



**CM [Mervyn] Johnston in 1965**

### **Some brief remarks about Mervyn Johnston and his time in Glasgow**

Having previously spent most of his working life with Scott Wilson in Africa, Mervyn Johnston took over from Roy Hodgen as Associate responsible for the Glasgow Office in 1968. Roy had transferred to London Office to lead the Transportation Section there.

Mervyn was a very nice man but not very dynamic. He had a slow manner of speaking in a refined and educated Northern Ireland accent. He had taken over Room 5, 6 Park Circus Glasgow, as his office. This room had formerly been home to Gavin Walker, Bob McGowan, Bob McKittrick, John Toal and Dave Sargeant, the Bridges team for the St Georges Cross end of GIRR Woodside 2! I would be called to see Mervyn occasionally, to have a discussion about my 'Training under Agreement' or my annual staff assessment. Mervyn sat behind a large desk diagonally placed in the large room; it looked a bit intimidating but Mervyn was always friendly. Although rather junior, I always had the impression that Mervyn was a bit out of touch with the realities of running a business in the UK and with the young, ambitious and capable staff under his command.

Mervyn departed in 1971 on the creation of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co (Scotland) Ltd and the re-appointment of Roy Hodgen as Managing Director. Roy's ambitions were not satisfied by these arrangements and by April 1973, he had resigned to become a Partner with a rival consultant taking Jack Wood [Traffic] with him immediately and Chris Ford [Bridges] by the end of the year.

This turn of events was rather unsettling but, as Bob McGowan and I decided, it was an ill wind that blew no good!!

JP McCafferty July 2015.