

## Personal Tribute to John Esling

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I have known John since 1972, and am extremely pleased to be able to offer my personal tribute to him.

I was his PhD thesis supervisor at the University of Edinburgh. John needed the bare minimum of supervision, being clearly destined for an outstanding career in academic phonetics. He and I share a significant research interest in the categorization of voice quality and vocal register, the subject of his thesis -- John is also an expert in the transcription of voice quality and voice quality measurement. But this, valuable though it certainly is, is far outweighed by John's ground-breaking analysis of the activities involved in the production of pharyngeal, laryngeal, epiglottal and aryepiglottic sounds. His experimental investigations using videofluoroscopy, laryngeal ultrasound, laryngoscopy, endoscopy and acoustic techniques, together with his clear expositions of how these sounds are produced and their auditory counterparts, have clarified what was previously more vaguely understood by the majority of phoneticians, including myself.

John has gone on to a very distinguished career, with more than 100 scholarly publications, major editorships of both the *Handbook of the International Phonetic Association* and the *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary*, the Presidency of the International Phonetic Association, and the editorship of the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*. These and many other achievements have led to his very well deserved Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada, recognizing his outstanding contribution.

Looking through his authored and edited publications, my view is that John very thoroughly merits his standing as a phonetician's phonetician, and I congratulate him very warmly.