

Peter Coles
BSc Dip Ed FRPS FIPF EFIAP FACI(M)
1935 – 2011

Our very dear friend Peter Coles has died. He was a great inspiration to us all, known as the Grandfather of AV.

Peter had many talents. He was, most of all, fun to be with, constantly coming up with ideas for sequences - if you blinked he'd make a sequence out of it! I wasn't surprised to learn that he was working on a sequence in his hospital bed the day before he died. It was a passion and he was a genius. His sequences weren't straightforward, they had messages at many levels. He was a vicar's son and you would usually find religion intermingled, often very subtly, with his other thoughts on life. A poet, his scripts would reflect this, becoming like a melody when he read them with his unforgettable, expressive voice. He understood words and loved to use them to full effect. He edited the RPS AVNews and later AVWorld for many years and published many books.

He had a love of photography from an early age, but the artist in him meant that even before the days of digital he was altering the elements in his photographs to enhance them for his AV's. Digital just made it easier to do. He embraced the new technology and used it to good effect.

He was a teacher, not only a chemistry teacher to school age and later adults but a teacher of life to those he came in contact with. He was caring and considerate and helped many through their first steps in AV production, a true mentor. He enjoyed making sequences with other folk, as he called them. He was especially delighted when his granddaughter Alicia showed an interest in making AV's and we have seen some delightful sequences as a result.

He was also a politician and only retired as a Lib/Dem Calderdale Councillor last year. His political side came out in the AV world where he put forward many ideas alongside giving his help and advice on matters, not just in the UK, but internationally, where he was very well known. He chaired the RPS Distinctions Panel for many years. He also had a special relationship with the IAC, running the Geoffrey Round Competition for them. In 2003 he made it the first British all digital International AV Competition.

In 1985 he achieved two RPS Fellowships, one in AV with a submission entitled "Six Poems" and the other with Pictorial Prints – a set of 18 montages. He gained a Fellowship of the Irish Photographic Federation in 1989. In 1992 he was awarded his AFIAP and his EFIAP in 1995. In April 2007 he received the honour of FACI from the IAC and on 20th October 2007 he was Awarded FACI(M) – (Master of AV). He was awarded the Fenton Medal by the RPS in 2008. He regarded the Dobson Henry Medal given him (by the RPS AV Group) in 1998 for Services to AV as his proudest AV possession.

He had more sequences and gained more awards than any other author in the world. Many of these can be seen (hopefully they will still be accessible) on www.youtube.com putting avpeter into the search.

Peter was loved and respected throughout the AV fraternity and will be sadly missed by us all.

Marion Waine

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