

ATHLONE FELLOWSHIPS

NEWSLETTER No. 16

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With the compliments of the Secretary to the Managing Committee

Managing Committee in the United Kingdom

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**FOREWORD BY SIR MAURICE FIENNES, C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
CHAIRMAN OF THE ATHLONE FELLOWSHIPS MANAGING COMMITTEE**

It is with a mixture of pleasure and regret that I introduce the final edition of the Athlone Fellowships Newsletter.

As you will know, the Athlone Fellowships Scheme will come to an end when the remaining members of the 1970 group of Fellows complete their awards in the autumn of this year. The Scheme has been running for 20 years and during that time over 800 Canadian engineers have been awarded Fellowships and have studied in our universities and worked in our engineering industries. It is a record of which we are very proud and we hope that Athlone Fellows will share this feeling of pride with us.

Of course we regret the passing of the Scheme and this feeling is shared by many people both in Britain and Canada. However, the withdrawal of the Scheme does not mean that our interest in Canada has diminished or that we are not as anxious as ever for Canadian engineers to come to Britain to see what is being done in this country. We know that we have a lot to offer in many fields of advanced technology and we want Britain to continue to be a source of knowledge and experience for Canadians.

We know that much of the attraction of the Athlone Scheme to those who were awarded Fellowships has been the opportunity it has provided for them to visit a country with which they have much in common but which they might not otherwise have seen in depth; and this aspect could well have been as important to them as the main purpose of the Scheme. We are content if this has been so. Our efforts have not been wasted if some hundreds of Canadians look back on their stay in Britain with a feeling of warmth towards the country and its people. I trust that in spite of the inevitable problems of living and working in a country which is in many ways different from Canada, the overall judgement will have been favourable. Our judgement of the Athlone Fellows certainly has been!

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In presenting this final edition, the Managing Committee wish to record their appreciation and thanks to all those in Canada and the United Kingdom who have co-operated in the Athlone Scheme over the past 20 years.

The total number of Fellowships awarded is 810 and the following table shows the relative distribution of programmes since the scheme started in 1951:--

	<i>Two years industry or industrial consultants</i>	<i>Two years university college or research establishment</i>	<i>Mixed Course</i>	<i>One year only * = univ. / = industry</i>	<i>Total</i>
1951	8	21	8	1*	38
1952	4	17	13	1*	35
1953	16	10	10	1*	37
1954	10	9	15	2 (1* 1/)	36
1955	7	11	17	2 (1* 1/)	37
1956	1	19	16	2*	38
1957	2	27	7	-	36
1958		20	17	1/	38
1959		27	14		41
1960	1	27	12		40
1961	1	29	10		40
1962	-	21	18	1*	40
1963	2	25	14	1*	42
1964	1	23	13	5*	42
1965	-	22	13	9 (8* 1/)	44
1966	1	25	12	6*	44
1967		26	10	9 (8* 1/)	45
1968	-	26	7	10 (9* 1/)	43
1969	1	24	10	12 (11* 1/)	47
1970	1	19	9	18 (17* 1/)	47
	<u>56</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>810</u>

As the scheme draws to an end, 29 Fellows of the 1970 group are completing their awards and at the time of going to print, 11 of this group have decided to remain to continue research towards Ph.D. degrees. Two others have remained under other auspices after completing 1-year Fellowships. 16 of the 1969 group have remained to complete their research towards Ph.D. degrees.

ATHLONE FELLOWS ASSOCIATIONS

1. Nova Scotia Athlone Association

The N.S.A.A. have reported that the poor response to their proposal published in Newsletter No. 15, for a continuing Newsletter, has caused them to reluctantly drop their plans and they have decided not to pursue the matter. Only 80 replies, all favourable, were received. Since this represents less than 10% of all Fellows it was felt that the level of interest is too low.

Dr. J. D. Brown (1958 N.S.T.C.) is now Secretary of the N.S.A.A.

2. Other Associations

It is with great regret that we report that no news of the other Athlone Fellows Associations' activities has been received for this final Newsletter. The Managing Committee express their hope that, although the scheme is coming to an end, Athlone Fellows Associations will continue to maintain contact with Fellows in their area and throughout Canada.

