

HONORARIUM

On the award of TMS Honorary Membership, 17 November 2010 to Professor Malcolm B. Hart



(1979–1983) and as Chairman of the Society itself (1989–1992). He also served as editor of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* from 1997 to 2003 and followed this with the Special Publications' editorship from 2003 to 2007. Add to this his presidency of the European Palaeontological Association, Council Membership of the Palaeontological Association and a term as President of the Devonshire Association and it becomes difficult to see where he found the time to develop his research career.

Malcolm soon moved from Newcastle to Plymouth, a location now synonymous with Cretaceous foraminiferal research, but in 1972 this was not the case. What Malcolm has achieved since then deserves full record. He has published over 180 research papers, edited and/or co-written eight books and supervised over 35 PhD students, the majority of whom have gone on to successful careers in stratigraphy, oceanography, petroleum exploration and applied palaeontology. The term 'majority' is used so as to give recognition to Liz Moxham, one of Malcolm's earliest students, who went on to a successful career in the Devon macramé basket-weaving industry.

The present author was first introduced to Malcolm Hart in 1973 when, as his first PhD student at Plymouth Polytechnic, I arrived at 18 Queen Anne Terrace (Earth Sciences moved to the salubrious 8 Queen Anne Terrace later the same year). On my arrival, Malcolm was away at a planktonic foraminifera conference and I found a note on my desk saying please choose any project from the list of five topics below or whatever else you're interested in doing. So much for close supervision. I chose one of the five: a study of Coniacian–Santonian foraminifera which had arisen from studies of the exploratory boreholes drilled for the Thames Barrier Project carried out by Dave Carter. He continued to be a loyal supporter of and co-worker in Malcolm's foraminiferal work over the decades (Carter & Hart, 1977a, b). This support was also apparent during the 1980s when Malcolm led the micropalaeontological investigations for the successful Channel Tunnel project (Harris *et al.*, 1996). This project was a reprise of the original studies completed by Dave Carter from 1963 to 1965 during a previous attempt to rejoin England to Europe.

Subsequent student research projects during the 1980s resulted in co-ventures with Eduardo Koutsoukos in Brazil, legendary trips to Oman with Mike Simmons and Steve Crittenden, and he even managed to organize a research project with Steve Packer in order to revisit one of his favourite holiday locations, the island of Bornholm. He has worked and published on the Cauvery Basin of southeast India and, during the 1990s and 2000s, was on the sections around Stevns Klint in Denmark so frequently that, at one stage, Danish stratigraphers thought he might have taken up permanent residence. Work on the Danish sections continues today. Most recently his collaborative studies with the University of Bristol have resulted in several cruises to the Lesser Antilles volcanic arc to study the microfaunal re-colonization of the seafloor following the volcanic eruptions on the island of Monserrat during the Holocene (Le Friant *et al.*, 2008).

Malcolm Hart became part of the British micropalaeontological community during his time at Imperial College, from 1966 to 1970, working with Dave Carter as his PhD supervisor on the Mid-Cretaceous foraminifera of southwestern England. On the completion of his doctoral research studies in 1970 he returned to the place of his birth, Northumberland, and took up a junior lectureship post at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Even at this early stage in his career his enthusiasm for his chosen subject carried through to his undergraduate students, with John Baines going on to a career in the oil industry and Paul Marshall following Malcolm's example in researching and making a career chasing foraminifera. In September 1970 these were probably two students he drove to Sheffield University in order to attend the inaugural meeting of the embryonic British Micropalaeontological Group.

We are celebrating not only the 40th Anniversary of the Micropalaeontological Society but also honouring one of its most stalwart members for those 40 years. For over half of the time that the Group – later the Society – has existed, Malcolm Hart has served on its committee; as its first full-time Treasurer (1972–1976), as the Chairman of the Foraminifera Group

This foray into modern-day sediments is not the only example of Malcolm Hart venturing outside the Cretaceous. Working with students, including Andy Henderson, Melissa Oxford and Wendy Hudson, research into the Jurassic origins of the planktonic foraminifera has led to publications on European Pliensbachian to Oxfordian sections (e.g. Oxford *et al.*, 2002). His love for, and dedication to, the coastline of southwestern England saw him invited to work on the development of a research strategy for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site in 2008. A year later, in September 2009, he proudly guided a boat load of Cretaceous specialists along that coast during the 8th International Symposium on the Cretaceous which met in Plymouth under his leadership. During the same year he also found time to publish a 240-page epic entitled *Dorset and East Devon, Landscape and geology* (Hart, 2009).

Malcolm's academic career at Plymouth saw him rise from Senior Lecturer in 1972 to Head of Department of Geological Sciences and he went on to become one of the first 'Poly Profs' in 1982, when he was awarded the title of Professor of Micropalaeontology. As Plymouth Polytechnic morphed into the University of Plymouth, Malcolm became Director of Research; he followed this as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and, finally, Associate Dean of Science (Research). He was also awarded a DSc by the University of London in 1993.

His teaching has always been of the highest quality and his support and encouragement for his students cannot be underestimated. He even joined Mike Simmons and Bruce Tocher in a departmental football team on the dubious grounds that he had gone to the same secondary school as Jackie and Bobby Charlton – but not as a contemporary. The outcome of this sporting venture typifies the man. He is reported to have taken up a steady mid-field role during the first half and not committed any outright howlers. Early in the second half, a loose ball fell at his feet near to the halfway line, he chipped it and it sailed gracefully over the opposition goalkeeper's head and buried itself in the goal net. Rather than be celebrated with the plaudits that come to goal scorers, he got himself substituted and retired from the pitch, no doubt to review the Cretaceous text of the *Stratigraphical Atlas of Fossil Foraminifera* (second edition, Hart *et al.*, 1989).

Malcolm Hart introduced the present author into the British Micropalaeontological Group, as it was then, as soon as I

arrived in Plymouth in September 1973. He has subsequently done the same with all his students of micropalaeontology, first from the Polytechnic and then the University. He has driven minibus loads of them to TMS meetings across the country or alternatively they have been directed to the rail system. His support for The Micropalaeontological Society has not wavered throughout its forty-year history and in response to, and recognition of, his contribution to both the society and the science of Micropalaeontology, The Micropalaeontological Society is pleased to grant Honorary Membership to Professor Malcolm Hart.

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