

OBITUARY DERRICK OWLES

Derrick Owles, who died on a business visit to Frankfurt on 10 October 1991 had a remarkable career or rather a series of careers. A graduate in law, he early qualified as a Chartered Secretary and subsequently as a Certified Accountant and a Management Accountant. After holding various industrial posts, he practised accountancy and later joined IBM on its entry to the British market in 1956. He was influential in the field of electronic data processing for insurers. IBM called him to New York in 1965. Taking early retirement four years later he began teaching business law at various American Universities. A thesis on company law and corporate charity earned him a Ph.D.

After a second retirement he returned to England to lecture and write. He wrote regular columns for many years in legal journals and in *Product Liability International*. He was the author of numerous books including 'The Development of Product Liability in the USA'. One of his last tasks was to prepare a second edition of a *Financial Times* management report (written with Hugh Cockerell) on 'Liability for Defective Services'.

Derrick was also a linguist. It was at the Linguists' Club in London that he met his future wife Margot. They married in 1941. Their partnership of 50 years was fruitful in every way. Together they wrote two books for lay people, 'The Husband and Wife Business Partnership' and 'Independent Taxation'.

A modest man, Derrick had the gift of imparting in simple words the fruits of his wide and deep knowledge. In business, whatever he promised, was fulfilled with promptitude. Hence his popularity with publishers and editors. To know him was to like, even to love him. He will be much missed at BILA meetings which he regularly attended.

Hugh Cockerell