



OBE for Professor Paul Mather

Professor Paul Mather was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2002. The award was "*for services to the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society.*" Paul has been involved with the leadership and administration of the old Remote Sensing Society for many years, as Hon. Gen. Secretary, Chairman, and Vice-President. He is now an adviser to the Council of the new society.

Paul is Professor of Geographical Information Science at the University of Nottingham, a position he has held since 1988. He was instrumental in relocating the Society's office to Nottingham in 1986, and has been responsible to Council for the operation of the office, and for relationships with the University of Nottingham since that time. Most of his academic career has been spent at Nottingham. He joined the staff as Demonstrator in Physical Geography in 1966, after taking a first degree in geography at Cambridge. He completed his PhD (on glacial sediments) in 1969 and – after a year at Manchester University – rejoined the staff of the University of Nottingham in 1970. Since then, he has published many papers and books on quantitative and computer-oriented aspects of spatial data analysis and remote sensing, and has helped to organise numbers of conferences and meetings on remote sensing topics, including the *Terra* series of meetings during the 1990s.

On hearing the news of his nomination for the OBE, Paul said "This is a tremendous honour, and one of which I am very proud – not for myself, because there are lots of people out there who do much more valuable and useful work than I ever could, but for the field of remote sensing and photogrammetry in general and for the Society in particular. I see it as public recognition of the importance of the new Society in disseminating knowledge and awareness of our field, and I hope that we can take the initiative and help to develop the Society even further."

Our non-UK members may like to know that the Order of the British Empire is an honour presented by Queen Elizabeth II for service to society. Professor Mather points out – in deference to our American members – that the existence of the Award does not imply that the War of Independence is to be resumed. The association with the now-defunct British Empire is purely historic!