

Alan Michette

1st February 1950
– 8th May 2013



Alan Michette – Biography

BSc in Physics from University College
London: 1971

PhD in Physics also from University College
London

Alan started his career in high-energy physics and in 1973 was a member of the Gargamelle neutrino experiment and involved in the work leading to the discovery of weak neutral currents.

The significance of this work was recognised in 2009 by the award of the European Physical Society Particle Physics prize. Alan was one of a few members of the Gargamelle collaboration who, unsuccessfully, tried to decline the prize because he felt that four authors of what he considered the most influential paper were not recognised in the EPS award.

1975 - 1976 Science Research Council
Fellowship



Alan Michette – Biography

1977 - 1980 Research Associate at the Rutherford
Appleton Laboratory

1979 - 1980 Visiting lecturer at Queen Elizabeth
College London

Alan joined the Department of Physics of Queen
Elizabeth College in 1981

It was on joining QEC that his research interests switched from high
energy ...to x-ray physics



Alan Michette – Biography

Then moved to King's College London in October 1984 when the Physics department merged with Queen Elizabeth College and Chelsea College. (The Colleges merged in 1985).

1988 - 1989 Alexander von Humboldt research fellow, at the Max-Planck-Institut für Quantenoptik, Garching bei München, Germany

1989 - 2001 Reader in Physics at King's College London

2001 - Professor of Physics at King's College London

Alan Michette – King's College London Years

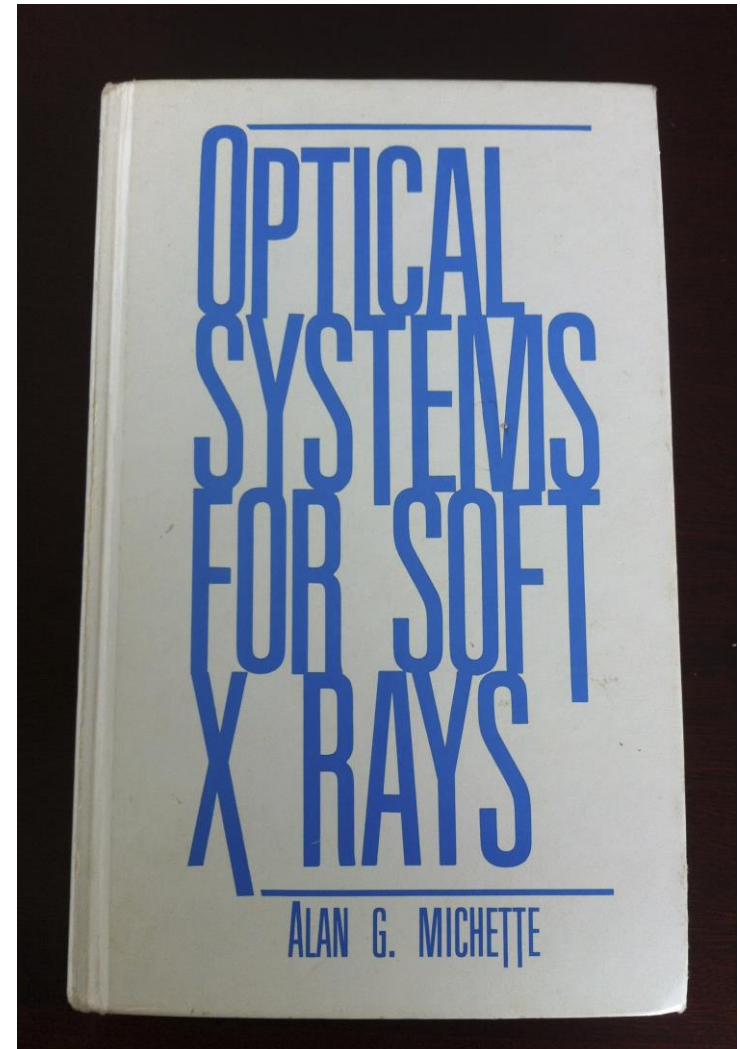
Rajdeep Singh RAWAT (NSSE)
<rajdeep.rawat@nie.edu.sg> 14 May

