

## OBITUARY – WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER SWINBANK

William Christopher Swinbank, D.Sc., F.A.A., died in Boulder, Colorado on 28 December, 1973, at the age of 60.

Bill Swinbank was born in Easington Village, County Durham, U.K., and graduated with honours from the University of Durham. After a brief period as a school teacher and in industrial research, he entered the U.K. Meteorological Office in 1938, thus commencing a career in meteorology that was to make his a well-known name in meteorological circles all over the world.

During the war years he served as an operational forecaster at Dunstable, helping to develop techniques for upper-air analysis and wind prediction. His stories connected with air operations over Europe, such as the first indications of an upper level jet-stream, held much fascination for his younger colleagues.

He came to Australia in 1948 as one of the first appointees to the newly formed CSIRO Section of Meteorological Physics. In 1954, the Section moved to the present site at Aspendale, later becoming a Division and very recently being re-named the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Physics.

For more than 20 years, Swinbank collaborated with the Chief of Division, Dr C. H. B. Priestley, in forming and moulding the research programme of the Division, helping to give the Aspendale laboratory a world-wide reputation. Their joint paper on 'Vertical Transport of Heat by Turbulence in the Atmosphere' published in 1947 prior to coming to Australia remains a land-mark in micrometeorology.

Swinbank's influence spread over all the activities of the Division. He pioneered the direct measurement of the turbulent fluxes of heat, momentum and water vapour. He initiated the ozone programme and contributed much in the areas of radiation, agricultural meteorology and upper atmosphere.

He was awarded the Buchan Prize of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1968, in conjunction with A. J. Dyer, for his pioneering work in the precise evaluation of flux-profile relationships. He was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1970.

Swinbank took two years leave of absence from CSIRO in 1969 to accept an appointment at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, where he soon became Director of the National Hail Research Experiment, a circumstance which forced his resignation from CSIRO.

His influence in the development of Australian meteorology was considerable. His humour was subtle, sometimes sharp, but always enjoyable. His friends and colleagues all over the world will regret his passing and would wish to express their deepest sympathy to his wife Angela and their six children.

A. J. DYER

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