Cofio'r Athro J. H. Beynon[1]

As a youngster fascinated by science growing up in the Upper Swansea Valley, to be told that someone from the same village - who had excelled at your school many years earlier - was a pioneer in a field such as mass spectrometry was an eye-opener. As a teenager attending an invited scientific lecture given by that pioneer, John Herbert Beynon, at the National Eisteddfod in Welsh created a lasting impression. As a fresh applied mathematics graduate from University College Swansea, the opportunity to study for a Ph.D. at Swansea's Royal Society Research Unit, headed by John, was too good to refuse.

Working at the RSRU, supervised jointly by John and Gareth Brenton, was a formative experience in scientific and personal terms. In collaborations with Bob Boyd, Paul Fournier, Zdenek Herman, Tony Lee and others, we studied electron capture from di- and tri-atomic dications, and dissociation of H_2^+. We designed the ion optics of a new translational energy loss spectrometer, and calculated the effects of collisional broadening.

John's scientific legacy is rich and long. I will remember him for the simplicity and elegance with which he explained scientific ideas; for his generous, outward-looking pride in Swansea and Wales; and for one piece of career advice which summed up his approach: *whatever you're ask to do, do it exceptionally.* Indeed.

Philip Jonathan, Shell Projects and Technology, Manchester M22 0 RR, UK and Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Lancaster University LA1 4YF, UK.

[1] *Cofio'r Athro J. H. Beynon* : Welsh for *Remembering Professor J. H. Beynon*.