

Dr Deric Daniel WATERS *ISO, BBS*

Dr Deric Daniel Waters was born in 1920 in Norwich, England. From his birthplace where “there’s a pub for every day of the year and a church for every week” to his adopted home of Hong Kong, Dr Waters has led a rich and colourful life, making contributions to the community wearing many different hats: soldier, businessman, colonial officer, educator, author and heritage conservationist.

During the Second World War, Dr Waters “took the King’s shilling” and served as a Desert Rat with the famous Eighth Army in combat in the deserts of North Africa. Sir Winston Churchill, Britain’s wartime prime minister, had said “After the war is over it will be enough to say, ‘I fought with the Eighth Army!’” Later he fought with the American Fifth Army in the Salerno and Anzio invasions of Italy. Dr Waters was Mentioned in Despatches and wounded three times, still carrying some of the landmine fragments in his body.

After the war, Dr Waters returned to the family construction business established by his great grandfather in 1853. Some of his work as managing director of the company was related to the restoration of ancient buildings. He also studied at Norwich City College, and later taught building science there. Seeds of his later work as both educator and conservationist were planted.

Overcome by a strong desire of seeing the world again, Dr Waters joined the Colonial Office, sold his family business, and set sail for Hong Kong in the autumn of 1954 before he had even met any Chinese person. He started by teaching at the old red-brick Technical College (since demolished) in Wood Road, Wan Chai. He became the head of its Department of Building, Surveying & Structural Engineering in 1963 after it had moved to Hung Hom. It would become the forerunner of the present Polytechnic University. In 1969, he was made the founding principal of the Morrison Hill Technical Institute.

Dr Waters was transferred to the Education Department Headquarters in 1972, and became Assistant Director for Technical Education in 1974. Under his watch, five technical institutes were established during the 1970s. He retired from the government in 1980, and was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order for his contribution to education. In his long and distinguished career as an educator, Dr Waters has been well regarded by his numerous students. In fact, a group of his former students, whom he taught in the 1950s and 1960s, still keep up the habit of inviting their beloved teacher for a meal every month.

Believing in the motto of “Learning is a continuous process,” Dr Waters truly acts upon this belief, and opens perhaps an even more fruitful chapter after retirement. Thinking that learning would keep him young, Dr Waters obtained his PhD from Loughborough University in 1985, setting what must be a record in his 65th year.

Dr Waters is a prolific author as well. One of his books, *Understanding Technical English* (1973), which he co-authored, sold over one million copies worldwide. His other books and articles, many of them with the theme of East meeting West, include *21st Century Management: Keeping Ahead of the Japanese and Chinese*, *Faces of Hong Kong: An Old Hand's Reflections*, and *One Couple Two Cultures: 81 Western-Chinese Couples Talk about Love and Marriage*.

In retirement, Dr Waters remains very active in serving the community. He was President of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch from 1996 to 2001, and remains an Honorary Fellow. He has contributed more than 70 articles to the RASHKB journal and other publications. An avid letter-writer, Dr Waters, who wrote his first letter to an editor 70 years ago in England, contributes regularly to the *South China Morning Post*; an impressive total of 58 letters have been published over the years, according to one count.

Nominated by RASHKB, Dr Waters became a member of the Antiquities Advisory Board in the 1990s. During his eight years of service, he regularly went all over Hong Kong to grade buildings on the weekend. Among the historical buildings he graded was St. John's Cathedral. In recognition of his valuable contribution to heritage conservation work, the HKSAR Government awarded Dr Waters a Bronze Bauhinia Star in 1998.

Sports is another childhood habit that has stayed with Dr Waters. He was a British Eastern Counties weight-lifting record holder shortly after the war. He obtained a Black Belt in Karate at 57, ran marathons in his mid-60s, and holds 800- and 1,500-metre Hong Kong All-comers running records in the over-70-years-old veterans Class. Celebrating his 94th birthday next month, Dr Waters still exercises on a regular basis, and believes that early to bed early to rise is important for health.

