

John William Charles Gates, BSc, MSc, DSc, DIC, CPhys, HonFRPS (1922 – 2013)



John Gates (left) receiving the Gold Medal for the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society Award from Prof. David Rhind in 2005.

The name John Gates will be associated with an extensive knowledge of both optics and photographic science. He died in hospital at the age of 90 on 10th July 2013. In 1978, the work done by John Gates at the UK National Physical Laboratory and in applying photogrammetry in metrology led to him becoming Chairman of the Working Group of Commission V of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) which was concerned with non-conventional imaging systems. This was a position that, given his very wide experience in applied physics, enabled him to appreciate the new opportunities then opening up. When, in 1980, the United Kingdom assumed responsibility for ISPRS Commission V for a four-year period, it was a logical choice for John Gates to then become President of that Commission. Gates presided over a most successful technical symposium of Commission V held at the University of York in 1982. The symposium had the theme “Precision and Speed in Close Range Photogrammetry”.