



JOHN SOHRE
1927 - 2010

Dedication

It is rare that one comes across a person of the stature of John Sohre who contributed so significantly to the turbomachinery industry and positively influenced engineers for over three decades. A bulk of his seminal work was done at a critical juncture in the evolution of high speed turbomachinery when new problems and design concepts were being developed and machines were outpacing the analytical tools available at the time. John had the ability to blend superb theoretical work with practical and field engineering expertise. He made prolific contributions to turbomachinery design, practical troubleshooting and shaft current technology with his work being published at the Turbomachinery Symposium and at ASME forums. During his long and distinguished career, John worked as Design Section head at Elliott, and then at Terry Steam Turbines, where he was responsible for the thermodynamic and mechanical design of the JS line of turbines. He had a long and successful consulting career founding Sohre Turbomachinery in 1971, a leading company in the design and manufacture of shaft grounding brushes.

John was a man of great integrity and humility, and would always take the time to explain technical issues to me while I was a young inexperienced engineer. John's contributions have shaped and molded the consciousness of several turbomachinery specialists. He will long be remembered as one of the most distinguished engineers of our times. — *Cyrus Meher-Homji, Engineering Fellow and Senior Principal Engineer, Bechtel Corporation, Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Member*

John Sohre was a great engineer, human being and a leader in the Turbomachinery field.

In 1972 as chair of the First Advisory Committee we were looking for speakers to launch the First Turbomachinery Symposium. The name that was most prominent on the committees' mind was that of John Sohre, since most of us on the advisory committee had worked with him on many projects, and were familiar with his prodigious repertoire of technical papers and his ability to hold spellbound technical audiences. This being the First Symposium of its type in the field of Turbomachinery the speakers had to be excellent to ensure the success of the Symposium. Looking back from where we stand today, some forty years later, we can say without any hesitation that we achieved our goals, and thank our speakers at that first symposium like John Sohre that helped us reach our goal. He was not only one of our first speakers but was afterwards a regular speaker and a tutorial lecturer at the symposium from then on.

John and his wife Nora emigrated from East Germany after many trials and tribulations. He became a senior compressor designer at Elliott Company; subsequently he became chief engineer at Terry Steam Turbine of Windsor, Connecticut. There he was personally responsible for, and designed a state-of-the-art test facility, and also designed a new line of innovative, high-performance mechanical-drive steam turbines. Many of these machines are still in service, driving high speed compressors in refineries, or making electricity in power stations.

After retiring from Terry he became an internationally recognized turbomachinery consultant, and founded Sohre Turbomachinery, troubleshooting machinery worldwide, and writing technical papers still used and cited today. I was privileged to work with him on a number of consulting projects. He invented a high performance, high reliability bristle type fiber grounding brushes for use in shaft grounding (shaft earthing) of all types of stray electrical shaft currents. His invention makes steam turbines safer and more reliable. The company's products have been used on every continent, and are also on the international space station.

My wife Zarine and I had the pleasure of knowing John and his wife Nora for many years. They were good friends, and John was a good friend of the Turbomachinery Symposium and the Turbomachinery Laboratory. I also had the privilege of working with him on consultation projects and he was always a fountain of knowledge.

We have lost a great friend and engineer. The Turbomachinery community will greatly miss him but it has been enriched immensely by his many contributions. — *Meherwan P. Boyce, Chairman, The Boyce Consultancy Group, LLC, Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Founding Member*



CHARLIE JACKSON
1929 - 2010

Dedication

Charlie was not only my mentor, he was my friend.

Charlie was instrumental in advancing the technology for modern rotating equipment. Without Charlie's knowledge, persistence, sense of humor, and dedication, the road to where we are today, as it relates to rotating equipment, would have been much slower and more painful for the rotating equipment engineers of the world. He was the first to embrace new technologies that would bring understanding, knowledge, and make rotating equipment more reliable. With devotion to the understanding of rotating equipment and their issues, Charlie, together with men of his era such as Don Bently, Bernie Herbage, Jerry Wilkerson, Ed Nelson, and the relatively few others of that day, took the old equipment designs and advanced them to today's modern turbomachinery and its technology. The laws of physics do not change, we just need to continue to learn and understand how these laws apply to our chosen profession, and Charlie was always at the forefront of pushing that learning curve.

Charlie would help freely any rotating equipment engineer with understanding and advice. He was at ease talking to CEOs or a fresh graduate and never talked down to anyone, even when they would not listen to his advice. Charlie spent as much time in the field as in an office and countless hours working on API Standards and the Texas A&M Turbomachinery Symposium.