3. The Officers of the four Associations are: (addresses removed)

Quebec: F. H. Sutcliffe (Chairman)

W. S. Wilson (Secretary)

Pierre Bourassa (Treasurer)

Real A. J. Arsenault (Adviser)

Ontario: J. H. Flett (Chairman)

T. A. Croil (Vice-Chairman)

G. A. Pearce (Secretary/Treasurer)

D. J. Sefton (Social Convenor)

Manitoba: Rudolf H. Schilling (Secretary)

Nova Scotia: J. D. Brown (Secretary)

MISCELLANY

1. For the statistically minded

At the beginning of this Newsletter is a tabular breakdown of the number of awards made and where the 810 Fellows spent their time in the United Kingdom since the scheme began in 1951. The following table shows how many Fellows there have been from each participating Canadian University granting first engineering degrees as recorded in Appendix II:—

<i>University</i>	<i>No. of Fellows</i>	<i>Year of First Fellowship Award</i>
Alberta	55	1951
British Columbia	99	1951
Carleton	1	1961
Ecole Polytechnique	53	1951
Laval	41	1951
Manitoba	67	1951
McGill	78	1951
McMaster	17	1962
New Brunswick	37	1951
Nova Scotia Technical College	49	1952
Ottawa	12	1959
Queens	63	1951
Royal Military College	19	1964
Saskatchewan	44	1951
Sherbrooke	6	1959
Sir George Williams	6	1968
Toronto	110	1951
Waterloo	24	1962
Western Ontario	17	1959
Windsor	7	1964

The five Fellows from miscellaneous institutions complete the total of 810.

746 Fellows gained further academic experience and 309 industrial experience during the tenure of their awards. These figures include those Fellows on mixed academic/industrial programmes. It is interesting to note that 304 Fellows, over a third of the total number, spent at least one year at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

It is difficult to tabulate what Fellows are doing at present but, at the time of going to print, it appears that of those in Canada, 135 are working in Universities, 275 in Industry and 85 in Federal and Provincial Government posts. Of those in the United States, 11 are in Universities, 22 in Industry and 4 in Government establishments. The 29 Fellows of the 1970 group completing their awards and another 51 Fellows remaining in the United Kingdom, plus 14 working in other countries, complete the tally of those whose present activities are known to us.

Despite intensive efforts by all concerned we have completely lost touch with 42 Fellows and for quite a large number we can only give partial addresses. It is sad to record that 7 Fellows are known to have died.

2. Marriages and Births

The Managing Committee extend congratulations and best wishes to the following Fellows who were married during 1971:—

Ian S. Anderson	(1967 Queens)
Doug. G. Chapman	(1968 Manitoba)
Murray Clamen	(1970 McGill)

Gaudry Delisle	(1970 Laval)
Lyse Morisset	(1968 Ottawa)
G. David Parsons	(1970 Waterloo)
Charles D. Quick	(1970 Waterloo)
P. Carey Ryan	(1970 N.S.T.C.)
Peter M. Tiley	(1970 McMaster)

and also to the following who have had additions to their families in the past year, particularly Jim Bayne, father of triplets!:-

Jim P. Bayne	(1968 Queens)	- 3 daughters
Serge P. Bellier	(1968 Ec. Poly.)	- a daughter
J. Doug. Macdonald	(1966/69 Toronto)	- a son
W. L. Price	(1964 Laval)	- a daughter
Jacob Shapiro	(1968 McGill)	- a son
P. F. Stojak	(1969 Saskatchewan)	- a daughter

3. British Government Offices

We give below the addresses of British Government Offices in Canada, whose staff will be pleased to give Fellows information and assistance with queries concerning the United Kingdom.

OTTAWA	80 Elgin Street, Ottawa K1P
MONTREAL	635 Dorchester Blvd. West, Montreal 101 (Tel. : 866-5863)
QUEBEC CITY	La Laurentienne 500 Grand-Allee Est., Suite 707, Quebec 4. (Tel. : 525-5187)
TORONTO	8th Floor, 200 University Avenue, Toronto 1. (Tel. : 864-1290)
VANCOUVER	4th Floor, Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg., 602 West Hastings Street, Vancouver 2. (Tel.: 683-4421)
WINNIPEG	402 Monarch Life Building, 333 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg 1. (Tel. : 942-3151)
EDMONTON	Suite 1404, Three McCauley Plaza, 10025 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton 15. (Tel. : 424-0481)
REGINA	815 Avord Tower, 2002 Victoria Avenue, Regina. (Tel. : 527-6459)
ATLANTIC PROVINCES	10th Floor, Centennial Building, 1645 Granville Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. (Tel. : 422-7488)

RETROSPECT

by F. E. A. MANNING, D.Eng.(N.S.T.C.) – Adviser to the Athlone Fellowships Managing Committee

Now that the Athlone Fellowships Scheme is within a year of its official end, I have indulged a long-felt urge to read every one of the 810 personal files of all the Athlone Fellows and to read again all the 15 Newsletters. What a book could be written based on gleanings from this field! But how difficult it is to write a short article that is not merely a list of names and a set of statistics!

