



JF [Joe] Lindsay in 1965

Joe Lindsay's contribution to the growth of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, particularly in Hong Kong, will, no doubt, be told in a wider history of the Firm; he is included here because of his interface with Jim McCafferty while he was with SW Hong Kong 1976-1981.

Although I never worked directly with Joe Lindsay while I was in Hong Kong, his friendly and urbane manner was a good and welcomed influence.

Before transferring to the Tsuen Wan Office around 1978, Joe and I were based in Star House, Kowloon, adjacent to the Star Ferry terminus. We were in different rooms but there was a fair bit of intermingling on projects and at social events.

He was, like Stanley George Elliott, an Irishman and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. Among the middle ranking and junior staff, Joe was known as a 'Kirkpatrick' man implying that he had been with Sir Cyril Kirkpatrick & Partners before the merger with Scott & Wilson in 1954. It was also rumoured that Joe had, at some time, transferred from Hong Kong back to London for some years and, later, back to Hong Kong. These two circumstances, it was said, resulted in SG Elliott being the Senior Partner rather than Joe, who was older. In those days, seniority flowed from the date when any individual was first appointed a Partner. Furthermore, it was also quite normal at the time for senior staff to step down a rung if they transferred back to the UK from an overseas post. Being a Partner in an overseas office carried, it appears, less seniority than the home grown variety! I have no reason to doubt these rumours and the fact was that Stanley and not Joe was the Senior Partner in Hong Kong.

Whatever the truth of the matter, Joe appeared to accept his position with dignity.

I always found him charming and witty and, unlike the other Partners, he would notice and comment on the fact that one or other of my young daughters had won a competition or had a drawing published in the children's section of the South China Morning Post.

Joe tended to arrive at Star House a few minutes after everyone else had got to their desks. One morning, Richard Gamlen and Bill Murray noticed that the headline in the South China Morning Post concerned a 'Great Train Robbery' in Ireland that had gone badly wrong; they had held up the wrong train!! Hoping for a bit of early morning amusement, Richard and Bill challenged Joe about this 'Great Irish Train Robbery' as he walked into the room. Joe, with his ubiquitous cigarette in hand, read the headline and the first few lines, took a deep draw on his cigarette, tilted his head back, and blew out a large cloud of smoke. 'Well', he said, 'anyone can make a mistake' and walked off to his room!

That was Joe!

JP McCafferty July 2015.