

MAURICE GEORGE SAY
MSc, PhD, DSc, DIC, CEng, HonFIEE, FIERE, FGCLI

Professor 'Dick' Say, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, for thirty years, died on 14th November 1992, aged 90. He was born in London on June 8th, 1902, the second son of Henry Robert Say and Elizabeth Sarah Say (née Eckersall). He completed his schooling at Colfe's Grammar School, and entered the Imperial College, London, where he studied Electrical Engineering under that great triumvirate, Professors T Mather, G W O Howe and S Parker Smith, graduating in 1921 with First Class Honours in the BSc (Engineering). His postgraduate studies established his lifelong interests in electrical machinery; his MSc was on the subject of AC Commutator Machines, his PhD, also from the Imperial College, considered Railway Electrification, upon which he collaborated with Sir Philip Dawson, Electrical Engineer to the LBSC Railway, and upon which he published a number of papers.

After a brief spell in industry, he entered an academic career in 1926 with an appointment as Assistant, at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, (now the University of Strathclyde). He was appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering at the then Heriot-Watt College in 1933 and was head of the department until his retirement in 1963. During these 30 years he published widely, in books and articles, and enhanced the name of the College at home and abroad; his reputation undoubtedly contributed, with that of others, to the elevation of the 'Watt' to University status in 1966.

His books were widely known and used in teaching and in industry. They included *Performance and Design of AC Machines* (Pitman) 1936; *AC Machines* (Pitman) 5th edn 1983; *Unified Theory of Electromagnetic Machines* (Pitman) 1971; *Electrical Engineer's Reference Book* (Newnes-Butterworths) 1st edn 1945 ... 15th edn 1993.

Dick Say gave freely of his time to advisory bodies such as the International Electrotechnical Commission and the British Standards Institution. He took an active part in the Institution of Electrical Engineers, particularly in connection with its examinations; he gave the 1960/61 series of the prestigious Faraday Lectures of the Institution. He gave notable service to the Council of Engineering Institutions and to the Engineering Council.

He was known as an inspiring teacher, demanding high standards of himself and others in both theoretical and practical work. Many of his students were later to reach senior appointments in industrial and academic life, and he was widely applauded when his professional contributions were recognised in 1985 by Heriot-Watt University in the award of the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

After his retirement he remained active as a consultant and an examiner. He is survived by his wife Eileen Mary Ashworth, whom he married in 1926, and his son David.

I wish to acknowledge assistance, in the preparation of this notice, of obituaries published by Heriot-Watt University and the Institution of Electrical Engineers and of help from Professor C W Davidson.

G R NICOLL