JCI ‘Jim’ Dooge (1922-2010)

Professor James Clement Ignatius ‘Jim’ Dooge passed way on August 20, 2010 in Monkstown County, Ireland. He was born on July 30, 1922 at Birkenhead, Cheshire UK. Dooge graduated as a civil engineer from University College, Dublin in 1942, and continued studies later at the University of Iowa, Iowa City IA. After return to Europe he was a design engineer until 1958 at the Energy Supply Board ESB when being appointed professor of civil engineering at University College, Cork. From 1970 to 1984, Dooge had the same position at University College, Dublin. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1981 to 1982, Leader of the Irish Senate then to 1987, and later consultant of UN specialized agencies of the EC. From 1987 to 1990 he was president of the Royal Irish Academy. Dooge was a Member of IAHR from 1955 and of the Intl. Association for Hydrological Sciences IAHS from 1959, then Member of the Executive Bureau of the Intl. Union for Geodesy and Geophysics until 1987, presiding over the Intl. Council of Scientific Unions ICSU from 1993 to 1996. He was a Member of various learned Societies, received numerous awards from professional associations, and was awarded several honorary doctorates. He was awarded Honorary Member of IAHR at the 2001 Beijing IAHR World Congress.

Dooge submitted his ME Thesis on Unsteady flow in open channels to the Dublin University College in 1952 and his MS Thesis on Synthetic unit hydrographs based on triangular inflow in 1956 to the University of Iowa. During his stay at ESB he was concerned with the stability of jets from ski jumps, a project which he also presented in 1957 at the 7th IAHR Congress in Lisbon. Once in Cork, he devoted his interest to hydrologic processes, including a hydrologic balance of the 17th century, or a paper on the advance of hydrological concepts in Britain and Ireland during the 18th and 19th centuries. He also was an organizer of the Tercentenary of Scientific Hydrology, held
in Paris in 1974. All through his life he was interested in the history of science. Noteworthy is his work on the Irish engineer Robert Manning (1816-1897) on which he wrote an essay, thereby particularly highlighting Manning’s contributions to the still much used Manning formula.

Dooge was excellently sketched in a Profile presented in the July/August 1981 Issue of the British journal New Civil Engineer International. It states that ‘The remarkable thing about the man is that he has held down two separate, full time successful careers, politics and civil engineering. He is not an engineer who has turned to politics in later life: Both careers have run in parallel’. He was a pioneer in the unit hydrograph method which was used in flood analysis from the late 1950s. He was an excellent negotiator, but also a formidable human being who always gave you the impression that you were important for him and close to him. He was an attractive companion and an excellent speaker. Once Jim started talking, you felt comforted and relaxed by his slow and lilting Irish voice.

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