Dear Prof Costello

"It is sad to know that Prof Michette is no more. *I remember having photocopied version of his excellent book (X-ray Science and Technology) earlier when I was at University of Delhi, India as our library over there had only one original copy and we were working soft x-ray emission studies from plasma focus device.*"

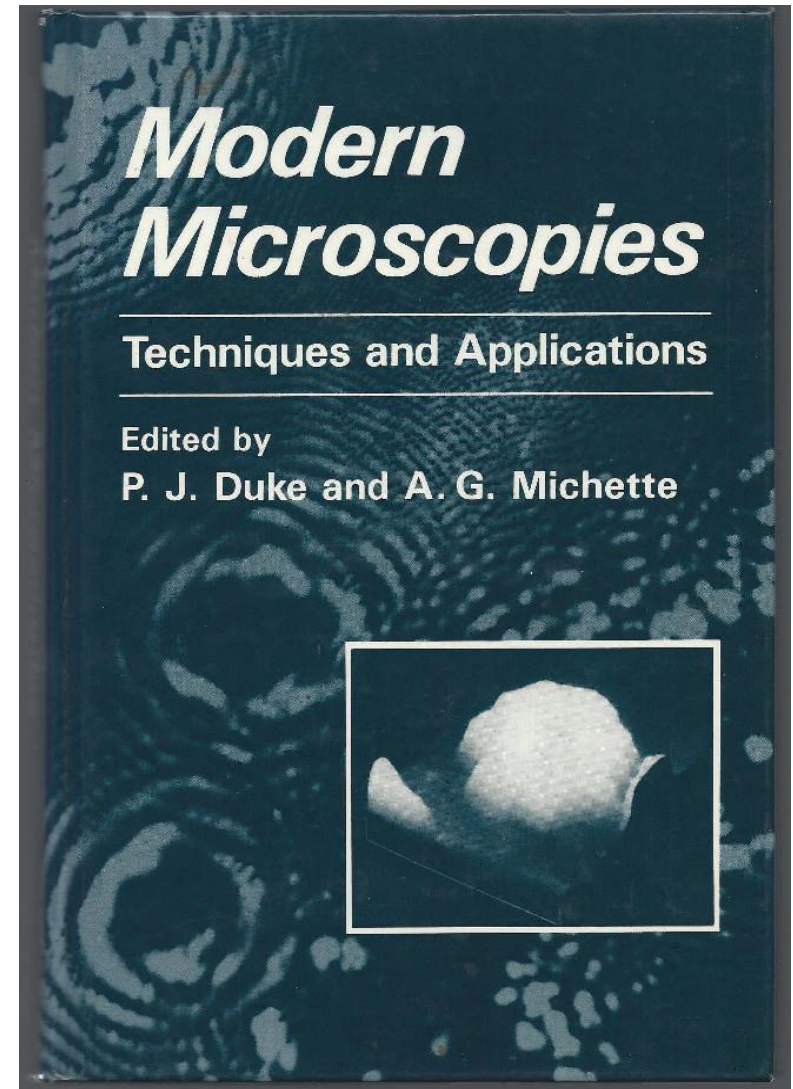
Thanks and Best Regards

Rajdeep



Alan Michette – King's College London Years

In 1990 there followed a review of modern microscopies including a chapter on x-ray microscopy.



