

## **PAT SAXTON FCII**

### **An Appreciation**

Pat Saxton died in July just before his 70th birthday and many in BILA and elsewhere lost a good friend. His dedication to the CII and BILA brought him friends from all over the world, where he had travelled on behalf of the Chartered Insurance Institute as their Director General and to AIDA Congresses. He was, only last year, in Marrakech attending the latest AIDA Congress. Wherever Pat went, his pipe went with him, and his very special brand of laughter could be heard across a crowded room identifying his presence. He had a great interest in photography and could often be seen snapping away at BILA events.

After leaving school, Pat served in the Merchant Navy, later undertaking National Service with the Royal Artillery. His insurance career began with the Caledonian Insurance Company and he later joined Willis Faber where he broked French Marine Hull risks. When he joined the CII as their Careers Advisory Officer he had had valuable experience on both sides of the fence (underwriting and broking). He spent his time visiting schools and universities, becoming an Honorary Member of the Institute of Career Officers. Later, he became Secretary (Technical and Insurance Matters) responsible for the CII Library, and had a large input into the Institute Examinations for ACII and FCII. He succeeded Donald McMurdie (BILA Chairman in 1967/68) to become Director General and on retirement, handed over the reins to Dr David Bland, the present Director General.

BILA will always be grateful to Pat. He was Organising Secretary of the London Colloquium in 1971 and assisted Dr Gordon Shaw, the Congress Director, for the AIDA VIth World Congress at the Festival Hall in April 1982, during the period when he was BILA Chairman. It is easy to forget all the hard work put in by Pat (and others) to make these events the successes they obviously were.

Pat made a considerable input to the BILA Sub-Committee, formed in 1992 to consider possible reforms in Insurance law, and drafted our findings which were published later in an edition of the BILA Journal. His command of the English language was invaluable.

Pat had also been President of the Croydon Insurance Institute, his wife Vee having also been President some years previously. Vee (short for Vera), who sadly died before Pat, had been Life Manager of the GRE office in Croydon.

Up to the last few months, Pat (a Vice President of BILA), was still an enthusiastic member of the BILA Committee and Chairman of the BILA Charitable Trust, one of the many Charitable Organisations that he had served faithfully over a long period, not least the Insurance Benevolent Fund.

During his illness, he remained cheerful and optimistic, facing up to cancer with a strength of will supported by a strong religious faith. The many friends and former

colleagues who attended his funeral in Beckenham, including Michael Müller-Stüler (BILA Treasurer in the late 70s and 80s and like Pat, a tireless member of the Organising Committee for AIDA Vith Congress 1982) who flew over specially from Germany, were a tribute to a person greatly admired and what is more important, liked by all who knew him.

**Derrick Cole**