

FRANK LOGAN

- ISDD's Founder



Frank Logan died in Surrey on 14 September 1995, aged 91. He leaves behind a wife and family to whom we extend our sympathy.

In 1967, Frank Logan conceived the idea of an independent national information resource on drug abuse. With the support of a small steering group, he raised the money to set up the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence in 1968 with himself as Honorary Director. He remained Director, always unpaid, until 1975 by which time ISDD had begun to establish its reputation for integrity and authority.

Francis Hugh ('Frank') Logan was born in Surrey on July 1, 1904, the elder son of a barrister who rose to become Chief Justice of the Bahamas. After taking a Modern Languages degree at Cambridge, he joined the Indian Civil Service as an Assistant District Magistrate in 1928. He spent the next ten years in India, becoming Chief Magistrate of the City of Allahabad and eventually a District Sessions Judge. In 1938 ill health forced his return to Britain, where he joined the Ministry of Home Security with responsibilities for the Air Raid Precaution service and for the deployment of barrage balloons. At the end of the war he transferred to the section of the Home Office that deals with the control of dangerous drugs such as opium and heroin. In 1947, he joined the United Nations as Assistant Director in the Division of Social Affairs with responsibility for the international machinery of drug control. During his time there he went on a fact-finding mission to Peru to look into the production of coca and cocaine. After five years he returned to Britain and joined the staff of the Royal Institute of International Affairs ('Chatham House') as Meetings Secretary. This position gave full scope to his wide international experience, his sociability, and his command of languages.

In 1966 he retired from Chatham House. This was just at the time when Britain was beginning to become concerned about its emerging drug problem. Frank wished to draw on his experience at the Home Office and the UN to write about it, but found that none of the libraries he consulted could retrieve the literature on the subject that he knew existed. So he came up with the notion of an Institute with a specialised library that would collect and make available the drug literature and generally act as an independent focus of knowledge and scholarship on drug matters after the model of the RIIA in international affairs. In 1967 he got together a number of leading people in the UK

An Appreciation

from
Jasper Woodcock
OBE
Director of ISDD,
1975-1993

This extract, from the address given by Jonathan Nokes at Frank's thanksgiving service, reminds us that Frank was much more than his work, important as that was.

"In 1974 Frank and Peggy, Leonora and I were on holiday on the small Spanish island of Formentera. Greatly underestimating the likely quality of the opposition, I suggested a verse writing competition to be assessed on our last evening. Frank, of course, won by a mile and this is one of his entries. It's called *Mediterranean Holiday*.

*Compound the ancient balm,
Blue sky, blue sea, the warm
sun benign,
Lizards on hot rock, wine.
Take these, press, sift, refine
And feel through every fibre of
your being
An unaccustomed calm."*

drugs field to form a steering group and persuaded Sir Harry Greenfield, the long-serving President of the International Narcotics Control Board, to chair it. By 1968 the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence had been established as a company limited by guarantee on the strength of a bank loan guaranteed personally by Frank and two other members of the steering group. In April ISDD opened its doors with a staff consisting of Frank as Director, a secretary, and a part-time Information Officer to organise the library and information service. Frank worked a regular three days a week at ISDD from then until his retirement in October 1975, by which time ISDD had a full-time staff of 12 and was being supported by substantial grants from the Department of Health and the US Drug Abuse Council. Frank's experience made it possible for ISDD to organise the first of three successful international conferences on cannabis as early as 1969, when it was still a tiny organisation with an annual income of just a few thousand pounds. He stayed on ISDD's Council as Vice-Chairman until 1978, acting as Secretary of ISDD's Study Group on the control of cannabis, and editing its Report.

Everyone who has benefited from ISDD's existence owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Frank Logan, not only for having thought up such an institution, but for having during his directorship overseen its first crucial years and laid secure foundations for its future growth. His long experience in India, the Home office, the UN, and Chatham House meant that he was able to start ISDD off with a robust system of administration, an effective management, an orderly accounting system, and prudent finance, which served ISDD very well for many years afterwards in the hands of his less administratively experienced successor. By the time he retired moreover, Frank had managed to put aside a relatively sizeable reserve fund which enabled ISDD to survive difficult financial periods in later years. His devotion to the good administration of his brainchild rather than to projects and publications meant that he was not well known to others in the drugs field. But everyone who visited ISDD during his days will remember his good humour, his unfailing courtesy, and his dedication. ○