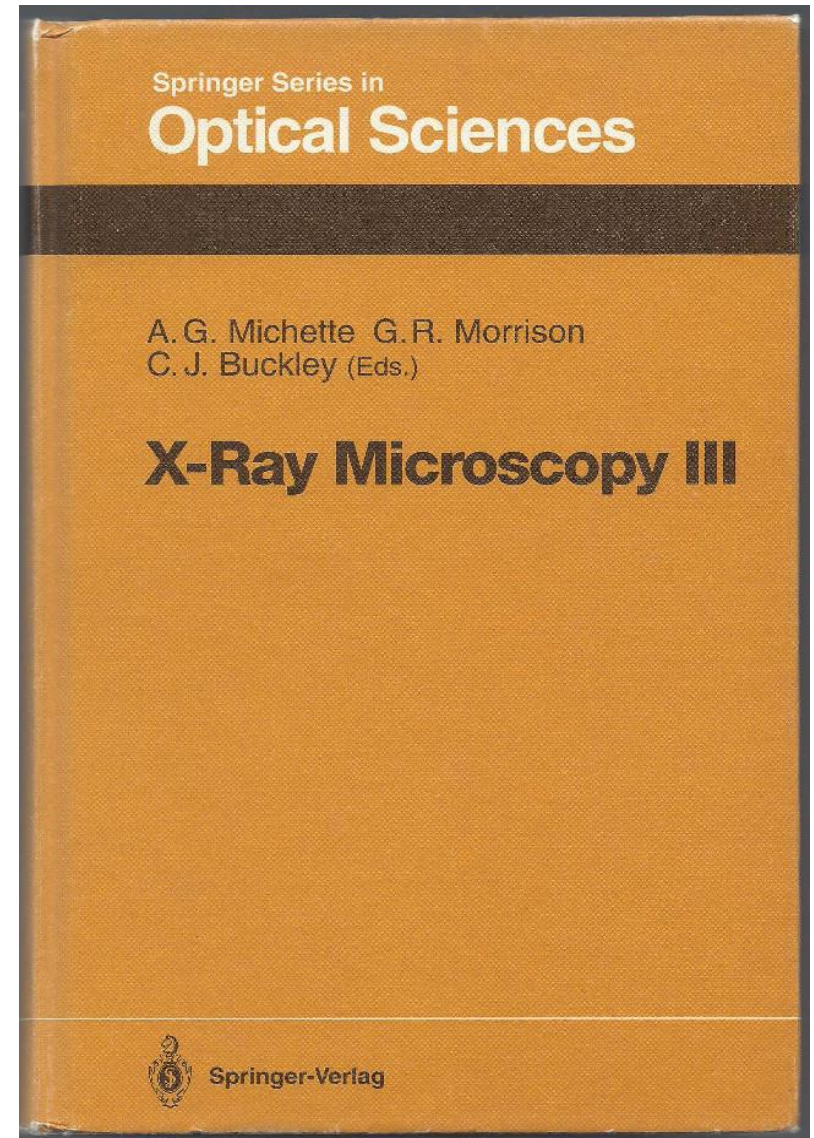
Alan Michette – King's College London Years

The Department of Physics at KCL at the forefront of research in x-ray microscopy.

1990 Alan Michette, Graeme Morrison and Christopher Buckley, organise the 3rd conference.

Alan became one of the most recognisable names in x-ray microscopy and attended most of the conferences up to the 10th in 2010 in Chicago.

In 1994 Alan suggests to Peter Anastasi that he commercialises the supply of silicon nitride membranes for x-ray microscopy and Silson is born. We celebrate our 20th anniversary next year.



