

The Origins of the Franklin Lecture



The Company of Educator's Franklin Lecture is named after the late Professor Dr Raoul N Franklin CBE FEng, Foundation Master of the Guild of Educators, the precursor of the current Worshipful Company.

Raoul Franklin (b. 3 June 1935 – d. 7 October 2021) grew up in Hamilton, New Zealand and was educated at Auckland Grammar School before studying at the University of New Zealand, where he took at BE and BSC in 1956. In 1957, he headed to University of Auckland where he obtained an ME and MSc in mathematics. Later that year, he moved to the UK and took his doctorate at the University of Oxford as a member of Christ Church, Oxford in 1961.

After working as a senior research fellow at the Royal Military College of Science from 1961 to 1963, he was a Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, from 1963 to 1978, and a university lecturer in Engineering Science from 1966 to 1978. Widely acknowledged to be one of the world's leading experts in plasma physics being Professor of Plasma Physics and Technology at City University from 1986 to 1998. Professor Franklin was Vice-Chancellor of City University for 20 years making him the University's longest serving Vice-Chancellor,

holding the post up until 1998 switching the focus of the University from Engineering towards a much broader education and research portfolio.

He was appointed an honorary fellow of Keble College in 1980, and appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1995. He served as chairman of the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) from 1998 to 2003, having served as chairman of Associated Examining Board, one of AQA's predecessor institutions, from 1994 to 1998. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and a visiting fellow at the Open University.

Raoul was a driving force in the establishment of the Guild of Educators which was founded on 24 May 2001 when he became its first (Foundation) Master. The first lecture was given by Sir William Stubbs former Chairman of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 15 November 2001 at London Guildhall University entitled GCE Advanced Levels and the Gold Standard. The annual lecture was subsequently re-named the Franklin Lecture in honour of the Foundation Master's vision, determination and leadership.

[Obituary: Professor Raoul Franklin CBE FREng • City, University of London](#)

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