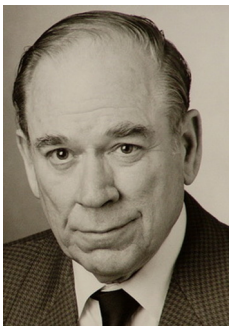
In Memoriam
A Tribute to the Life and Legacy of Professor Jack P. Holman



Jack Philip Holman (1934–2013), Ph.D., P.E., Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and alumnus of the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering, Southern Methodist University (SMU), and ASME Fellow, passed away on May 1.

Jack received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from SMU in 1955 and 1956, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree from Oklahoma State University in 1958, all in Mechanical Engineering. Immediately after his Ph.D., he joined the Air Force Aerospace Research Laboratory for 2 yr of active duty, and then returned to the SMU hilltop as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. After 45 yr of teaching at SMU, having served terms as head of SMU's department of civil and mechanical engineering and as assistant provost for instructional media, he officially retired in 2005 as the Brown Foundation Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Author of *Experimental Methods for Engineers* (1st ed. 1966) and *Thermodynamics* (1st ed. 1969), it was, however, his first book, *Heat Transfer*, published originally in 1963, that began establishing him as a pioneer and leader in engineering education. Generations of mechanical engineers at SMU and all around the world have learned their "first steps" in Heat Transfer from his book. All three books, published by McGraw-Hill, have been reprinted innumerous times and translated into at least six languages. When once asked why it was so difficult for one to "finish" writing a book, Jack answered, with his customary smile: "We never finish writing it; we simply have to give up on it to get it published!"

A prolific researcher, Jack served as principal investigator for research sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission, the NSF, NASA, and the EPA. He also conducted research for the Strategic Defense Initiative—the Ronald Reagan-era program known as "Star Wars." Jack embraced the true cycle of the academic profession: learn well to profess best. He was an investigator of the truth. As Professor Arun Narasinham, who worked for Jack during his tenure at SMU, best describes it: "Flannelled always in three piece with the tie-pin in place, holding the bagel wrapped in a brown paper bag and coffee, short Hercule Poirot strides in polished black shoes, present always a few minutes earlier at 7:15 a.m. in our morning race to office, walking into the laboratory constantly reminding me not to jump up from my seat on seeing him."

Recognition for his extraordinary work began very early with the Mechanical Engineer of the Year award from the North Texas Section of the ASME in 1961, and continued throughout his career. From all his awards, the ones he probably was most fond of were the 13 "Outstanding Faculty Award" bestowed upon him by the SMU engineering students. Member of a special breed of engineering professors currently at the verge of extinction, his concern for the current erosion of American engineering teaching was genuine: "If our time in academia is spent mostly after grants, who will teach these kids engineering?"

Also notable recognitions received by him were the *George Westinghouse Award* from the ASEE received in 1972; the *James Harry Potter Gold Medal* by the ASME, for "eminent achievement or distinguished service in the science of thermodynamics in mechanical engineering" in 1986; the *Worcester Reed Warner Gold Medal* distinguished literature award of the ASME, in 1987; and, the *Ralph Coats Roe Award* from the Mechanical Engineering Division of the ASEE received in 1995, in recognition of his many "notable professional contributions." These recognitions placed him among several Thermal science "giants," such as Professors Bejan, Borgnakke, Gyftopoulos, Howell, Incropera, Lienhard, London, Minkowycz, and Sparrow. Even with all this recognition, his humility was always evident and contagious: "José, seeking to know what we do not keep us alive and young." he often said.

Jack was also a brave man. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he agreed in 2003 to have a Deep Brain Stimulator implanted in his head. Even during this trying period, he transpired happiness by greeting me every day: "What is new, jolly José?" The surgery was very successful and provided him with a good quality of life.

An avid singer, particularly of opera, he was a member of the Lovers Lane United Methodist Church choir for over 50 yr. Photography was another of his passions, one that we shared: he would often hang large, colored printouts of pictures he took, particularly during his trips to Manhattan, in the walls of his office as if to invite comments and analyses of those visiting him.

He was a shepherd, an icon, a gentle human being. I do not believe he has ever been aware of how broad and deep his influence has been. I used to tell him about it, but he always dismissed me with the same smile he greeted me. He seemed too humble to admit it, as if it was all unimportant to him—he knew well his life's mission.

It was not only his books, his writings, or even his smile that characterize Jack the most. It was his love for the truth, for the pleasure of teaching something to someone, the love of giving without expecting anything in return.

The Professor Holman I meet in 1983 through his Heat Transfer book, while in my junior year in a Brazilian university, was privileged to meet personally in 1991, became a colleague and grew to admire at SMU for over 20 yr, will forever be remembered.

That the sadness the deprivation of his company brings, be comforted by the good lessons he taught us.

Jack is survived by his loving wife, Kathy, his son Blake, daughter Bevin, and three wonderful grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the Sanctuary at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church May 23.

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