Professor William Norrie Everitt, FRSE, who held the Mason Chair and was Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham 1982-1989, died on 17 July 2011, aged 87.

Desmond Evans (Cardiff University, Wales), Tomas Johansson (University of Birmingham, UK), and Lance Littlejohn (Baylor University, USA) write: Norrie Everitt will be remembered as a leading British mathematical analyst who contributed extensively to differential equations, linear operators, spectral theory, inequalities and special functions.

Norrie was born June 10, 1924 in Birmingham. In 1944, he graduated with first class honours in electrical engineering from the University of Birmingham. While serving in the UK armed forces, he suffered a fractured spine in the 1947; after being told he might never walk again, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 25. He entered Oxford (Balliol College) in 1949 to study mathematics and received his D.Phil. under the supervision of E. C. Titchmarsh in 1955.

Norrie was an eminent authority on the spectral theory of differential equations. He generalized the Hardy, Littlewood, Polya inequality to yield the HELP inequality (E for Everitt), which is intimately connected with spectral theory. Norrie helped set up the SLEIGN2 program, a computer code to calculate eigenvalues of Sturm-Liouville problems. He also edited the translation of Naimark's *Linear Differential Operators*, a book that has had a profound influence on western mathematical analysis. These are only glimpses of his manifold contribution.

Norrie began his mathematical career at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham (1954-1963). From 1963-1982, he was the Baxter Professor of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Dundee, serving twice as Head of Department (1963-1967, 1977-1980). It was during his Dundee years that he demonstrated his organizational skills in running the Dundee Conferences on Differential Equations.

In 1982, Norrie returned home as Mason Chair and Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Birmingham. He remained Head until his retirement in 1989 and stayed as an honorary Senior Research Fellow until September 2009. Norrie was an excellent mentor during his career; he supervised 13 Ph.D. students and guided many young mathematicians throughout the world.

Norrie served on the LMS Council from 1957 to 1962 (he was elected a member of the LMS on 19 December 1957), was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1966), served as President of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (1970-1971), and as Vice President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1970-1973). In 1978, he was part of the UK delegation to the International Mathematical Union in Helsinki. He made several trips behind the Iron Curtain to ensure the flow of mathematical ideas continued between the East and West.

Norrie was a keen student of opera, British history, literature, poetry, trees, films, railroad history, the American West, and was an excellent after-dinner speaker. He had remarkable teaching and blackboard skills. Norrie began writing his well-prepared lectures in the upper left-hand corner of the board and ended his talk, on time, with his customary period (.) in the lower right-hand corner. As technology evolved, Norrie adapted and skillfully delivered Beamer-type presentations.

Norrie is survived by his wife, Kit, two sons Charles (Father Gabriel, OSB) and Timothy, and two granddaughters, Sophie and Lucy.

Norrie was a dear friend who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A similar text will be published in the LMS Newsletter, the AMS Notices, and the OP-SF Net.