

Obituary HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Fellow of Institute of Management Services

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April 2021. During his long-life Prince Philip made a major contribution to British Life, his loss will be felt by many people and organisations including our own Institute as he was an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Management Services.

The Institute of Management Services is honoured that His Royal Highness had a long association with our Institute. At a special ceremony held in the Cholmondeley Terrace at the House of Lords on 24th November 1999 the Duke formally became an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Management Services.

His Royal Highness first became associated with the Institute of Management Services when in 1972 he agreed to become President of our Institute, a position he held until 1976. In accepting the Role of Institute President, he stated *"I stood for election because I believe that the aims and purposes of the Institute are extremely valuable to any organisation which hopes to be truly efficient. Anything which can save people wasting their time has my whole-hearted support."*

The first formal presidential duty of His Royal Highness was to preside at the 1972 Institute's National Conference held on 29th November at London's Hilton Hotel with 450 delegates in attendance.

In October 1999 His Royal Highness continued his involvement with the Institute by agreeing to be Patron of the 11th World Productivity Congress. This is the biennial event of the 'World Confederation of Productivity Sciences', and was held in Edinburgh, 3-6 October 1999.

In his foreword to the conference, Prince Philip said: "It was a great honour to be invited to be Patron of the 11th World Productivity Congress. Since I have been associated with the Institute of Management Services, under this and previous titles, I was delighted to accept, particularly as the Congress is to be held in Edinburgh.

It has always been evident that higher productivity benefits both employers and employees, but it will only be achieved as part of a wider package of efficient working practices, good working conditions and active collaboration across the whole spectrum of a company's activities.

I am quite sure that the co-hosts, the Edinburgh City Council, Napier University and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprises, will provide a very warm welcome for all the delegates. I am also certain that the Organisation of the Congress by the Institute of Management Services will provide ample opportunities for every aspect of the interests of members to be fully discussed. I have no doubt that the working sessions will be most valuable, but it is always during periods out of working hours when personal contacts are formed. Everything possible has been done to ensure that the Congress is a success and I hope you will enjoy it."

It is perhaps appropriate as we look back over the life of the IMS Fellow and Past President, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, and his involvement with the Institute of Management Services that we also review the life of this remarkable man who has had such an impact on our society and achieved so much for the good of Britain.

He was born at 'Mon Repos', on the island of Corfu in 1921. He renounced his Greek royal title in 1947 and became a naturalised British subject following service in the Royal Navy.

The Duke was head boy at Gordonstoun School and excelled at sports and physical activities. He was in active service in the Royal Navy throughout the second World War and is also a qualified pilot.

The Duke of Edinburgh prior to his retirement from public duties in 2017 had completed 22,219 solo engagements since 1952.

Although he was a Privy Counsellor, The Duke had no constitutional role. Prince Philip was a member of the House of Lords but has never spoken there owing to his proximity to the Queen, who remains politically neutral.

Science and technology were always a major interest and Prince Philip had been associated with the Industrial Society founded in 1918, now the Work Foundation. He visited research stations, laboratories and every kind of workplace in the UK, to see the practical effects of scientific research in society, and to learn about industry. He was always keen to promote the development of such professions in a constructive way.

In 1976, for example, as President of the Council of Engineering Institutions, he initiated the Fellowship of Engineering. This is now the Royal Academy of Engineering, which promotes engineering excellence and education.

The Duke of Edinburgh enjoyed painting in oils, which he described as 'an absorbing challenge, for which he had nothing like enough time'.

The Duke was the first member of the Royal Family to be interviewed on television. This took place in May 1961 when he was interviewed by Richard Dimbleby.

Sport has always been a passion of his. As well as sailing, he played cricket and took part regularly in polo until 1971. In his mid-80s, The Duke continued to compete in 'four in hand' carriage driving with his team of fell ponies. In the past, he has represented Britain in European and World Championships.

Developing leaders

The Duke was the founder of the Commonwealth Study Conference. Held every six years since 1956, the conference examines the human aspects of industrial issues in Commonwealth Nations, with the aim of developing industrial and business leaders of high quality.

The first Commonwealth Study Conference was convened in Oxford. It initiated a new process of dialogue between people who are likely to have company responsibilities across the whole spectrum of industry and commerce, on the subject of their relationships with the process of democratic management of communities.

The principal purpose of the conference is to broaden the perspective of potential leaders in management, trade unions and public administration, so that their decisions are based on a practical understanding of the influence of industries and commercial enterprises on the

general welfare of the civic entity. The principle of learning by observing and discussion was established from the inception and every opportunity is provided for opinions and assessments to be debated and talking with people from different backgrounds and with different perceptions.

The challenges of new technology, instant communications and global movement, as well as the changing aspirations of communities have to be faced by people in positions of responsibility. The intention of the conference is to expose the participants to the new experiences, new arguments and different perspectives, so that the quality and relevance of their decisions is improved.

Helping the youngsters

Since The Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme began, thousands of young people have gained the highest award. His Royal Highness personally presented the 'Gold' award.

Of the 75 medals and awards associated with The Duke of Edinburgh, the most unusual is the 'Silver Wink' award. Students at the University of Cambridge challenged Prince Philip to a 'tiddlywinks' match in 1958. The Duke appointed the 'Goons' – the radio comedy group including Peter Sellers and Spike Milligan – as his Royal Champions. The 'Silver Wink' has been awarded by The Duke since 1961 to the winner of the inter-university tiddlywinks competition.

During his time The Duke has been Patron or President of around 800 organisations, of which the Institute of Management Services is one.

Perhaps the other most significant activity in our relationship with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, was hosting a reception in November 1999 at the House of Lords, to bestow on him the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Management Services.

An invited audience of representatives from within the Institute's regional, branch and specialist group structure, along with several past chairmen heard Prince Philip refer to the many name changes the Institute had been through in its history, including the name at the time of his Presidency, 'The Institute of Practitioners in Work Study and Organisation and Methods'. He stated that he had to have oversized business cards to be able to fit in the name. More than 100 delegates attended, and the Duke made sure that he spoke to every person there. It was an evening to treasure.

The Institute of Management Services has indeed been honored to have had the Duke of Edinburgh as our President and an Honorary Fellow of our Institute and we to have benefited greatly from his wisdom and sound guidance.

The Institute sends sincere condolences to the Queen and all the Royal Family as we all share in the loss of Prince Philip a great man who did so much for the Britain and its people. May Prince Philip rest in peace.