With the passing of Professor Sir Nevill Mott on 8 August 1996, the world lost one of the great scientists of the twentieth century.

His interest in solid-state physics began in 1938 when he was appointed to a Chair at the University of Bristol. It was his work in this field which won him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1977. His groundbreaking work on the electrical properties of amorphous materials spearheaded radical changes in contemporary electronics and heralded the era of the truly cost-effective electronic device.

A man of tremendous energy, vision and dedication to his chosen field, Sir Mott was also much admired by his contemporaries for his ability to juggle research, university duties as head of department and public office. Named Cavendish Professor of Physics at Cambridge in 1954, the leading position in physics in Britain, he was also president of the International Union of Physics. Public acknowledgment of his contributions to Physics as well as to science education in Britain came in 1962 when he was Knighted, and again in 1995 when he was appointed Companion of Honour. In addition, the many honorary degrees that he received from institutions in Britain, Europe, Israel and America attest to the wide recognition of his great achievements.