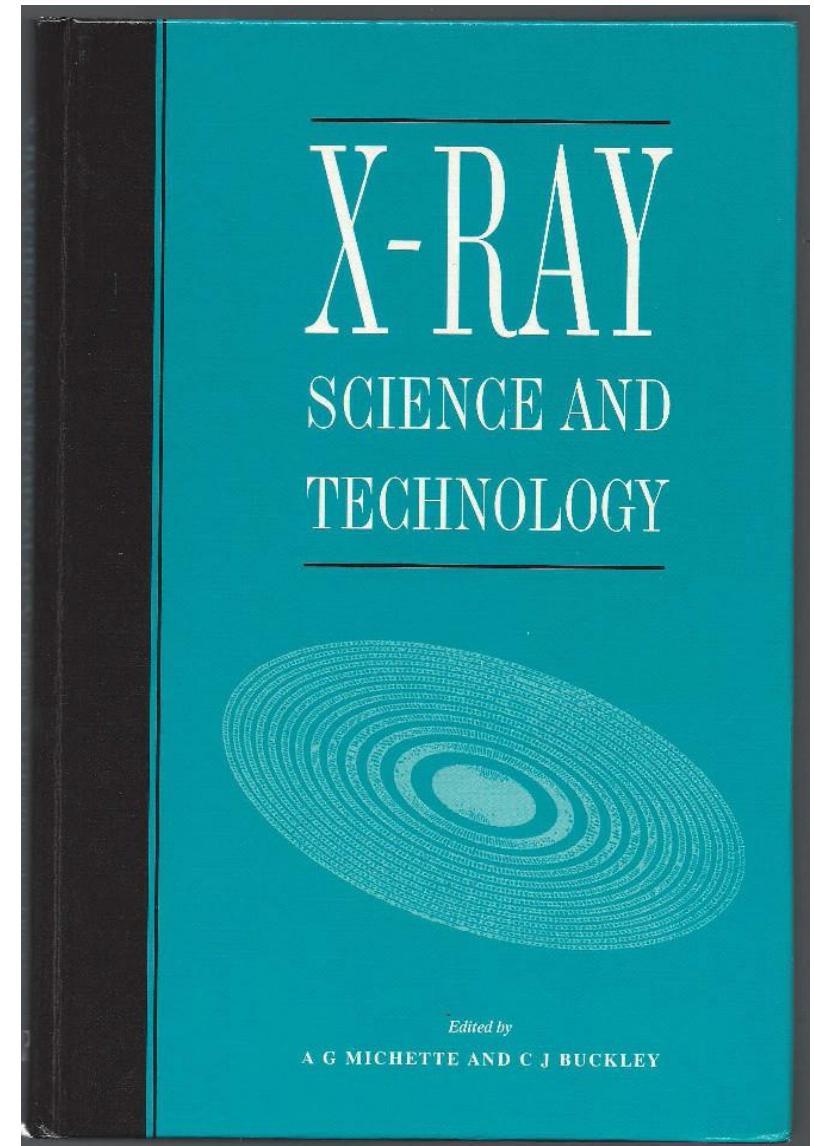
Alan Michette – King's College London Years

In 1991, Alan Michette, Christopher Buckley and Graeme Morrison launch an MSc in x-ray science and technology.

No suitable course text exists so Alan and Chris decide to write their own.

This is still a superb general text book for any post graduate studying or interested in x-ray science.

In later years the MSc. was replaced by a Masters by Research (MRes) programme, adopting a novel approach to training students in research.

