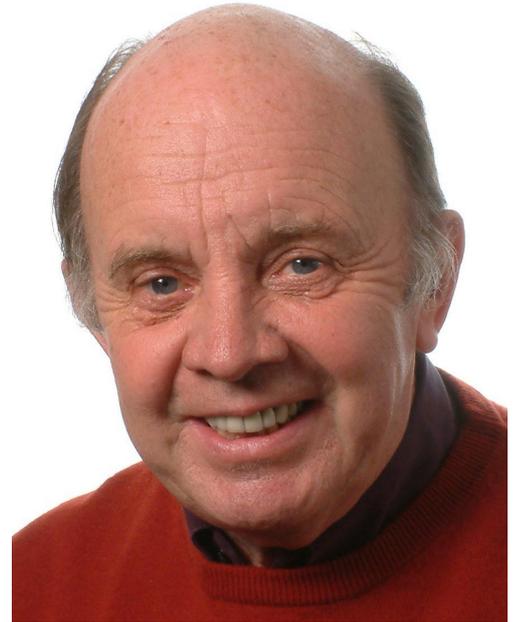


## Edmund 'Ted' Wilson 1938 – 2016

It is with great sorrow that we mourn Edmund 'Ted' Wilson, who died on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 after a short illness.

Ted was born on 18 March 1938 in Liverpool, the son of school teacher John Wesley Wilson and nurse Anna Wilson. His passion for mathematics and physics was quickly recognized by his teachers at the Liverpool Institute High School for Boys, leading him to be accepted at Oxford University, where he graduated in Physics in 1959. Ted first worked in experimental particle dynamics at the Rutherford Laboratory but soon became interested in the theory of particle accelerators. He moved to CERN in Switzerland in 1967, to become right-hand man to Sir John Adams - the "father" of the giant particle accelerators, preparing the design of the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS), which was CERN's first underground accelerator. - seven kilometers in circumference and stretching across the border between Switzerland and France. During SPS construction, Ted spent a sabbatical at Fermilab near Chicago, where he brought his experience to bear in coaxing Fermilab's new 500 GeV synchrotron into life. Ted returned to CERN to lead the commissioning of SPS before joining CERN's ground breaking Antiproton Accumulator team which converted the SPS into a proton-antiproton collider. It was while working in this ground that Ted established a strong friendship with Fang Shouxian - the director of China's Institute of High Energy Physics, who had been seconded by the Chinese government to work with the physicists at CERN on the antiproton accumulator project. That friendship led Ted to travel to China on a number of occasions in the early 1980s as a guest of the government in a period when there were few links of any kind between China and the West. It is difficult to appreciate today just how unusual such collaboration was at that time. Ted achieved this in part through force of personality, a great sense of humour and natural diplomacy but also his underlying belief, gained through his work at CERN, in the value of international scientific collaboration. Throughout his career he worked with laboratories across the globe, including Germany, Russia, the US and Japan. He was also a true internationalist, in his private life, he met his German wife Monika, while working in Switzerland and took Swiss nationality after 50 years of residence. In the later stages of his career and in retirement Ted turned his attention to inspiring international groups of young mathematicians and physicists in the design and use of particle accelerators in a variety of applications including medical science. He spent twelve years as head of the CERN Accelerator School, and wrote *An Introduction to Particle Accelerators (OUP)*.



In 2004, Ted rekindled his connection with Oxford University, becoming Visiting Professor in the John Adams Institute for Accelerator Science (JAI) where he taught the post-graduate course on Accelerator Science, which he did for more than 10 years, introducing a new generation of students to accelerators. He was instrumental in devising the innovative Accelerator Design Project which the students do in their second term, where they apply the skills that they have learnt to a practical project. Ted's contribution to the JAI was enormous, and helped establish the JAI training scheme as one of the best around. In 2007, he authored (with Andy Sessler) a history of accelerators, *Engines of Discovery; a Century of Particle Accelerators (World Scientific)*.

Ted believed the language of mathematics to be deeply intertwined with the language of music and this showed in his lifelong passion for classical music and opera. He was a keen and talented amateur pianist and singer and never happier than on his frequent visits to the opera.

Ted was a great accelerator physicist and an inspired and inspiring teacher. He was an engaging and entertaining companion, being one of those people who, while being quite serious about everything, never take themselves too seriously; he lived life to the full, doing as much good as he could along the way.

Ted is survived by his wife Monika, his three sons, Martin, Alexander and Nicholas and five grandchildren. Our thoughts are with them. He will be much missed.