Mr Chairman, for his long and distinguished service to the community of Hong Kong for six decades, may I present Dr Deric Daniel Waters to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation delivered by Prof James Rice

華德斯博士

華德斯博士於1920年在英國諾里奇出生。從「每天可上酒吧，每周可上教堂」的出生地到其後移居的香港，華博士的生活多采多姿。他曾經參軍、從商、擔任殖民地官員，亦曾從事教育、寫作和文物保育，在許多不同崗位上對社會貢獻良多。

第二次世界大戰期間，華博士曾在軍中服役，隸屬於英軍「沙漠之鼠」裝甲師，曾隨著名的第八軍參與北非沙漠戰役。英國戰時內閣首相邱吉爾曾說：「戰爭過後，只說：『我曾經隨第八軍作戰』已經足夠！」其後，華博士又隨第八軍聯同美國第五軍攻打意大利的沙勒諾和安奇奧。他曾經三次在陣中受傷，體內仍有地雷碎片，其英勇戰績在當時的戰報中獲得表彰。

戰後，華博士重投其曾祖父於1853年創辦的家族建築企業，出任公司的董事總經理，當時部分工作與修復古代建築有關。他亦入讀諾里奇城市大學，其後更在該校任教建築科學，為他後期擔任教育家及保育家播下種子。

由於極之渴望再度探索世界，華博士加入殖民部，並賣掉家族企業，於1954年秋天啟航前往香港；在此之前，他不曾遇見過一個中國人。他最初在灣仔活道以紅磚建成的前香港工業專門學院(已拆卸)任教。其後於1963年，該學院遷往紅磡後，他成為建築、測量及結構工程學系系主任，而該學院正是香港理工大學的前身。1969年，他獲委任為摩利臣山工業學院的創校院長。

華博士於1972年被調往教育署總部，1974年成為工業教育助理總監。在他的監督下，香港於1970年代創立了五所工業學院。華博士於1980年退休。由於對教育界貢獻良多，獲頒帝國服務勳章。在他投身多年而成就卓越的教育家生涯當中，華博士備受門生尊崇。事實上，他在1950至1960年代教導過的一群學生，至今依然每月一次邀請他們敬愛的老師一起進餐。

華博士以「學海無涯」為座右銘，並貫徹這信念，在退休後展開可說是人生中更豐富多采的一頁。他相信繼續求學令人年輕，於1985年以65之齡在英國羅浮堡大學取得哲學博士學位，創下了紀錄。

華博士亦是一位多產作家。其中一本與另一位作家合著、於1973年出版的書籍 *Understanding Technical English*，暢銷全球，售出逾100萬本。在他的其他作品和文章中，許多皆以東西匯聚為主題，其中包括 *21st Century Management: Keeping Ahead of the Japanese and Chinese*、*Faces of Hong Kong: An Old Hand's Reflection*，以及 *One Couple Two Cultures: 81 Western-Chinese Couples Talk about Love and Marriage*。

退休後，華博士依舊樂此不疲為社會服務。1996至2001年間，他擔任英國皇家亞洲學會香港分會會長，現時仍是該會的榮譽研究員。他先後為該會的期刊及其他刊物撰寫了逾70篇文章。華博士並熱衷於執筆書函，早於70年前在英國時首次致函一位編輯，其書函定期在《南華早報》出現。根據一項統計，這些年來該報刊刊登了共58封由華博士執筆的書函！

華博士獲英國皇家亞洲學會香港分會提名，於1990年代成為古物諮詢委員會委員。在八年任期間，他每逢周末便走遍香港，把建築物分級，聖約翰大教堂便是由他列為歷史建築的其中一幢建築物。華博士於1998年獲香港特別行政區頒授銅紫荊星章，以表揚他對文物保育工作的寶貴貢獻。

運動是華博士從小至今的習慣。戰後不久，他曾成為英國東郡的舉重紀錄保持者。其後他在57歲時考獲空手道黑帶；於65歲左右參加馬拉松賽跑；並保持著70歲以上資深運動員全港公開組800及1,500米賽跑紀錄。華博士下月即年屆94歲，依然保持定時運動的習慣，並且認為早睡早起對健康至關重要。

主席先生，為表揚華博士60年來對香港社會長久而卓越的服務，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予華德斯博士。

英文贊辭由James Rice教授宣讀