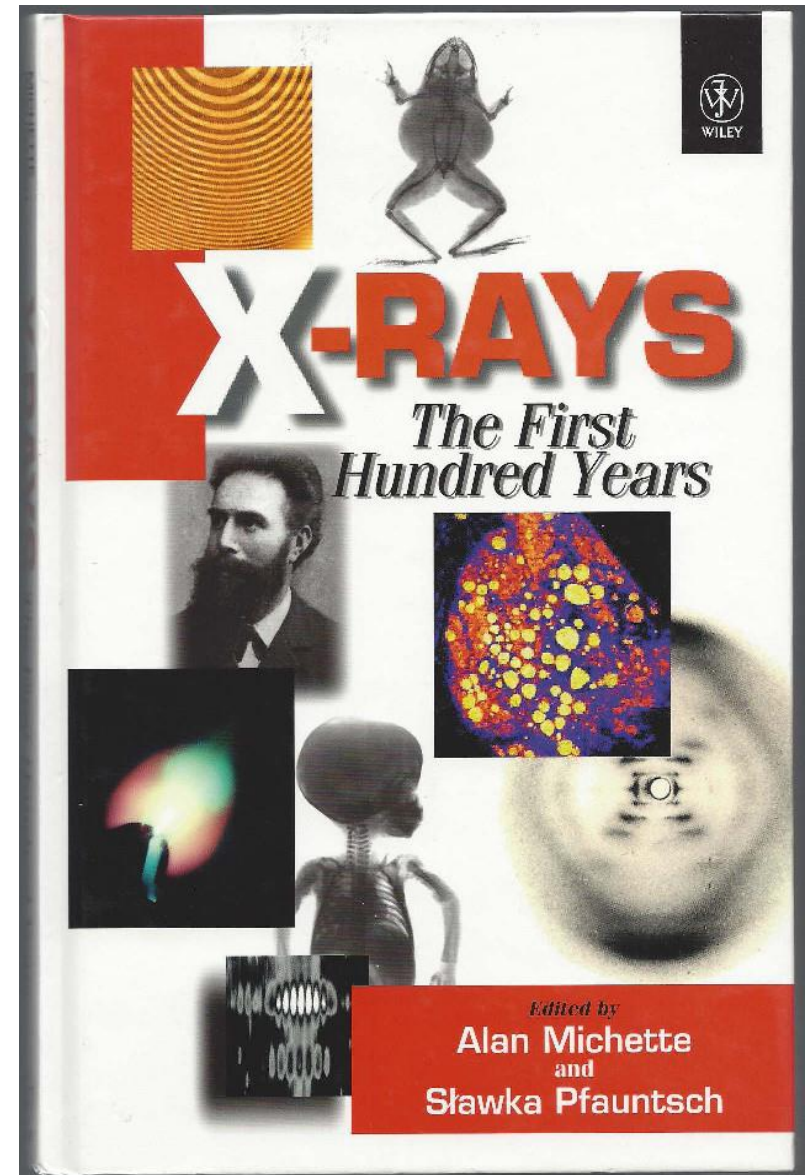


Alan Michette – King's College London Years

In 1996 Alan organised a conference at King's College London to celebrate the centenary of Röntgen's discovery of x-rays.

This included an introduction by KCL Nobel Laureate Maurice Wilkins.

The proceedings were later edited into a book by Alan and his partner Slawka Pfauntsch and published by Wiley.



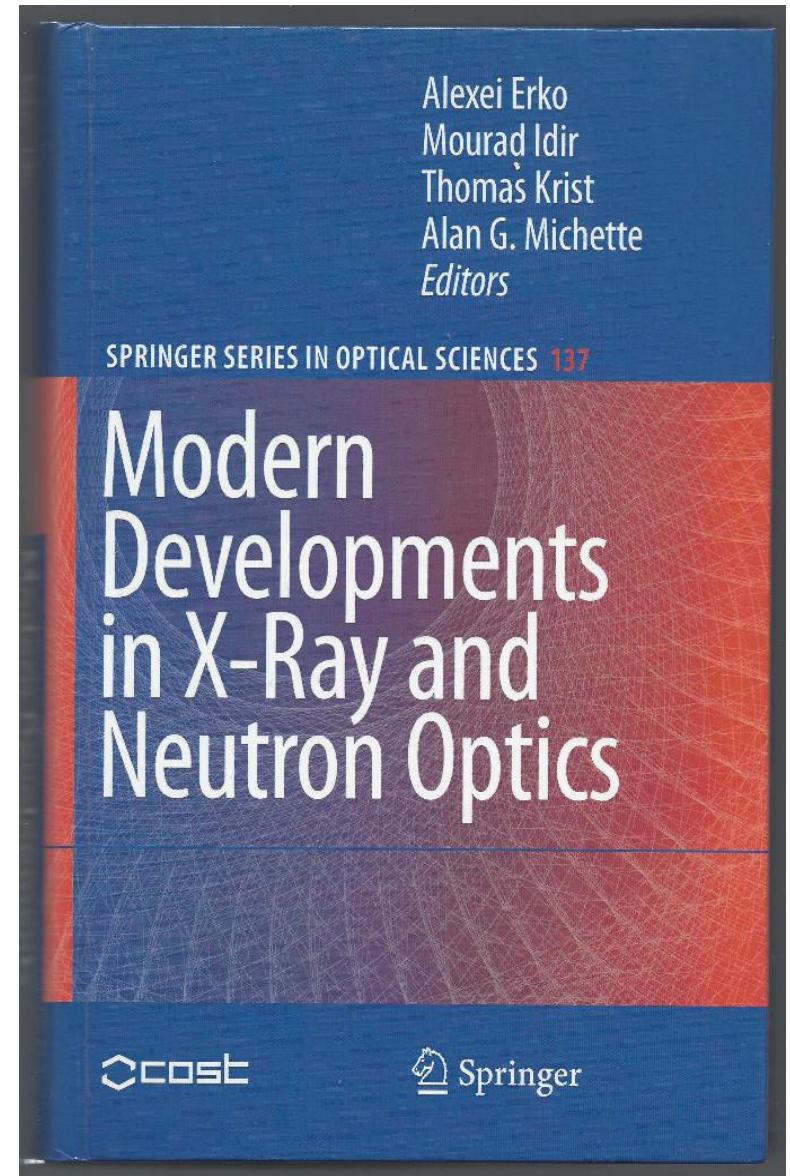
Alan Michette – King's College London Years



