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### **ENGINEERING HISTORY PAPER #97**

## **“A Short History of the Athlone Fellowship” (Revision 3)**

**by R. L. Bob Hemmings**

October 2021

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# **A Short History of The Athlone Fellowship**

**One of the Finest Examples of UK-Canada Cooperation  
in Engineering Education**

**By**

**R. L. Bob Hemmings**

**A 1962 Athlone Fellow**

**From the University of Alberta**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Revision**

**October, 2021**

# **My History of the Athlone Fellowship**

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This is not a formal history of the Athlone Fellowship, but a work of reflection, collection, and memory recovery. Names, characters, organizations, places, events, and incidents are either extracts of public documents, information gleaned from hours of internet research, and recovery of memories some of which date back over 55 years. These memories may have been distorted with the passing of time, but reflect the author's concepts of the occurrences depicted. The work uses information from many sources, including letters of some Athlone Fellows, of the current year or two, as well as those that were included in the available Athlone Fellowship Newsletters.

The work is in four parts:

**Part 1      A Short History of the Athlone Fellowship**

**Part 2      Letters from Athlone Fellows**

**Part 3      Extracts from the Athlone Newsletters**

**Part 4      My Athlone Memories**

This work is mainly for my wife, my children, and my grandchildren, and for many interested Athlone Fellows.

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# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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## One of the Finest Examples of UK-Canada Cooperation in Engineering Education

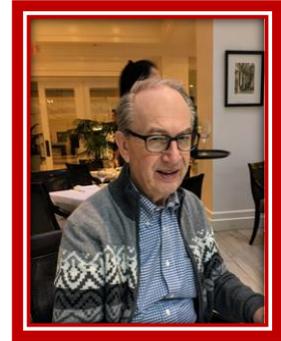


By R L (Bob) Hemmings

Athlone Fellow IC 1962

BSc. Chemical Engineering, University of  
Alberta, 1962

PhD, DIC, Chemical Engineering, Imperial  
College, 1965



### Forward

I began this work as I noticed that I was growing older, and had not yet told my children, let alone my grandchildren, why, where and how I had earned my advanced degree. When I recently mentioned the **Athlone Fellowship Program**, even to educators, I was greeted by a blank look, as if I was speaking in a foreign language. So I decided to undertake a search for some documentation of the **Program**. That was when I discovered that there was little documentation easily available. So, I tried to use whatever resources I could find to compile this **Short History of the Athlone Fellowship**.

And, what was the Athlone Fellowship Program? It was a unique honour and opportunity for recognition of significant Engineering talent, designed for Canadian graduate engineers to take either 1 or 2 years to gain British engineering experience, either academic or industrial. It was thought that, when the Athlone Fellows returned to Canada, such experience would eventually lead to sales of British engineering products and services and thus increase British trade with Canada, to the benefit of both countries. The program began in 1951 and continued for 20 years, to the direct benefit of 810 Canadian engineering graduates.

By chance, one of my close friends is also an Imperial College (IC) Athlone Fellow, Ron Weir (UNB Athlone at IC 1963), passed my name on to Gary Elfstrom (UBC Athlone at IC 1968) who was organizing the **2017 Summer "Athlones at IC" Conference**. After sharing much information, he also passed on my need for Athlone information to those Athlones that he knew. Many other Athlone Fellows, and some of their friends, passed on information to me, including: Dwight Aplevich, Jack Banks, Tom Carter, Peter Castle, Murray Clamen, George Davies, Neville Davis, Bill DeCoursey, Robert Frederking, Ken Johns, Neil MacKenzie, Ken Montgomery, Fred Parkinson, Arthur Plumpton, Ian

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Rowe, John Sankey, Brian Staples, David Stone, Eric Thomson, and more as the Project expanded.

And my wife Micheline gave me her encouragement and enthusiasm when I got stuck.

Armed with this support, I began serious organization of the information that has been shared with me. This document is one of the results.

