

Tribute to John WISON (1925-2009)

Together with his wife Nelly, John was a keen member of the Émile Zola Society from its inception, although lately illness often prevented him travelling to the London meetings from his home in Bristol. He died on 23 April 2009 at the age of 84.

John started his professional life as an engineer in his native South Africa from which he emigrated to Britain in 1948, with the determination to widen his intellectual horizons. And so he did, with patience and perseverance, initially working as a mechanical engineer and studying the subject in the evening, until his interest in mechanisms led him to the most complex of mechanisms: the human brain. At this point he switched to psychology, with studies at Birkbeck College followed by a PhD degree at Bristol University and, finally, a lectureship at Cardiff University. His special field remained the brain, notably vision. It helped him for a time to comfort his own Alzheimer related disability.