

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFESSOR ALASTAIR M. NORTH O.B.E.

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ALASTAIR MACARTHUR NORTH

1. Career Summary

After studying at Aberdeen Grammar School and graduating B.Sc. with honours in chemistry from Aberdeen University, I moved to Birmingham to work with Sir Harry Melville in what was, in the 1950s, the top school of polymer science in the United Kingdom. During my period at Birmingham my immediate supervisor, George Burnett, was appointed to the Chair of Chemistry at Aberdeen University, and I accompanied him to nucleate his research group in polymer chemistry.

While completing research for the degree of Ph.D. at Aberdeen University I was appointed Assistant Lecturer. Then followed a year as a postdoctoral fellow with Professor S.W. Benson in the University of Southern California, and a further year as an ICI research fellow with Professor C.E.H. Bawn at the University of Liverpool. In 1959 I was appointed lecturer in the Department of Inorganic, Physical and Industrial Chemistry, University of Liverpool, where I worked with Professor Bawn until my appointment in 1967 to the Burmah Chair of Physical Chemistry at Strathclyde University.

At Strathclyde, as well as being Head of Physical Chemistry, I served as Chairman of the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Dean of the School of Chemical and Materials Sciences, Vice-Principal and Deputy Principal of the University.

During my years as lecturer and professor my interests in research in polymer science, and in science education led to a number of appointments to committees and advisory bodies. The most significant of these were probably those associated with the Science and Engineering Research Council and of the Scottish Central Committee for Science (which is responsible to the Secretary of State for all science curricula in Scottish schools). The research work has been further recognized by the award of a D.Sc. (Aberdeen) and Doctor of Science (Lodz, honoris causa), the Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society and Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

In 1983 I was appointed President of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, which post I held until retirement in 1996. In Thailand I have been appointed Visiting Professor at Chiang Mai and Mahidol Universities. My work in AIT has been recognized by the honours, Officer in the most Illustrious Order of the British Empire (U.K.), Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (France), Commander in the Order of King Leopold II (Belgium), Prasidda Prabala Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (Nepal) and the Honorary Degrees: Doctor of Philosophy (Ramkhamhaeng University, honoris causa, Thailand), Doctor of the University (Strathclyde, honoris causa, U.K.), Docteur Honoris Causa (Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, France), Doctor of Technology (AIT, honoris causa) and Doctor of Laws (Aberdeen, honoris causa).

In 1998 I was appointed by the Alumni of AIT as Executive Director of their new international development consortium called AIT Alumni Network Ltd.. This was a joint venture

of Alumni and their companies offering consulting services for a wide range of development projects in Asia.

Since retirement from AIT I have been also Adviser to the President of Alpine Real Estate Company Limited (1996-1997) and Visiting Professor in Mahidol and Chiang Mai Universities, Adviser to the President, Ch. Karnchang Public Company Limited, Adviser to the White Group Public Company Limited and Consultant to the University of Strathclyde.

2. Personal Details

Date of Birth	2 April 1932
Place of Birth	Aberdeen
Marital Status	Married, four sons and two daughters

3. Honors

Officer in the Most Illustrious Order of the British Empire
Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (France)
Commander in the Order of King Leopold II (Belgium)
Prasidda Prabala Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (Nepal)

4. Academic Details

Education

1937-50	Aberdeen Grammar School Dux and Gold Medallist
1954	B.Sc., First Class Honours, Aberdeen University
1957	Ph.D., Aberdeen University (Research carried out at Universities of Birmingham and Aberdeen)

Academic Awards

1965	D.Sc., Aberdeen University
1965	Faraday Society - Marlow Medal
1971	Fellow of Royal Institute of Chemistry
1971	Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh
1978	Doctor of Science, honoris causa Technical University of Lodz, Poland
1991	Doctor of Philosophy, honoris causa Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand
1992	Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
1993	Doctor of the University, honoris causa Strathclyde University, U.K.

1995	Docteur honoris causa, Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, France
1997	Doctor of Technology, honoris causa, Asian Institute of Technology
1998	Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, University of Aberdeen

Academic Appointments

1956-57	Assistant Lecturer, Aberdeen University
1957-58	Research Fellow, University of Southern California
1958-59	ICI Fellow, University of Liverpool
1959-67	Lecturer in Inorganic, Physical and Industrial Chemistry, University of Liverpool
1967-83	Burmah Professor Physical Chemistry, University of Strathclyde
1972-75	Dean, School of Chemical and Materials Sciences, University of Strathclyde
1976-80	Vice-Principal, University of Strathclyde
1980-81	Deputy Principal, University of Strathclyde
1983-96	President and Professor of Applied Science, Asian Institute of Technology
1984-2003	Visiting Professor, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai
1989-date	Visiting Professor, Mahidol University, Bangkok
1998-2001	Executive Director, AIT Alumni Network

5. Extra-Mural Appointments - U.K.

British Government Research Committees

1968-69	Ministry of Defence, Materials Committee
1972-75	Science Research Council Polymer Science Committee
1980-82	Chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council Non-Metallics Subcommittee
1980-83	Member, then Chairman, SERC Materials Committee
1982-83	Member, SERC Engineering Board
1980-83	ILL European Neutron Beam Facility Polymer Science Subcommittee

Government Education Committees

1971-78	Scottish Certificate of Education Examining Board, Chemistry Panel (Convener 1971-76)
1971-72, 1979-83	Scottish Central Committee on Science, then Chairman
1971-72, 1978-81	Scottish Central Subcommittee on Chemistry
1978-81	CNAA Chemistry Board
1979-83	CNAA Council for Scotland

Professional Committees

1972-83	Committee, British High Polymer Research Group
1975-78	Council, Faraday Division of the Chemical Society
1978-81	Executive Committee: Association of University Teachers (Scotland)

Editorial Boards and Advisory Panels

1966-79	J. Macromolecular Science, Macromolecular Reviews (Marcel Dekker)
1970-83	Advances in Molecular Relaxation Processes (Elsevier)
1970-90	Polymer (IPC Science and Technology Press)
1970-83	Russian J. Physical Chemistry - English Translation (Pergamon)
1978-83	Rev. Reactive Intermediates (Verlag Chemie Int.)
1980-83	Polymer Photochemistry (Appl. Science Publishers)

Industrial Consultancies

1965-68	British Oxygen Company
1966-72	Shell (Carrington Plastics Labs.)
1974-83	Dunlop Rubber Company

6. Research

The principal theme of the research undertaken between 1957 and 1983 was to relate the physical and chemical behaviour of polymer systems to their chemical structure through an understanding of molecular behaviour. This was done by considering how the chemistry and environment of macromolecules affect their molecular motion, and how this in turn controls the macroscopic behaviour. The work involved three stages:-

- (a) the development of new techniques (such as dielectric, ultrasonic viscoelastic and luminescence relaxation) for studying molecular behaviour;
- (b) the study of molecular motion and energy migration in liquids and in polymers;
- (c) the relationship between molecular transport and macroscopic behaviour such as chemical reactivity, electro-optic properties and mechanical performance.

7. Publications

Two books on kinetics and reactions in liquids and one on molecular motion in polymers. Four edited books on transfer and storage of energy by molecules, and one on molecular behaviour of polymer materials. More than one hundred papers on the kinetics of polymer reactions, diffusion controlled molecular processes, the study of molecular motion by dielectric ultrasonic viscoelastic and luminescence relaxation techniques, and photo-physics of polymers.

8. Asian Institute of Technology

The Asian Institute of Technology is an autonomous international post-graduate school established to assist technological development of the countries of the Asia Pacific Region through high level teaching, research and out-reach activities.

Heater M. K. H.