Other documents that I have developed (or in some cases, still am developing) include:

- *Letters by Athlone Fellows* containing:
  - 13 letters dated in 2018 or later, as a result of my request;
  - an article entitled "*Jolly Good Fellows*", featuring comments by 7 Athlone Fellows in the Imperial College Newsletter of Spring 2018, pages 20-23, compiled by William Ham Bevin;
  - 2 letters from the Imperial College Newsletter of Winter 2016-2017, page 3; and
  - All the letters that were published in the Athlone Fellowship Newsletters, #1 to #16 (1956-1972).
- *My own Athlone Story*, hopefully to be finished this year (2018)
- *Selected Extracts from the Athlone Fellowship Newsletters*, from #1 to #16.

And, as a result of perusing all the available information, I have come to more fully appreciate, and to have pride, too, in being a part of the **Athlone Fellowship Program**.

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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## Introduction

The Athlone Fellowship Program came into being in 1951, and continued for 20 years until it was terminated in 1970. It was initially identified as the *Athlone Fellowship Scheme*, but I find that the word “**scheme**” has some negative connotations, so I use the word *Program* instead. And I also use, inconsistently, the North American spelling where I am not repeating input from UK sources.

During those 20 years the total number of Fellowships awarded was 810 and the following table shows the relative distribution of Fellowships since 1951:

Year	2 yrs industry or industrial consultants	2 yrs university college or research lab	Mixed Course	1 yr only *=university **=industry	Total
1951	8	21	8	1*	38
1952	4	17	13	1*	35
1953	16	10	10	1*	37
1954	10	9	15	2(1*,1**)	36
1955	7	11	17	2 (1*,1**)	37
1956	1	19	16	2*	38
1957	2	27	7	-	36
1958	-	20	17	1**	38
1959	-	27	14	-	41
1960	1	27	12	-	40
1961	1	29	10	-	40
1962	-	21	18	1*	40
1963	2	25	14	1*	42
1964	1	23	13	5*	42
1965	-	22	13	9 (8*,1**)	44
1966	1	25	12	6*	44
1967	-	26	10	9 (8*, 1**)	45
1968	-	26	7	10 (9*, 1**)	43
1969	1	24	10	12 (11*, 1**)	47
1970	1	19	9	18 (17*, 1**)	47
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>810</b>

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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## The Origin of the Athlone Fellowships Program

It has been stated in the brief note on Governors General of Canada, in the on-line Canadian Encyclopedia, that “The Earl of Athlone created the Athlone-Vanier Engineering Fellowship at the Engineering Institute of Canada, recognizing academic excellence, leadership and management potential.” But more evidence of that activity is difficult to find, as is how it became the “Athlone-Vanier” rather than the “Athlone” Fellowship.

I have also discovered the following information on the origin of the Athlone Fellowships, extracted from Grace’s Guide to British Industrial History, which is an brief Obituary of Lord Athlone. [Grace’s Guide is the leading source of historical information on industry and manufacturing in Britain. This web publication contains 127,453 pages of information and 201,038 images on early companies, their products and the people who designed and built them.]

## The Earl of Athlone Obituary

### **Major-General Alexander Augustus Frederick William Alfred George Cambridge (1874–1957)–1957**

The Right Hon. the Earl of Athlone, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.M.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., F.R.S., who died in London on 16th January 1957, was elected an Honorary Member of the Institution in 1936.

The Earl was born at Kensington Palace on 14th April 1874, the third son of the late Duke of Teck and the late Princess Mary Adelaide.

He had been Personal A.D.C. to H.M. the Queen since 1953, and before that to the late King George VI. He was an Honorary Major-General, retired, and a late Captain Seventh Hussars and Royal Horse Guards, and Second Life Guards. He served in Matabeleland 1896, in South Africa 1899–1900, and in the 1914–18 war. From 1923 to 1931 he was Governor-General of the Union of South Africa.

