

## OBITUARY

### **The Rt. Hon. The Lord Roskill, P.C.**

It is with regret that we record the recent passing of the Rt. Hon. The Lord Roskill, P.C. in London.

Many Institute members will recall our 1984 Conference in Melbourne at which Lord Roskill delivered the Keynote Address and took an active part in the proceedings. Subsequently he and The Lady Roskill visited Sydney where Lord Roskill addressed a meeting of members.

Lord Roskill was educated at Winchester School, Winchester, England and subsequently graduated with a Law degree from Oxford University.

Following graduation he moved to London and commenced practice as a Barrister. It was at this time that "as a briefless and sometimes despondent young barrister that I whiled away hours sitting at Lords watching Sir Donald Bradman score boundary after boundary past cover point". Even at this stage he dreamed of visiting the land where greats such as Warwick Armstrong and Bradman came from. Some 50 years were to pass during which time the "sometimes briefless barrister" had carved out a brilliant career as a Barrister and in a number of Judicial Appointments culminating in his elevation to the House of Lords and Privy Councillor before he set foot in Australia.

He took a keen interest in Arbitration law reform in England and followed closely developments in Hong Kong and Australia during the 1980's. He welcomed the "death" of the "case stated" procedure and supported changes designed to improve the practice of arbitration.

It was during his 1984 visit that Lord Roskill expressed the view that the rapidly changing international scene could well see a decline in the importance of places such as London, New York, Paris and Tokyo as centres for international arbitration. It is now a matter of history that the then Council of this Institute under the Presidency of Ronald Fitch took up Lord Roskill's suggestion which led to the establishment of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration.

During recent years His Lordship was sought after as an international arbitrator and it was in this role that he made a number of visits to Australia during which he and the Lady Roskill were able to visit several States and Territories.

Lord Roskill was a tall man, possessed of a keen analytical mind and highly developed communication skills not only verbal but as evidenced in the large number of judgments, government reports and arbitral awards published by him over the years. He was a very courteous man, easy of address and one in whose company one always felt very comfortable.