

Henry Turner 1918-2004

Henry Turner was a founding members of both the British Suzuki Institute and the European Suzuki Association. He was a member of the BSI's Executive Committee for many years and also, with great distinction, on the ESA and ISA Boards of Directors.

Richard Henry Turner was born in Copenhagen on 18th December 1918. His father was a British diplomat and his mother came from a prominent Danish family. When Henry was about six the family left Denmark and he arrived in Scotland, speaking only Danish. However, he soon learned English and forgot nearly all his Danish. His parents were posted in various places around Europe and Henry and his brother went to school in the UK and spent much of their time with their cousins in St Andrews. Henry also spent two years in Vienna when he was in his teens; his great love of music was nurtured by many visits to the Opera there and he also became a fluent German speaker.

After finishing school in Scotland, Henry Turner studied modern languages at Queen's College Oxford, starting before the Second World War, and graduating after it. During the war he was commissioned and served in the army in Malta and later in Normandy. He lost his brother and never spoke about his own experiences, except for remembering with great pleasure the end of the war, when he and his cousin were among the first British soldiers to be warmly welcomed to Denmark after the liberation, in their case by members of their own family.

After graduating from Oxford, Henry Turner joined the Bank of England where his long and distinguished career took him to a number of countries, especially in the Middle and Far East. Henry married Anne Murray in 1960, and they spent the first years of their married life in Kuwait. Henry was seconded to advise the government there on the establishment of a currency board, and Anne had to give up her career as a professional musician. Their first two children were born in Kuwait and the third shortly after their return.

Anne's interest in Suzuki piano teaching and her visits to Matsumoto coincided with Henry's retirement from the Bank of England. He became a support not just for Anne, but for the whole Suzuki movement. He helped with the foundation of both the British Suzuki Institute and the European Suzuki Association in 1978-1980. Later he took on various administrative and board roles, always giving freely of his time and his great experience and wisdom.

Whenever Dr and Mrs Suzuki visited the UK, which they did several times during the 1980s, they stayed with Anne and Henry at Little Abbotsbury in Hertfordshire and enjoyed their marvellous hospitality with Henry preparing delicious meals. Henry also provided support and advice to Mrs Suzuki, who often asked him to help her with speeches and messages in English. During one of their visits, Mrs Suzuki travelled to visit relations in Germany, while Dr Suzuki stayed and was well looked after at Little Abbotsbury. The family, some of whom were in their teens at the time, still vividly remember Dr Suzuki's cheerful early morning calls to them all. Henry, on the other hand, was used to rising early and working in his garden from 6 in the morning before going off to the City of London.

Henry Turner was deputy chairman of ESA from 1987-1995 and was then appointed honorary vice-president. He also retired from long service on the board of the International Suzuki Association in 1995 and was appointed Honorary Board Member. He was a trustee until his death of both the European Suzuki Teaching Development Trust and the Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Development Fund.

Henry had many interests in addition to music. He was widely read, having been a keen reader from childhood; he was a good golfer and a lifelong member of the R&A at St. Andrews, the home of golf. He was also a keen gardener and in later life an excellent cook. During his visit to the Suzuki World Convention in Dublin, in between meetings, he was interviewed on a radio programme about cooking and gave away some of his favourite recipes on air. He was not just tolerant of, but very kind and welcoming to all Anne's students and parents who came through their house and garden. In his work for the Suzuki community, he gave freely and generously of his huge knowledge and experience. He had a

sharp and perceptive mind and a wonderful sense of humour, but there was no sharpness in his manner, which was unfailingly courteous and gentle.

He will be greatly missed not just by his family who adored him, but by all his friends, including many in the Suzuki world.

Birte Kelly