

ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
FOR KENNETH HYDE DICKENSON MBE

Ken was a stalwart of Barclays Bank Dominion Colonial and Overseas (DCO) and its successor Barclays Bank International (BBI).

He joined DCO in 1946 and completed his training in London at 29 Gracechurch Street Branch. DCO was expanding rapidly and he opted to join the overseas staff as an expatriate and was allocated to the West Indies. He left for a 4 year tour on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1948 travelling by sea to Jamaica on SS Orbita. The journey took 18 days – little did Ken know at that time that this was to be the start of a dynamic career in the Bank.

Ken quickly rose up the ladder leaving Jamaica with a junior management appointment – his meticulous attention to detail, quick grasp of the banking systems and ability to be a team player meant he had been identified for bigger things. Returning home, he was transferred to inspection department – the start of a long career “on the road” which was to take him to many branches and territories where the bank operated - Europe, Malta, Libya, Gibraltar, West Indies, Ghana, Israel, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya over the next 17 years. He reached the highest ranks in the department. Ken was not a Head Office, London person – preferring to be overseas.

A time for a change came when in 1969 he was appointed Local director in Sudan. Short lived as a year later in May 1970 the bank there was nationalised. After a spell back in the West Indies, Ken was appointed a Local Director in Zambia for 2 years and then a Local Director in Nigeria from where he retired in 1978. At age 56, Ken had collected many pensionable bonus years probably 4 – known in the “trade” as “dirty service”. Well deserved for those who served in difficult climes!! Ken being a bachelor was always in demand for the tough assignments!!

Those who have worked with Ken, and I count myself privileged, always found him a great mentor, kind and considerate and tolerant to those on the learning curve. Need less to say he could be tough when dealing with those staff involved in frauds and fiddles. But so generous in his thanks to those around him – his house staff, children of expatriate staff to whom he would often give presents, the secretaries who would type the reports and his team. Ken must have met several thousand of the Bank’s staff during his 30 plus years. That is why he is held in so much affection.

His sound banking reputation ensured that retirement was not for him – yet. He joined Union Bank of Nigeria as an executive Director – successor to Barclays – and served several years with them in London and Lagos.

Ken was a BBI man at heart and back in the UK he took on the role of Chairman of the Barclays International Pensioners’ Club for 6 years. Ken

remained on the committee as a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund and stepped down in 2002 after 14 years in total as a committee member. Welfare was a key part of his brief – he would attend BIPC functions until just 4 years ago as well as Overseas Bankers reunions. Ken was always on the go – the perfect host, gentleman and contactor. I recall his Christmas cards – usually the first to arrive with the envelope addressed in his neat writing - no computerised labels for Ken - and always a little hand written note inside. The picture on the card was usually of St George's Chapel Windsor. On a personal note when I was appointed Managing Director of Barclays in Uganda in 1984, Ken who knew the country well, wrote to me a letter of congratulations. Typically Ken. So many of his colleagues have made contact following his passing. A recurrent theme is Ken the perfect gentleman, a great team player, meticulous for detail, a great asset, an inspiration and a superb Ambassador for Barclays and the banking industry. His MBE so well deserved.

Ken, thank you on behalf of so many colleagues past and present.

Edred Bowman  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2017