During the 1939–45 war the Earl of Athlone became Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada. During his term of office from 1940 to 1946 he and the Countess were extremely popular in Canada. **When the scheme for giving Canadian engineering graduates post-graduate training in Britain (which was later to become known as the Athlone Fellowship Scheme) was inaugurated, just after the conclusion of the war, it was decided in view of his strong link with Canada to invite the Earl of Athlone to become patron of the Scheme. He agreed most readily to have his name associated with it.**

**The Earl showed the greatest interest in the Athlone Fellowship Scheme from its inception and he attended some of the receptions given for the Fellows.**

## My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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During my own Athlone Fellowship interview, way back in 1962, I was told, if my memory is still working OK, that the main purpose of the Athlone Fellowship Program was to expose promising engineers from Canada to the British engineering and manufacturing industries. The idea was that, through this exposure, the Canadian engineers would specify British engineering products and thus expand British engineering industrial products and, further, increase British exports. This memory fragment is supported by the preamble of the British Board of Trade booklet on the Athlone Fellowship, detailed later in this work, in the Section entitled “**The Athlone Program Description**”.

There was an article on the formation of the **Athlone Fellowship Program** presented in 1953 by Dr. W. Abbott, C.M.G., O.B.E., Ph.D., B.Sc.(Eng.), M.I.Mech.E., at a joint meeting of The Institution of Civil Engineers, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and The Institution of Electrical Engineers on the 10th April, 1953.

The paper was published in the Proceedings I.E.E. (1953, 100, Part I, p. 221); and both the paper and the discussion, in the Proceedings of Mech.E. (A, 1953, 167, No. 3). It is reported that in introducing the author, the President of the meeting said that it was difficult to determine exactly where the Athlone Fellowship Scheme had originated, but it had been very much associated with governmental visits between Canada and the United Kingdom, perhaps more concerned with economic affairs originally and spreading later into the educational field. As a result the Government had commissioned Sir Arthur Fleming, a Past-President of The Institution, and Dr. Abbott to go to Canada and report upon how arrangements could be made for the post-graduate training of Canadians in the UK.

The next step had been that a number of Canadian professors had visited UK universities and examined their training schemes, and had then reported favourably on the planned Athlone scheme. Thus it came about that in 1951 the Athlone Fellowship Scheme had been established, and in that year 38 Canadian graduates had come to the UK for a two-year course of post-graduate training. The same number had been sent over in 1952 and this year (1953), so that there were always close to 76 Fellows in the UK at a time.

The scheme could not have been in better hands than in those of Dr. Abbott, who had played such an important part in its establishment. Dr. Abbott had graduated at London University, and had secured his practical training at H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth; after that he had been in educational circles at the Admiralty; he had been at the Northampton Polytechnic as Head of the Civil and

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Mechanical Engineering Department; and he was now in an important position in the Ministry of Education.

The paper was entitled "*The Athlone Fellowship Scheme for the Practical Training in Industry of Canadian Engineering Graduates in Great Britain*", and was summarized as presented below, with a few minor rewording to make it more easily understood from the Canadian perspective, and from a time some 65 years since the inception of the Athlone Fellowship:

*Briefly stated, the scheme is designed to bring to Great Britain every year 38 Canadian engineering graduates for post-graduate study extending over two years. This is the third year of operation of the scheme, two groups of Athlone Fellows being now in Great Britain. The scheme carries the name of a former Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone. It is well known that, although considerable numbers of engineering graduates have come for further training to the United Kingdom from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, relatively few have come from Canada. Canadian graduates have near at hand the educational and training resources of the United States, and it has been suggested that Canadian engineers are becoming increasingly familiar with the products and resources of American organizations, and less knowledgeable of those of corresponding firms in the United Kingdom. The matter was carefully considered by the Board of Trade and the Commonwealth Relations Office, and as a result Sir Arthur Fleming and Dr. Abbott visited Canada in the spring of 1949. An embryo scholarship scheme was discussed with Ministers, Government officers, leaders in industry and commerce, professional engineers, university representatives and officials of trade organizations.*

