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**CEMENT AND
CONCRETE
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Obituary

R.H. Mills

Ronald Hewat Mills died on March 22, 2003 at the age of 80. He was one of the original members of the editorial board of Cement and Concrete Research.

Ron retired as a Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto in 1987, and remained active as Professor Emeritus until encountering health problems in 2000. After seeing active duty with the South African Air Force in World War II, he received his B.Sc. at the University of Witwatersrand (“Vits”) in 1949. He worked as an Engineer and General Manager for concrete manufacturing and construction firms for 2 years before becoming a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer at “Vits” between 1951 and 1966. During that time, he conducted extensive research, some of it with the mining industry and was also one of the developers of separately ground blast-furnace slag as a cementing material, known as “Slagment,” in South Africa. He also published significant work on hydration issues in concrete, building on the work of T.C. Powers. He worked against the apartheid regime, and while it may not have been his only motivation, as the situation became more and more personally untenable, he moved his family to Canada in 1966, and later became Chairman of the Dept. of Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary. He also obtained and made use of one of the first scanning electron microscopes (SEM) in North America, and won an ASTM award for one of his SEM photos, or as he called them “happy snaps” of concrete microstructure.

In 1969 Ron moved to the University of Toronto where he remained until his retirement. He was at various points of time a member of numerous technical societies including ACI, ASTM, ACerS, CSA, RILEM, ASCE, CSCE, FIP, and was a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers (SA). He was also a Fellow of Clare College at Cambridge University.

More importantly, Ron Mills was a colourful character, and a keen thinker who had an enormous scientific curiosity. He loved to cook and entertain, and often had all of his undergraduate class as well as graduate students over for dinner. At a memorial service held by his family for him at the University on April 8, it was apparent that he had an enormous positive influence on those around him and especially on his students. I know that he certainly sparked my interest in concrete materials and altered my career path, for which I will always be grateful.

Ron is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and two children: Helen and Hugh.

R.D. Hooton

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