From 2001 Alan became involved in COST, the European Cooperation in Science and Technology, one of the longest-running European frameworks supporting cooperation among scientists and researchers across Europe.

His first involvement was in MPNS COST Action P7, on X-Ray and Neutron Optics and he was one of the co-editors of the excellent book that was produced from the results of the collaboration.

This action ran from 2002 until the end of 2006.



Alan Michette – King's College London Years

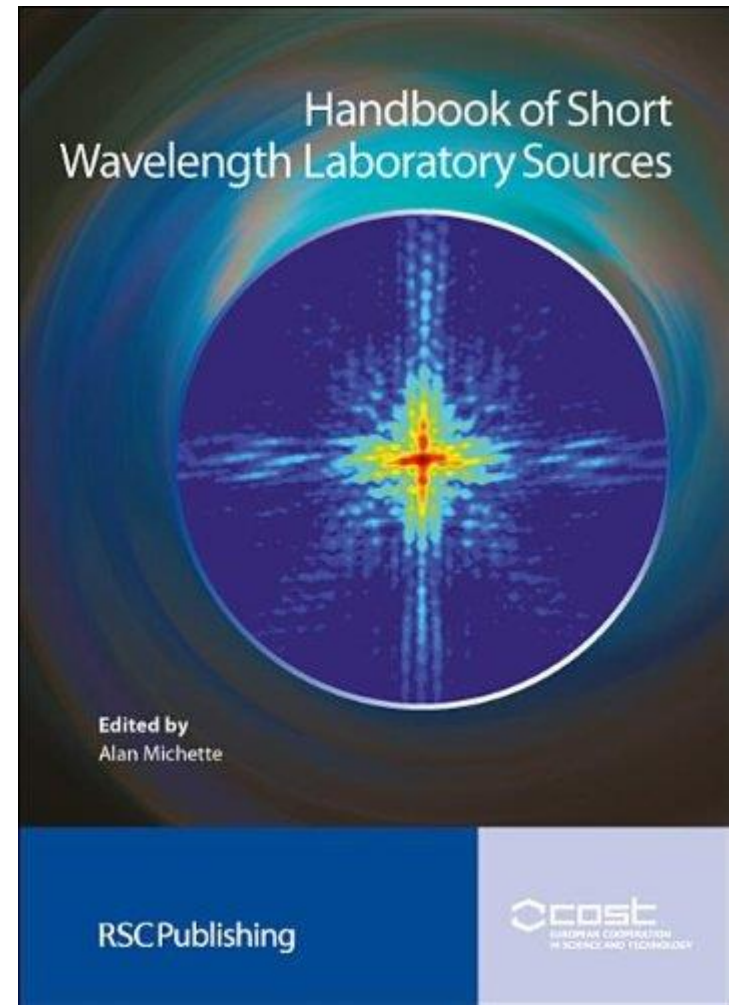


Alan's enthusiasm for the COST P7 action led to him leading a successful application for a successor action on Short Wavelength Laboratory Sources.

Alan chaired this Action MP0601 himself and it ran, incredibly efficiently, from 2007 until 2011.

The resulting Handbook of Short Wavelength Laboratory Sources will be published in early 2014.

The success of MP0601 again gave rise to a successor action; MP1203 on Advanced X-ray spatial and temporal metrology. Alan declined to lead the action himself but



Alan Michette – King's College London Years

This brief biography has dealt with the main books of which Alan was either Author or Editor and there are others.