The Newsletter itself was suggested by John Godfrey (1954, Manitoba) and No. 1 issued in December 1956. Except for a change of format in January 1969, it has appeared in exactly the same form yearly until this, the last number. The first five numbers contained underlined appeals for contributions which did increase in number and interest from 1962, but the flow dried up before this Newsletter was prepared and so I have been coerced into filling some space. Had it been a practical possibility, I would rather have produced a collection of about 25 articles under some such title as “The Best of the Athlone Fellowships Newsletter”. Apart from excellent articles on the differences between the Canadian and British way of life as seen by wives as well as husbands and differences in the methods of obtaining higher degrees, one would read of London, of West and Northern England, of Scotland and of Wales. There would be mention of brass-rubbing; Goonhilly satellite communication station; heather ski-ing; a holiday in the U.S.S.R.; returning home via an Imperial College expedition to Africa and South America; student “rags”; queuing for tickets for Covent Garden Opera House; tandem cycling; and thoughts on what the individual Fellow has gained apart from the technical aspects.

My “Collection” would have started with the complete Foreword by the Earl of Athlone to Newsletter No. 1, but here I quote only one paragraph:—

“I have, over a long period, been associated in one way or another with a number of educational schemes, but I know of none more deserving of continued encouragement than the Fellowship Scheme to which I have been privileged to give my name.”

Sad to relate, the Earl died during the following year, but Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, continued to show interest in the scheme and graciously received the Fellows arriving in 1970 at a reception arranged by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

There have been four Chairmen of the Managing Committee, three Vice-Chairmen, five Secretaries (one of these for a few months only) and four Advisers. These men were all keenly interested in the scheme and gave generously of their time and energy, whether full-time civil servants or volunteers from outside. Two members of the Managing Committee have served on it from start to finish, namely Professors H. E. M. Barlow and E. G. Cullwick, and to them thanks for staunch support, informed comment and sound advice are rightly due. Professor Cullwick merits special mention for his efforts here and in Canada to stimulate the formation of a Canada-based replacement scheme. The first Chairman, Sir Arthur Fleming, and the first Adviser, Dr. William Abbott, have passed away, but their splendid work in devising the scheme and guiding it through the early years was undoubtedly responsible for the high reputation it has achieved. Time has caused small changes to be made, particularly since 1959 when 5 Canadian Universities requested to be added to the original 11 participating, and we ended with 22. Nevertheless, the original form and policies are clearly recognisable at the end. Honours were conferred upon some serving civil servants for their work, viz. on Dr. W. Abbott, first Adviser, C.M.G.; on Dr. H. H. Burness, who worked with Dr. Abbott and became second Adviser, C.B.E.; and on T. W. Turner, a Secretary to the Managing Committee for six years, M.B.E.

It was interesting to note that comments on details of the scheme made by members of all intakes from 1951 to 1970 were very much alike; except in so far as it had been found possible to meet some requests. Similarly, the experiences in industry and university related at Conferences from 1958 to 1970 were very much the same. There were small changes in the needs of Fellows as conditions changed over the years. In earlier years, the young Canadians were usually single and prepared to spend two or three years in the United Kingdom and were intent on gaining industrial experience rather than further academic education. Latterly, about 50% of those arriving have been accompanied by their wives and many were not willing to accept the financial burden of remaining for more than one year in the United Kingdom. A one-year Fellowship was introduced to avoid the unexpected premature return to Canada of an appreciable number of Fellows whose places could often not be filled. It also enabled us to give more than 41 Fellowships in each of the last eight years by setting the cost of one-year Fellowships against that of two-year Fellowships on a sliding scale. The table on an earlier page is interesting as illustrating change over 20 years, but it should be read with appreciation of the fact that the recently introduced one-year courses for “Master” degrees in this country include reports on projects and each project is usually an industrial one.

