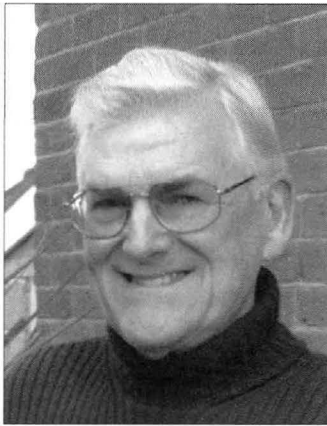


Obituary

Lt Cdr Alan Ingham RN (Retd), ARICS 1932-2002

Alan Ingham, who died in Cheltenham, UK on 20 May, was a prominent figure in the hydrographic world from the late 1960's to the early 1980's, having been the founding Hon Secretary of The Hydrographic Society as well as a noted author and educationalist. He was also acknowledged as a landscape artist of some note.



Alan Ingham

He was born in Skipton, Yorkshire on 25 October 1932. After a formative education at the local grammar school, he enlisted at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth at the age of 13 preparatory to beginning naval service proper aboard the cadet training cruiser, HMS *Devonshire*, in 1950. In all, his naval career spanned 19 years. Aside from service in domestic waters, it included numerous postings abroad in the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions as well as exchange service with the Royal New Zealand Navy with whom he commanded the survey vessel, HMNZS *Tarapunga* in 1960-61, having joined the Royal Navy's Surveying Service four years earlier.

Following retirement from the RN in 1965, he later accepted an invitation to lecture on Hydrographic Surveying at Waltham Forest Technical College (later to become in 1970 North East London Polytechnic, and now the University of East London). Joining the College's Department of Land Surveying in 1968, he progressively established his academic credentials by not only boosting student intake for a subject previously untaught outside the Royal Navy but also with authorship of two seminal books, **Hydrography for the Surveyor and Engineer** and **Sea Surveying**. Published in 1974 and 1975 respectively and since revised, they remain to this day required reading for aspiring students of hydrography and associated disciplines.

Beyond the confines of the classroom, Alan also devoted much time to wider, more professional aspects of hydrography with promotion and presentation of papers on educational issues at home and overseas in addition to active membership of the RICS's Education and Hydrographic Surveyors' committees. Abroad also, at the Wiesbaden 1971 Congress, he was elected Chairman of FIG's Working Group 413 charged with establishing internationally recognised standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors, the precursor of today's joint FIG-IHO Advisory Board of which he was a founding member.

By this time he had become increasingly preoccupied with reconciling the needs of training and education with those of the offshore engineering and port industries. It was a concern that subsequently led to him becoming instrumental in establishing The Hydrographic Society on 24 March 1972. As Hon Secretary, his was the driving-force behind this fledgling enterprise staffed by a select band of unpaid fellow-enthusiasts (among them as Membership Secretary, his wife, Rose) with the support of the then North East London Polytechnic and Rear Admiral Steve Ritchie as founding President. He remained Hon Secretary of The Society until his retirement from academic fulfilment in 1984 and was duly elected its first Emeritus Member.

Retirement enabled Alan to concentrate on a pursuit that had always been close to his heart - painting. His was a singular talent which was to be assiduously honed and refined during the course of his life. The source of his inspiration was mainly - but not exclusively - the English countryside which he painted with a cartographic eye for detail and a discernment of nature at its most pastoral.

From his latter-day home-based studio at Staverton, a small rural village just outside Cheltenham, Alan's handiwork continued to attract many admirers - among them, the leading art publishers, Washington Green of Birmingham. Not long after his relocation from Essex to Gloucestershire in 1984, his work as a landscape artist became increasingly sought after with well over 1200 original works and countless prints to be found in private and institutional collections worldwide. Later, in 1996, his fame was commemorated with a lavish publication of his works, *Under a Watercolour Sky*, coinciding with major exhibitions in Birmingham and London. Published by Washington Green with a foreword by Steve Ritchie and featuring some of his finest work, it is now something of a collector's item.

He indulged his endless fascination with colour and content until April of this year before finally succumbing to the ravages of cancer a few weeks later. He leaves his wife, Rose (his childhood sweetheart whom he married on New Year's Day, 1955) and daughter Beverley together with her husband and two children, to whom we extend sympathy in remembrance of a life led to the full with a generosity of spirit and intent now sadly missed by many friends, colleagues and admirers throughout the world.

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