

Letter from the Editor

A Note of Appreciation to Bryant Mather: An Editorial by R. D. Hooton, Editor-in-Chief

In February 2000, I had the privilege of attending and participating in Bryant Mather's retirement as Director of the Structures Laboratory of the Waterway Experiment Station (WES) after 59 years of service. It was an enjoyable occasion and celebrated the contributions of an amazing man. Just to keep the record straight, Bryant will maintain his office at WES and will continue to represent the Army Corps of Engineers at ASTM.

ASTM records show that Bryant joined ASTM Committee C09 on January 1, 1946, and Committee C01 on Cement on October 1, 1954. It is interesting to note that Bryant is not the longest serving C09 member as this honor belongs to Charles Britzius, who joined in 1938. However, Bryant is the longest serving member who, with rare exception, still attends all meetings. Although Committee C09 has over 600 members, Bryant's presence is felt by everyone at our semi-annual meetings—and certainly those within earshot. Bryant has served in many capacities on both C01 and C09 including those of Chairman in the 1960s. He has served as President of ASTM (back before they changed it to the Chairman of the Board). He is both a C01, C09, and Society Honorary member. He was awarded the ASTM Award of Merit in 1959, the Sanford E. Thompson Award in 1961, and the Frank E. Richart Award in 1972. By my records, he is still active on 11 subcommittees on C09 and 4 on C01.

In the 1900s, Committee C09 established the Katharine and Bryant Mather Award, which is awarded every three years to a committee or subcommittee officer "who has performed the administrative and managerial duties of the position(s) in an exceptional manner so as to enhance the status of concrete technology as a discipline." This was the brain child of the late Jack Scanlon as a way of using the funds remaining after the Katharine and Bryant Mather International Conference on Concrete Durability held in 1987. It is not surprising that the award task group selected Bryant to be the first recipient.

While not all those who attend ASTM meetings agree with his views, he always says something worth listening to, he challenges others, stimulates those around him, and raises the intellectual level

as well as the level of humor at the meetings. His impact on improving the quality of standards is widespread.

Because of his prowess with the English language, and his encyclopedic knowledge of ASTM Regulations and the Form and Style Manual, Bryant continues to keep the chairmen of meetings in line on a regular basis and, even with recent vision problems, continues to find both editorial and technical errors in letter ballots.

Bryant's energy in support of ASTM seems boundless, and I thought I would share some of this with the readers of *Cement, Concrete, and Aggregates*. Again, congratulations, Bryant, on your retirement, and I trust it will not prevent your continued efforts in support of the activities of ASTM Committees C01 and C09.



Doug Hooton (left) and Bryant Mather (right), Feb. 15, 2000, at Bryant's retirement dinner, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