The best memories I have of Charlie were when, once a year, we took three days off and went hunting together. We had our three days together for 25+ years, and most of the time, when we weren't in a deer stand, we sat and discussed turbomachinery. Very few people would have enjoyed our conversations. Charlie loved Jesus, his family, the outdoors, Texas A&M, and turbomachinery. We rarely shot anything but had great discussions about many different items and issues. Charlie did not care for chicken or people who would ask for his help, then argue with him concerning his advice.

I cannot say enough about Charlie other than he was like a second father to me, and there was not an Aggie joke that Charlie had not heard. — *Charles R. Rutan, retired, Senior Engineering Advisor, Specialty Engineering, with LyondellBasell, Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Member*

Charlie hired me when I graduated and immediately immersed me in the turbomachinery world. My first project was 12 design audits of new machinery for a new ethylene plant. Then followed testing of the turbines and compressors, and then installation and startup. I learned from the beginning how all this was done right. Charlie didn't know another way. He said "We're not installing problems." I worked for Charlie for nine years and learned a lifetime's worth in that time. I certainly could not be where I am today were it not for that education and molding in Charlie's capable hands. On top of him being my mentor, Charlie was a great friend. I learned a great deal about life and living from Charlie. Charlie was bigger than life. He got me involved in the Turbo Symposium and the Vibration Institute. He helped me learn how to write a good technical paper, and how to present before a group. After he retired from Monsanto, we stayed close, often having lunch together or long phone conversations. Discussing a technical problem or a design issue with Charlie was like opening the biggest turbomachinery encyclopedia on the planet. If he didn't know something, he knew where to look for the answer or he knew someone who could help. He introduced me to some of the most knowledgeable people. Charlie Jackson was the single most influential person in my life and I will miss him forever. I will always live my life and do my job assuming he is looking over my shoulder because, in a way, he will be. — *Malcolm E. Leader, Turbomachinery Consultant and Owner of Applied Machinery Dynamics*

Charlie Jackson "an Aggie's Aggie" was a figure that most persons who knew him cannot forget for his total commitment and zest with which he led his life and undertook the promotion of the Turbomachinery Symposium. When I first approached and promoted to Dr. C. M. Simmang, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the concept of the Turbomachinery Symposium in September 1971, he introduced me to Charlie Jackson telling me that you will need help in getting the petrochemical industry behind this program, and he could not think of a more committed engineer to both Texas A&M and the petrochemical industry than Charlie Jackson. Charlie then set about helping me put together the First Advisory Committee of the Turbomachinery Symposium. As part of the First Symposium in October of 1972, he was our first luncheon speaker and being a great supporter of the Aggie Football Team he gave a speech entitled "A Tie Is like Kissing Your Sister." He delivered his speech with the Charlie Jackson Zest and had all in the audience rocking with laughter. He was famous at the Turbomachinery Symposium for doing the "Jackson Jig" with his good friend and colleague Al Campbell playing the Bag Pipes.

Charlie was an Outstanding Engineer, a 1950 Graduate of Texas A&M University, a Senior Fellow for Monsanto Polymers and Petrochemicals Co., a founding member of “The Vibration Institute,” and a founding Director of the Advisory Committee. The Vibration Institute established a \$20,000 scholarship for mechanical engineering students at A&M in his honor. He published a book, “The Practical Vibration Primer,” in 1979, which sold 9,000 copies, and authored two chapters in a *Handbook on Mechanical Design*. His book has recently been republished. He was a member of the Advisory Committee for more than 30 years.

Charlie was a good friend and colleague. I and the entire Turbomachinery Community were blessed by knowing him and will miss him greatly. — *Meherwan P. Boyce, Chairman, The Boyce Consultancy Group, LLC, Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Founding Member*

Charlie brought another dimension to our corner of the world that I always valued highly. He realized it’s possible to take yourself and life too seriously. So, Charlie also had fun with everything he did and wanted you to laugh and enjoy it as much as he did! — *Stephen R Locke, Senior Consultant, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Member*

Everyone will agree that Charlie made a huge contribution to the field of rotordynamics and the solution to vibration problems in general.

One of the things that I remember the most about Charlie was his great sense of humor. He always added humor to his presentations, which is greatly lacking today.

I wished that we had a video of Charlie and Al Campbell marching through the exhibit area playing the Aggie War Hymn! — *Donald R. Smith, Senior Staff Engineer, Engineering Dynamics Inc., Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Member*

We are all better off for the work and the training that these men have done. Their work lives on in all of us and in the next generation of machinery engineers. — *Bruce Bayless, Valero Energy Corporation, Turbomachinery Symposium Advisory Committee Member*