



John Gates BSc, MSc, DSc, DIC, CPhys, HonFRPS, left, receives the RSPSoc Award 2004 from the Society's President, Prof. David Rhind. © Copyright P. R. T. Newby.

John Gates was awarded the RSPSoc Founders Award in 2004.

Citation: "For Services to Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry".

The award was presented on Wednesday 7th September 2005 at the Society's Awards Ceremony during RSPSoc2005, the Annual Conference of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, in Portsmouth, UK. Further information follows overleaf.

John W. C. Gates BSc, MSc, DSc, DIC, CPhys, HonFRPS.

Citation - For Services to Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry

John Gates was born in December 1922. He has been a member of the Society for 25 years. He was awarded the Photogrammetric Society President's Medal in 1983. The Citation for that Award can be found in the *Photogrammetric Record*, 11 (63): 328-329 for April 1984. John Gates served as President of ISPRS Commission V from 1980 to 1984, presiding over an extremely successful Technical Symposium of ISPRS at York in 1982.

His career with Ilford, the Royal Aircraft Establishment and the National Physical Laboratory was distinguished. After retirement from the Civil Service, he held a visiting professorship at University College London. Although a good impression of Gates's work may be obtained from the Photogrammetric Record citation, it should be added that his profound knowledge of optics and his rigorous approach to the subject had the distinction of drawing the attention of Dr Dow Smith, one of the key scientists working on the Corona satellite programme for the Itek Corporation in America.

In the first half of the 1960s, John Gates had brought attention to basic wave optics limitations in information transfer at a meeting of the Institute of Physics Optical Group. As a result of this, and other comments he had made on the subject, in 1966-67 Dr Dow Smith attempted and almost succeeded in persuading John Gates to join Itek. Had this happened, he would have joined the small and elite group of scientists working on the, then, very advanced Corona camera system, but instead family events intervened. As a result, Gates remained in England where he continued a very distinguished career in optics and metrology.

In the succeeding years many people have had cause to thank John Gates for the benefit of his help and insight into photographic science and optics and for the very high professional and academic standards he has always set. He has supported the Society and the discipline in several ways, not least by his regular attendance at meetings over many years. It would seem appropriate that his contribution should be recognised by awarding him the Society Award, the highest award made by the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society for his contributions to physics, optics, photography, photogrammetry and holography.