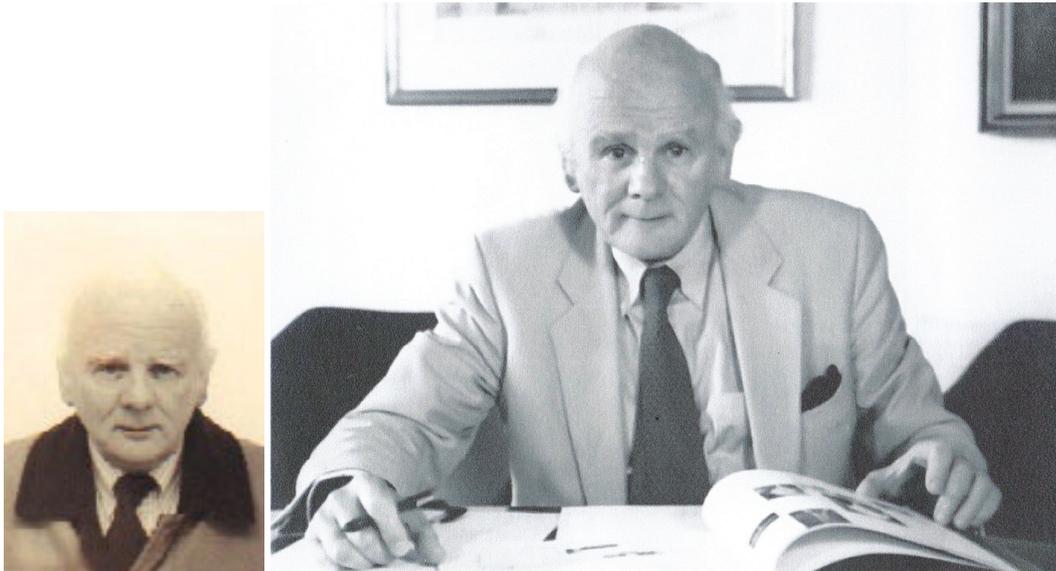


**PROFESSOR CHARLES MACCALLUM RIBA (1935 -2013)**

**Practising Architect and Teacher**

**Tribute given at The Scots Kirk in Paris on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013**



I am Howard Nash and I am Secretary General of the Franco British Union of Architects. I shall speak slowly in English.

Can I say how sublimely beautiful and inspiring this church is as a setting for this service. I am sure all FBUA members here would like to join me in thanking the Reverend Jim Cowie and the MacCallum and du Perier families for inviting us here today.

There cannot be many architects who have their memorial service in a church they have designed. The Scots Kirk in Paris is a uniquely appropriate place in which to celebrate the life of Charles MacCallum not only because he was its architect but because he was also such a proud Scot and such a profound Francophile.

Like so many of us here, I met Charlie through the activities of the FBUA. We got on extremely well and as time went by we became close friends. Charlie joined the FBUA in 1991 and helped organise its Reunion in Oxford and Swindon 3 years later. But it was he retired as Head of the MacIntosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, that he found time to participate more fully and join the British Committee.

Together with Andree he brought to our activities a great sense of fun supported by conviviality, erudition, love of architecture, humour and fluency in French and English - not to mention Scottish!

In 2000 and 2001, Charlie worked with Francois Mayer, Benjamin Mouton and John Roake to set up the present FBUA Bursary scheme, which assists young architects and architectural students from one country to make a study of some aspect of architecture in the other. The continuing success of this scheme over the last 12 years is due in large measure to Charlie and his dedication. It was a significant achievement and it has been an enduring contribution to the Union and its future.

When I became the Union's Secretary General in 2004, I started working with Charles on the Bursary Scheme. I soon realised how seriously he took his role as mentor and how much he encouraged architectural students to maximise their achievements. Let me read you what some of them have said about him.

This is from Will Layzell: *"I am grateful for the insight and kindness that Professor MacCallum showed me when I was as an FBUA Bursar I made a study of the work of the French architect, Claude Parent. Professor MacCallum was a brilliant combination of academic and practising architect; and a thoughtful and gentle man."* Will is now fully qualified as an architect and works in London

Here is Anthony St Leger, a British member of FBUA, and a talented designer currently working in Malaysia. *"When I was studying at the MacKintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, Charles MacCallum enthused, nurtured and encouraged me with his kindness and insight. He was a mentor and a friend"*

French Bursar Lindsay Humbert had this to say. *"I met Professor MacCallum when I was a student in Portsmouth for a year and made a study of historic naval dockyards. He took me under his wing and gave me the right contacts and energy to do my research. He also gave me the aim to go on further and further. I am now a fully qualified Architect in France and very proud to have met him. His kindness and enthusiasm were so helpful."* Lindsay now lives in Paris and has been studying as a post-graduate. Last week she received her diploma as "Architecte du Patrimoine" from l'Ecole de Chaillot"

Nick Webb said *"I will always remember the FBUA for the impact it had on my education, particularly the support Professor MacCallum gave me as a Bursar. He gave his time generously and enthusiastically, for which I am most grateful."* With his Bursary, Nick made a study of the un-built architectural designs of Auguste Perret. This became a stepping stone to his Doctorate. He is now a qualified architect and teaches at Liverpool University.

Lastly, Sophie Roycroft who says: *"Charles was, and remains, an inspiration to me for his unwavering energy and passion for architecture, for academia and for all things French! He was kind, sincere and encouraging as a mentor and always generous with his knowledge and time. He challenged me in my studies as an FBUA Bursar, but supported me all the while. All in all he taught me a great deal as a young*

*architecture student, a lot of which I frequently recall and rely on. I feel lucky to have known him."*

Charlie lived life to the full and had a rich and diverse range of interests both inside and outside the field of architecture. I would like to briefly mention a few that I know about.

For example, he was a shrewd investor on the Stock Market. He read the financial newspapers and watched companies and movements in their share prices. He owned a diverse portfolio of shares and frequently traded in them. The profits of this activity provided a significant supplement to his pension. We often talked about this together and I just wish I had taken his advice more often. When it came to money matters, he was a truly canny Scot.

There is also Charlie's keen interest in painting and drawing. He not only admired the work of others but possessed considerable talent himself. I am sure we all remember the miniature sketch books he carried in his pocket and which he filled with exquisite pen and ink drawings and watercolours. Inspired by Sempe and others, he also drew rather good cartoons. He could quickly capture figures and faces with just a few lines on any piece of paper to hand. I remember an amusing one he drew on a paper tablecloth. It was a sketch of himself metamorphosing into the *saucisse de Lyon* which he had just eaten for lunch.

Finally I would like to mention his interest in Scottish heritage and the trip to Scotland that he and Andree organized for a few of us in October last year. It combined visits to the buildings of Charles Rennie MacIntosh and many other architectural highlights, together with stormy ferry crossings to the Hebrides, a jazz festival and malt whisky tastings at the distilleries of Islay. What you might call a Whisky-Mac tour. It was so typical of Charlie's generosity of spirit and love of life to have meticulously planned such an adventure. For me this is an enduring souvenir of the fun we had. I too can say I feel lucky to have known him.

Howard Nash

October 2013