M. S. Bartlett

Maurice Stevenson Bartlett was born in London in 1910 and received his secondary education at Latymer Upper School. After reading mathematics at Queens' College, Cambridge he began his career in 1933 as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Statistics at University College London. He joined ICI in 1934 as a statistician and worked there for four years before being appointed to a lectureship in mathematics at Cambridge in 1938. During the Second World War, he was engaged on rocket research; shortly after its end, in 1947, he was appointed to the Chair of Mathematical Statistics at the University of Manchester, where he built up a lively department. In 1960, he moved to the Professorship of Statistics at University College London and in 1967 became Professor of Biomathematics at Oxford; he retired from this post in 1975.

Professor Bartlett has worked with distinction in many areas of statistics and stochastic processes. He is the author of five books and numerous research papers and was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1961. Among his many honours are the Guy Medal in Gold of the Royal Statistical Society (1969), the University of Oxford's Weldon Medal (1971), and honorary D.Sc.s from both the University of Chicago (1966) and the University of Hull (1976).

He has been most influential in forming the British school of stochastic analysts, and has trained many Ph.D. students throughout the world. He has been President of the Manchester Statistical Society (1959–60) and of the Royal Statistical Society (1966–67), and has recently been created Honorary Member of the International Statistical Institute (1980).

He was married to Sheila Chapman in 1957; they have one daughter. His hobbies are landscape gardening and collecting water-colours.
1. Cambridge Days

At the beginning of my book on *Stochastic Processes* [23] is a brief quotation from Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*; hence my even briefer extract as my present title, which perhaps epitomizes my career, both personally and professionally.

My interest in probability began at school with the chapter in Hall and Knight's *Algebra*, and developed further at Cambridge when my third-year courses for Part III of the Mathematical Tripos included not only Wishart's "Statistics" course (which I took the first year it was given), but also Eddington's "Combination of Observations," and Fowler's "Statistical Mechanics" (where probabilities were introduced most discreetly as "weights"). At that time, as my undergraduate days at Cambridge drew to an end, I was anxious to be finished with study, and what I felt to be a surfeit of mathematics, and to get a job; I elected to try for the Home Civil Service (administrative grade), with the Inland Revenue as a second string. Statisticians were not recognised as such in the Civil Service until later, and although statistics was a subject in the HCS examination it was, with its 100 marks maximum, insufficient to make up my required quota, and I was obliged to take physics instead. I did well in the Inland Revenue examination, but was not good enough in the HCS to qualify for a vacancy (no mathematicians were that year, a change of examiners making things more difficult for us!). This was, however, my first stroke of luck, for my state scholarship was renewed for a fourth year; I decided not to take up the Inland Revenue post, but to return to Cambridge with the view of trying again for the HCS.

This enabled me to become Wishart's first mathematical postgraduate student, continuing with the study, and even research [74], in mathematical statistics begun in my final undergraduate year. I attended further lecture courses for "fun," including Eddington's "Relativity" and Dirac's "Quantum Mechanics," as well as Colin Clark's "Statistical Sources" (which I found rather dull) and Udny Yule's "Vital Statistics" (still given in spite of