From the first, the Fellows selected were of a high standard which has been maintained from "A.F./51/1 Armour, J. M." to "A.F./70/47 Zilm, D. H.". Not one has caused us real trouble, even if some have been a little pernicky or tiresome. A very few have remained in or returned to this country to work, but this trickle of immigration has been completely swamped by a flood of emigrants to Canada in the form of very happy wives. Most Fellows expressed in writing at the end of their stay their appreciation of the way the scheme was administered and a rather surprisingly high number commented on the personal benefit they had gained from living for a time out of Canada and seeing it with a fresh outlook.

My own eleven years as Adviser, including 9 interview tours and one holiday spent in Canada (hopefully not the last) have been uniformly happy and rewarding. From the first I have looked upon my job from the viewpoint of its immediate benefit to Canada rather than of the long-term benefit to the United Kingdom. I have commented in previous articles on the kindness and the help I invariably received and many friendships made will continue for life. Those readers to whom the iron ring is more or less a matter of course will not realize what a thrill the ceremony of induction was to me and with what pride I wear this ring. It is a tangible sign how close my association is with what is to me a second homeland and with what affection I recollect that country and the Engineers in it.

During my interview tours I met many groups of Athlone Fellows collected together and entertained with generous hospitality by the deeply interested and friendly British Trade Commissioners in Canada. These officials move elsewhere after their various tours of duty and all too soon no British Diplomatic Service representatives in Canada will know anything about Athlone Fellows. Many people have expressed the hope that this will not mean the end of social gatherings of Athlone Fellows in suitable centres, but continuation will involve some form of organisation of local groups. I hope that well-disposed individuals in many centres will act as focal points for keeping Athlone Fellows in touch with each other and will maintain liaison with similar focal points elsewhere throughout Canada. I was most disappointed to hear that the 10% response to Dr. Brown's endeavour to list those who wanted to continue some form of Newsletter was not considered sufficient to justify the project. Such seems to be the fate of many questionnaires. In 1961, an enquiry about the desire for an Athlone Tie met with only a 10% response.

Reverting to the Earl of Athlone's words quoted earlier in this article, there is no shadow of doubt that the Athlone Fellowships Scheme is one of the finest ever instituted, that both Britain and Canada have derived great and continuing benefit, and that its demise is deeply regretted. Two distinctive features stand out and these are not found anywhere else in the world. One was that a large number of student engineers went from your country to ours as a coherent body. Other schemes only apply to small numbers of engineers, very often only one or two under a scheme covering other disciplines in greater numbers. Another feature was its flexibility, particularly in allowing a mixed programme of academic work and industrial experience, and no other existing or proposed scheme offers this facility.

The scholarships awarded by the Confederation of British Industry in Canada will not provide similar facilities. Few Commonwealth Scholarships are likely to be given to engineers for the competition is fierce. Other existing schemes will remain static and the overall result must be that the number of Canadian engineers coming to the United Kingdom annually to further their training or education will fall by about 30. This was quickly realized by Athlone Fellows in Canada and others and several suggestions have been made for small or large replacement schemes originating in Canada. So far there has been no real progress reported to me and it seems that some existing body in Canada has to be found to do the organization. At this end, we will give help but not finance. I hope that something will materialise but it will not be the Athlone Fellowships Scheme.

And so – Goodbye.

APPENDICES

1. Normally Fellows are listed in Appendices I and II under the University at which their first engineering degree was awarded but in a very few cases where the Fellow was working for a higher degree at another University when the Fellowship interview was held, the entry will be found under the second University. In these cases the Fellow's name is entered under the first University with a cross-reference to the second, where full particulars will be found.

2. Abbreviations for Universities in Appendix I are:—

Alta.	- Alberta
Br. Col.	- British Columbia
Car.	- Carleton
Ec. Pol.	- Ecole Polytechnique
Laval	- Laval
Manit.	- Manitoba
McG.	- McGill
McM	- McMaster
Misc.	- Five entries after "Windsor"
New Br.	- New Brunswick
N.S.T.C.	- Nova Scotia Technical College
Ott.	- Ottawa
Qu.	- Queens
R.M.C.	- Royal Military College
Sask.	- Saskatchewan
Sher.	- Sherbrooke
Sir G. Wms.	- Sir George Williams
Tor.	- Toronto
Wat.	- Waterloo
W. Ont.	- Western Ontario
Windsor	- Windsor