

OBITUARY

HAROLD A. JOHNSON

1907-1972

THE DEATH of HAROLD A. JOHNSON on 9 January 1972 deprived the heat transfer community of an outstanding and dedicated teacher, researcher, and leader, and, perhaps most of all, of a compassionate, considerate and loyal compatriot.

Professor Johnson was born in Oakland, California on May 19, 1907, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering, B.S. 1929, M.S. 1931 and after experience in industry and in teaching, he returned in 1941 to the Department of Mechanical Engineering on the Berkeley campus. This connection he maintained as Professor of Mechanical Engineering, until the time of his sudden passing. He was, in 1965 to 1967, Professor at the Birla Institute of Technology.

He was one of Professor L. M. K. Boelter's first graduate students and he collaborated with Professor Boelter and V. H. Cherry in the preparation and issue of the Heat Transfer Notes in 1933, in the revision of 1941, and he edited the late formal publication of these Notes (McGraw-Hill, 1965). His particular tribute to Professor Boelter was his editorship of the Boelter Anniversary Volume (McGraw-Hill, 1964).

His former students will recall Professor Johnson in some connection with his research which, chronologically, was concerned with the practical formulation of periodic heat conduction, with various problems of fog dispersal, with aerodynamic heating and boundary layer heat transfer, with convection to liquid metals, and with transient boiling. Others will recall him in terms of his publications, which always revealed his care in experiment and in the intelligible presentation of the results.

Professor Johnson was a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Chairman of its Heat Transfer Division in 1960, and recipient of the Division Memorial Award in 1971. He was influential in the early period of the Heat Transfer and Fluid Mechanics Institute and was its Chairman in 1953.

His widest influence in research, teaching, and in Society and academic administration was through the consultation that so many will recall. This is what many will remember the longest and miss the most.

R. A. SEBAN