*Following a visit of Canadian professors to this country the Athlone Fellowship scheme was announced concurrently in Canada and the United Kingdom. It was decided that there should be two classes of award:*

***Group A**, for those about to graduate, the awards being allocated on a quota basis, the distribution being based primarily on the relative numbers graduating annually in the various universities, other factors also being given some weight;*

***Group B**, for those who had already graduated and were at work, the awards being made on a national basis.*

*The Fellowships cover: (a) the total cost of travel, (b) a subsistence allowance of £6 10s. a week net (the initial amount, which had been*

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*increased several times since the paper was presented), (c) the cost of tuition at a university, (d) an allowance towards textbooks and (e) a travel grant of £25 per annum for journeys within the United Kingdom. Industrial employers are asked to pay into a central fund the wages they would normally pay to a trainee of the college apprentice type. The net cost of the scheme is carried by the British Government.*

*Many factors had a bearing on the scheme, one being that only a minority of candidates have wished to enter industry, the majority preferring to continue their studies in a university with a view to securing a higher degree. This is because North America is "higher-degree conscious" to a much greater extent than is Great Britain, and the scholarship holder in Canada is tempted to use his award for the purpose of obtaining a qualification with a definite market value.*

*The scheme fits most suitably the requirements of the graduate in mechanical, electrical or chemical engineering; it is necessary to ensure the utmost flexibility in the administration of the scheme and to avoid over-emphasizing the value of practical work in those engineering spheres, such as forestry engineering and irrigation, which are not practiced to any extent in this country.*

*Probably the most important single factor operating against the success of the scheme is the intense demand for graduates from all branches of the engineering industry, not only in Canada but also in the United States. It is probable that the great bulk of the graduates with a practical bent do not apply for Fellowships but seize the opportunities now presented by the buoyant industrial conditions in Canada; and that those who do apply include many whose aim is research, for which a higher degree is a necessity.*

In reply to the discussion which followed the presentation of the paper, Dr. Abbott said that he wished to make it clear that those who selected the Athlone Fellows were looking for the complete man, and not necessarily the best graduate on his academic record. They stated that they "*did not want to miss any Churchills*".

What was it that the young engineer required after getting his degree? What material would he most commonly use? He suggested human material; and, therefore, what the young engineer wanted more than anything else was industrial experience and contact with human beings. Although they had accepted most willingly—and would certainly continue to do so—men who wanted to pursue research, they nevertheless also wanted to take the practically-

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minded engineer who required works training, contact with human beings, and the production side of engineering.

The question had been asked whether they were enlisting the aid of Canadian industry. The answer was very definitely, Yes. Every year Mr. James Duncan, who was the President of Massey-Harris, wrote to all the leading Canadian companies asking for their co-operation; he did this at the suggestion of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ottawa, and his letters had a profound effect. Many firms were co-operating by releasing some of their staff members to come to this country as Group B candidates for post-graduate training. But the difficulty had arisen that many of these companies would agree only with great reluctance to lend a man for two years. He remembered discussing this matter with Mr. Ingledow, of B.C. Electric, who had said, "I want some of my young men to come to the United Kingdom some time with firm X and firm Y because experience with them would be very much to our advantage. We are already buying a good deal of material from these companies and would wish to buy more; but we cannot spare any of our men for more than one year."

With regard to competition for places he could give the figures, but they would be very misleading, because the universities screened the candidates whom the selectors saw. In fact, in one university with a very masterful president, the selectors interviewed only a small number of the applicants; the remainder had been told that they had no chance. But of those who were seen, there were, on the average, two candidates for every Fellowship in Canada as a whole, and that was quite healthy. There had been a definite trend on the part of candidates this year to opt for industrial training. It had been asked how this was to be accounted for—had he, Dr. Abbott, anything to do with it? Well, he had had a little to do with it, but not a great deal. He and his colleagues discussed with the Athlone Fellow applicants on many occasions what they might do; he and his colleagues gave their point of view, and the applicants gave theirs, and they thought about it. This was done before the interview. The applicants were met informally and there were long discussions, and then when the applicants appeared before the selection boards, they had made up their minds.

