traveller, mountain climber and caver. He also had that most valuable gift for any teacher, namely an underlying sense of humour, most memorably revealed in his contributions to the annual Sussex chemistry group Christmas pantomimes.

I well remember a tutorial at Sussex, when early in my own career, he took me to task for a particularly shoddy piece of coursework. Little did I realise, as I squirmed under his forensic discussion of my errors, that in time David would become a trusted mentor, then my PhD supervisor, and finally a highly valued colleague and friend. Our thoughts are with his wife Carole and his two children at this time.

Marcus C. Durrant.