

JOHN ROBINSON, Sculptor, 1935-2007

The sculptor John Robinson died from lung cancer on 6 April, 2007, after a recently diagnosed illness. Friends will know his work from the websites www.bradshawfoundation.com and www.popmath.org.uk as someone who bridged art and science through a passionate interest in humanity and the world. He told me images came to him to express these links. He was able to ensure great craftsmanship and artistic feeling to realise them.

In the popmath site, search for 'Fibre Bundles' where you see John and his plasterer making a plaster cast for a bronze sculpture of a fibre bundle over a circle with a twisting triangle as fibre. He knew no mathematics, but was surely an intuitive geometer!

Other topological themes John exploited and on which you can search in the popmath site are Borromean Circles, and the Möbius Band. For an overall discussion of his work see also www.bangor.ac.uk/r.brown/thsarticle.html.



The last donation of a Symbolic Sculpture was 'Prometheus' Hearth' to the new Prometheus Mathematics Centre at the Frome Community College near his home. John had written for the popmath site: 'I wanted to build a symbolic cave fire, where the precious flame of knowledge could be nursed, so it could lighten the darkness of superstition that surrounds us.' John was very proud of this placement and aware of what it was implying on the contribution of mathematics.

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