Two young men had come before him and his colleagues, one aged 21 and the other 22. The first young man had been first out of 147 and the second had been fourth. Both were six-footers, and he had never seen two young men who had made such an impression on him. Both had been paying their way through the university, doing all kinds of work to get the money, and both had wanted to go to Rolls-Royce. They had said that they did not want higher degrees but wanted practical training. So he had cabled the company and they were both going there.

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He and his colleagues had had no share in influencing those two young men in their decisions.

In another case, a young man in Quebec who had failed to get a Fellowship had said, "I am terribly disappointed that I have not got a Fellowship, but I intend to come to Great Britain under my own steam; I have saved enough money, and I should like to come and get practical experience in the United Kingdom. If I come, will you place me and help me as if I were an Athlone Fellow?" He had been told that of course they would do so; but it had so happened that there was a deficiency in another university, and this excellent young man had got a Fellowship after all. But this case gave some indication of the keenness among young Canadians to take advantage of the scheme.

The question had been asked whether Canadian industry was consulted about the scheme, and he would reply emphatically, "Yes". Most of the leading figures in the Canadian engineering world had been consulted personally or informally by himself or by his colleagues, and he would like to mention the reactions of one outstanding personality in Canadian engineering life, Mr. Hertz. There had been no stronger supporter than Mr. Hertz of the Athlone Fellowship Scheme, and Mr. Hertz had expressed the following point of view, which was worth recording: he had recently visited factories in Switzerland, Sweden and this country and he had returned to Canada a little disturbed; he had said, "It seems to me that the equipment in the works of some British companies is out of date compared with what I have seen in Switzerland and Sweden and, indeed, in my own company. My own factories are more modern and better equipped than those of yours that I have seen. I am a little worried as to whether I should be doing the right thing in persuading some of my young engineers to go to the United Kingdom for training on your less up-to-date equipment." Mr. Hertz and the author had discussed this situation very thoroughly. Here had been a perfectly honest man, friendly to the scheme, disturbed in his mind as to whether he could continue to support it with a clear conscience; and it was not easy to answer the question. In this country, the UK, we were not able to replace equipment as rapidly and effectively as we would wish because of the economic situation. That was well appreciated in Canada. The point could be made, of course, that one really did not want the most up-to-date and the speediest equipment for practical training; the thing that mattered was the organization of the training scheme, and he thought he had been able to satisfy Mr. Hertz on that score. But there had been letters from Athlone Fellows in this country criticizing the equipment on which they had been put to work, some machine tools being 40 years old.

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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At the Ministry they had a file of letters which were very encouraging, although perhaps not nearly as outspoken as they would like. He would end by reading an extract from a letter: "Messrs. X, as you know, arranged my two-year course, and due to its flexibility and my freedom to go wherever I desired in the works, this leaves me with nothing to criticize adversely. Indeed, they may be spoiling me. Certainly everything possible is being done for me, and if I do not take advantage of these privileges, then I have only myself to blame."

## More on the Beginning of the Athlone Fellowship Program

The Athlone Newsletter #12, published in January, 1968, contains a further insight into the formation of the Athlone Fellowship Program, as well as an indication of its coming termination. The article therein is entitled "A Short History", and I quote it below in its entirety:

