



Professor Raoul Franklin CBE

3 June 1935 - 7 October 2021

The Worshipful Company of Educators are sorry to inform you of the sad news of the death of Raoul Franklin the Foundation Master. As some of you may be aware he had not been well for a number of years, and he slipped away on the night of 6/7 October, at his home, apparently in his sleep.

Raoul was a physicist, working in the field of plasma physics, and was Vice-Chancellor of the City University for 20 years. During this time he sought to establish the Educators.

Sir John Stuttard (Past Master and Former Lord Mayor) wrote:

From the initial idea, in the late 1990s, of forming a livery company focused on education, Professor Raoul Franklin CBE, was a driving force, assisted by Keith Lawrey who was the Honorary Clerk for many years. When the Guild of Educators was founded on 24th May 2001, Raoul became its first (Foundation) Master. Later that year he presided over the Inaugural Annual Lecture (now entitled the Franklin Lecture in his honour) which was presented at London Guildhall University in November 2001.

As Sponsoring Alderman, I was proud to admit Raoul as the first Freeman of the Guild at the first ceremony of Admission to the Freedom in February 2002. In recent years we have been sad not to see him, through illness which has confined him to his home in Oxford, but it was a delight to all of us that he could attend the ceremony and banquet at Mansion House in February 2014 when the Educators was granted its letters patent to become a livery company. Raoul was, truly, the founder of the Company as the first Freeman as well as being its first Master. We are indebted to him for his vision, his determination and his leadership.

There will be a fairly small family funeral, with a memorial service probably in Oxford at a later date, please contact the Clerk@co-educators.com if you wish to be informed of the memorial.

Raoul is survived by his widow, Christine Franklin, and well as by his two sons Robert and Nicholas.