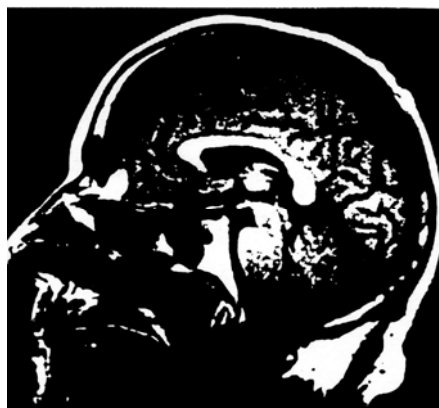


**Edward W. Randall**  
**Chairman 1972-1975**



I favoured short NMRDG meetings which had themes, so in my term of office there were a few of these. They included: Fourier pulse methods (20<sup>th</sup> meeting in 1971), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, 1973, jointly with the Dutch NMRDG), oriented molecules (24<sup>th</sup>, 1973), paramagnetic compounds (25<sup>th</sup>, 1973), and experimental techniques (26<sup>th</sup>, 1974) which became known as the 1<sup>st</sup> EENC.

Essex was the venue for the joint Dutch meeting since it was close to Harwich, the port that the Dutch used. Sounds quaint now! Similarly the 26<sup>th</sup> NMRDG on 'Experimental NMR' was held at Canterbury to be near the channel ports. Kent also had the advantage of having two notable NMR groups: Jack Powles in physics and Charlie Brown in chemistry. (I wanted physicists to be involved probably because of my background in physical chemistry. I had been at the PCL Oxford next to the Rex Richards' group although I did no NMR until I went to Harvard in 1959). I felt that the UK was too small a unit to have many innovative experimental groups, so a larger European group was needed. The ENC was the top conference of the time and although many UK resonators were invited to give talks, the European 'audience' of those interested mainly in applications was deprived of quick exposure to new techniques. It was a lot of work since the Chemical Society was not involved, but because I was Dean of Science at QMC at the time I had a secretary, Helle Matthewman, who enjoyed helping the NMRDG.

I helped with Les Sutcliffe's 2<sup>nd</sup> NMRDG International Meeting at Surrey in 1972. I delighted John Gibson of the Chemical Society with the proposal to have a half bottle of champagne and flowers in each room assigned to a lady participant. Feminists would disapprove I suppose! I forget which sponsor footed the bill.

'My' International Meeting in 1975 was in St. Andrews, a venue which some English members on the committee thought was too far away. There was an oil crisis at the time, and so I thought to provide a coach trip starting at Burlington House. It had an aspect of tourism and at £6 was about a quarter of the cost of the train. The response was enough for two coaches. We started late because Paul Ellis's plane was late. I informed the foreign visitors as we reached Scotland that we would require their passports for the border. To

my surprise no one challenged the requirement, and no one subsequently believed my statement that the Scots had different pound notes – a howl of laughter greeted me. The journey was slow and took eleven hours. Then on the return trip one of the coaches broke down. During the repair we took solace at a local hostelry. Because of a miscount when we departed, we forgot Dieter Ziessow. With great resource he commandeered a car with a driver and pursued us successfully.