### A Short History as told by the British Board of Trade

*The Athlone Fellowships scheme resulted from a post-war review of the economic links between Canada and Britain. The idea of offering a Fellowship for technical training in Britain to young Canadian engineers was first suggested by Mr. Harold Wilson, then President of the Board of Trade, when he visited Canada in 1949. In order to examine this, a mission led by the prominent industrialist the late Sir Arthur Fleming, C.B.E., visited Canada early in 1950. The mission discussed with representatives of universities, government departments, and professional institutions throughout Canada, their reactions to the proposal for a Fellowship which would enable Canadian graduate engineers to obtain further training and experience in Britain. In the interests of the development of trade between the two countries. As a result of the findings of this mission (which was quickly followed by a return visit of Canadian university professors to Britain) the Athlone Fellowships scheme was announced in Parliament by Mr. Wilson later the same year. It was named after the Earl of Athlone, who was Governor-General of Canada from 1940–1946. The first group of Fellows arrived in the U.K. in September 1951.*

*The late Sir Arthur Fleming, who played a key part in the setting up of the scheme, became Chairman at the Committee which was formed to manage its affairs. He retained this position for six years and died in 1960, two years after his retirement. Sir Arthur was succeeded as Chairman of the Managing Committee by Sir Claude Gibb (1958–1959) who collapsed and died in January 1959 whilst traveling from the United States to Canada. Sir Julian Pode, who succeeded Sir Claude, was in post as Chairman from 1959 to 1966 when he retired. The present Chairman, Sir Maurice Fiennes was appointed in 1966.*

*When the scheme started there were eleven Canadian universities participating, but this number has now doubled. The minimum number of Fellowships awarded annually is*

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now forty-one, but the actual number can exceed this if one-year Fellowships are allocated. Originally all awards were for two years, but since 1962 a limited number of one-year awards have been offered to "B" Fellows (i.e. engineers who have spent some time in industry). This came about because some firms in Canada were reluctant to let their employees go for two years—even on an Athlone Fellowship—but they were prepared to approve a one-year absence.

Selection of the candidates starts with interviews by local Boards during the last three months of each year, at each of the participating Canadian universities. These Interview Boards contain representatives or local academic and industrial institutions and of the British Government office, and are attended by the Athlone Adviser from London. The present Adviser is Mr. Fred. E. A. Manning, C.B.E., who has been in post since 1961. He was preceded by Dr. A. C. Monkhouse (1958–1961), Dr. H. H. Burness (1955–1958) and Dr. W. Abbott (1951–1955). The Boards interview only those candidates who have already been pre-selected by the universities as being eligible and well in the running for a place. Of those seen by the Boards about a third are given awards. When the Scheme started, the awards were made on a Quota basis for each university, but in recent years, with the increase in the number of participating universities, Fellowships have been allocated on a country-wide basis. The final assessment and selection of candidates is made by the Adviser after his return to London, and he then prepares two lists of candidates, awards and reserves. These lists are examined and finally approved in the Board of Trade, and the awards are announced early in the New Year.

One of the main advantages offered by the Athlone Fellowships over other awards is its flexibility in allowing Fellows a freedom of choice between university and industry or a bit of both. The founders of the scheme had hoped that many Fellows would opt for industrial experience but university programmes have been more popular than industrial from the start. Several Fellows who choose two-year research programmes at university decide to carry on after the fellowships expire in order to work for a Ph.D. Men doing this in recent years number between twelve and fifteen each year. But there is no question of extending the fellowships for a third year to help finance these studies and Fellows are warned well in advance that they must find other means of support. In the early days of the scheme, the National Research Council of Canada was liberal in its scholarship awards which enabled Athlones to finish a third year at university, but latterly the policy of the Council has become more rigid. In 1967 out of fifteen Athlone applicants, only eight were successful in securing help from this source.

