

John Anthony Allan, BA, PhD, H died in London on 15th April 2021 at the age of 83. Tony Allan was a geographer who spent most of his working life at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. He had a strong interest in remote sensing but, especially in his later career, he made a highly significant contribution to the study of water resources (and his concept of virtual water). This resulted in his seminal text of 2001, *The Middle East Water Question: Hydropolitics and the Global Economy*. He was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize in 2008 in recognition of his contribution to water science. The award has similar status to a Nobel Prize. Details of that aspect of his career can be found in obituaries in the *Guardian* of 7th May 2021 and in *Water International*, 46(3): 451-453 (2021).

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 29th January 1937, Allan was educated at Dame Allan's School in that city where he became troop leader, senior scouts of the 72nd Newcastle Scout Group. Outdoor scout activities complemented his love of geography. He benefited from the teaching and influence of a brilliant geographer and specialist in the Mediterranean lands, D. S. Walker, before going up to University College, Durham where he gained First Class Honours in the subject in 1958. His introduction to survey came through his National Service with the Royal Engineers in the Aden Protectorate and Oman.

Tony Allan completed his PhD on water management in Libya at SOAS in 1971 and always maintained an interest in water and in Middle Eastern and North African affairs. Whilst working at SOAS, he had wide interests in research and he is remembered as a broad minded scholar, blessed with curiosity and excitement at new ideas. When he retired from SOAS in 2002, he continued to contribute to the study of water resources, as an Emeritus Professor at King's College London. He was an interdisciplinary scholar *par excellence*.

When the MSc in Remote Sensing course was established at University College London in 1987 (the first graduate degree in the subject in the United Kingdom), Allan was highly involved and he continued to teach on the course until his retirement. He understood the importance of photogrammetry and encouraged the inclusion of geometric underpinning of satellite imagery in the course. He used photogrammetry in his research when appropriate and appreciated the need for a rigorous approach to mapping.

Allan joined the Photogrammetric Society in 1969 and remained a member of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, of which he was an Honorary Fellow, until his death. He was a member of the Photogrammetric Society Council from 1981 – 1990 and was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 1997. He served as Chairman of the UK National Committee for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing from 1992 to 1996. He also contributed to ISPRS as an advisor in a number of capacities.

Tony Allan will be remembered by colleagues and students as a charming man, a brilliant scholar and a sympathetic teacher who made a significant contribution to the understanding of environmental science on a global scale.