It has not attempted to review his extensive bibliography of papers published in many of the major peer-reviewed journals.

Neither has it dealt with his organisation or attendance at individual XRM conferences or COST meetings of which there were many such as the MP601 meeting in Smolenice in November 2009.

Instead I would like to spend the remaining time dealing with Alan and students which, above all else, was his main motivation.



Alan Michette – King's College London Years

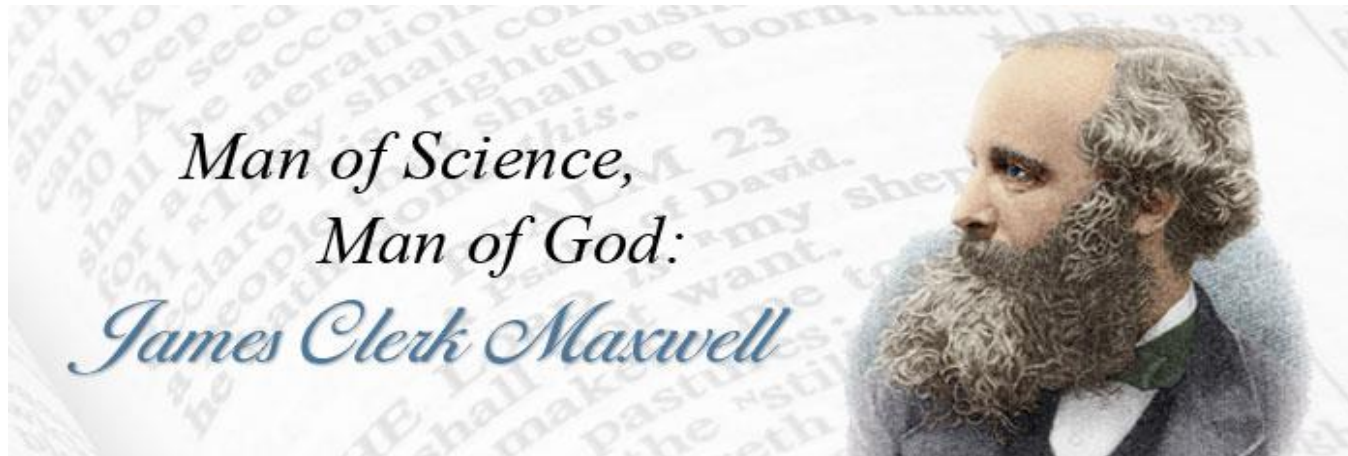


In addition to his extensive research interests Alan was also an enthusiastic lecturer and tutor and for many years he organised the third year undergraduate projects.

Alan coordinated the Cosmic Ray Detector project involving placing detectors in local schools.

Within the COST action which he chaired, he pioneered the idea of giving priority for oral presentations to early stage researchers so that they could gain experience and confidence in front of a friendly audience.

Alan Michette – King's College London Years



For over 10 years Alan also looked after the Maxwell Society which is the King's College London student's physics society, organising the regular speakers with great enthusiasm.

The highlight of the Maxwell Society year is the Cumberland Lodge Residential Study weekend, held in Windsor Great Park, where members meet for lectures and discussion, an event usually attended by the Dean.

On 8th May 2013 Alan was attending the Cumberland Lodge weekend, had enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and was very much looking forward to the dinner. Unfortunately he did not make it to dinner.

Alan Michette – King's College London Years



On 17th May, after a small private funeral, a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Alan Michette was held in the spectacular Chapel of King's College London. Over 300 people attended and the Chapel was crammed to capacity and extra chairs only stopped being brought in when the doors were closed for the service to commence.

I was given the honour of making a tribute at the service and just prior to my presentation was given the following note to read on behalf of Alan's former PhD students:

Alan Michette – King's College London Years

Alan's PhD Students:

*“Alan opened the door for
us to a world of
research and
opportunity.*

*With Alan's scientific
acumen and
infectious optimism,
he gave us
confidence in our
ideas and helped us
forward when we
were hesitant.*

*He was a great person
to spend time with
and changed our
lives. We will be for
ever grateful for
Alan's positive*