One of the conditions of the award is that Fellows must undertake to return to Canada to work: In engineering after the Fellowship expires, or after any extension granted for further study. Most Fellows are scrupulous in honoring this condition and there have

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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*been only a few exceptions but these could be an embarrassment to the Managing Committee in the event of the operation of the scheme being challenged.*

## The Athlone Program Description

In 1959, the British Board of Trade published a booklet entitled:

**“The Athlone Fellowships—Experience in Britain for Canadian Engineers”** which provided additional information on the Athlone Fellowship Program, with the object *“to explain what the Athlone Fellowships are; what they offer to the young Canadian engineer; and how Fellows are selected.”* This booklet was made available to most Fellows and describes with somewhat different words than was presented in the 1953 paper by Dr. Abbott, as quoted above. It has the following preamble:

*The rapid expansion of Canada’s industry is calling for large numbers of men with high scientific, technical and managerial ability. To such men the United Kingdom’s industrial plants, research organizations, colleges and universities have a great deal to offer. Only, however, if they are seen at first hand is it possible to appreciate fully the scope and quality of engineering research, development, design and production practices in the United Kingdom.*

*Since 1951, Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom has, therefore, been providing Athlone Fellowships for young Canadian engineers. The Fellowships are of two years’ duration and are granted on the understanding that their holders afterwards return to Canada to follow their careers. The number available each year is now 41. They enable selected engineering graduates to carry their education and training further in the United Kingdom under arrangements made to meet their individual needs. At the same time they enable their holders to meet people in the United Kingdom and become acquainted with their way of life, thus fostering understanding between the two countries and building the basis upon which trade across the Atlantic can be increased in both directions.*

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship

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## The Athlone Program Termination

### Correspondence from the Board of Trade

*Thanks to Bob Rorden, I now have 2 letters from T. W. Turner, Secretary to the Athlone Fellowships Managing Committee, addressed to former Athlone Fellows in Canada.*

- 1. October 1968 – Indicating that things have changed since 1951, and requesting suggestions for re-shaping the Athlone scheme.*
- 2. October 1969 – Noting that approximately 500 letters were sent out in 1968, and nearly 200 replies were received. Advising us that the scheme was being terminated and the last group of Fellows would be those coming to Britain in September 1970, while any Fellowships then current would be allowed to run their normal tenure.*

I have included photocopies of these 2 letters on the following pages:

# My History of the Athlone Fellowship



The Athlone Fellowships,  
**BOARD OF TRADE**

1, Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Our reference: GD.4553 G  
Your reference:

Telephone: 01-222 7877 ext. 2622  
**BY AIR MAIL**

October, 1968.

Dear Mr. Roden,

As you know, the Athlone Fellowships scheme was introduced in 1951 to enable Canadian graduate engineers to come to Britain to gain first hand experience of British techniques. A major factor was, and still is, to promote understanding between our two countries which could lead to increased trade.

Since 1951, however, things have changed. Canada herself has advanced so much in industrial techniques, and in the academic world too, that one wonders to what extent the United Kingdom can now offer young Canadian engineering graduates anything very much in excess of what they can obtain at home. We think that the time has come to take a critical look at the Athlone scheme to see whether we should modify it so that it fits better into the conditions of today.

One of the proposals we are considering is that some awards should be offered to older men over 30 years of age, including past Athlone Fellows, and others to enable them to come here for say three to six months for a refresher course to bring them up to date with British practice. This might take the form of an attachment to a British firm (normally of the Fellow's own choosing), or attendance at an advanced course either in some specialised aspect of engineering or on business or management studies. It would be helpful for us to know - without any commitment, of course - if, for example, you would take advantage of such an offer and, if so, your motivation and which type of experience you would seek. Assuming that we were to finance your journey to Britain and pay any fees which might be necessary, how much do you think you would need, per month, for maintenance?

Quite apart from this the Managing Committee would be grateful for any constructive suggestions for re-shaping the Athlone scheme, remembering that its primary object is geared to the promotion of trade.

I am sending this letter to all past Athlone Fellows in Canada whose addresses we have, and my hope is to have replies by the end of November.

Yours sincerely,

(T. W. Turner)  
Secretary to the Athlone Committee

Mr. R. B. Roden,  
250, Westcourt Place,  
Waterloo,  
Ontario  
CANADA.



































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































