The first International Fellow was Edward L. Johnson. He passed away in 2004 at age 94 in Santa Barbara and left behind an admirable legacy of public service and contributions to the lending industry.

Reared in Chicago, he moved to San Marino, a Los Angeles suburb, where he and his family resided for almost half a century.

He was initiated into the Chicago chapter of LAI in 1931, served as International President in 1943-44 and was awarded an International Fellowship in 1987. He was the first member initiated into LAI after the original founders.

His career was devoted to the lending industry. For a quarter century, he served as President and Chairman of Financial Federation, a statewide multi-billion dollar savings and loan association. After that, he was a director of American Savings and Loan Association.

In the public sector, he was on the boards of the President’s National Business Council, the Boys Scouts, Salvation Army, Pepperdine University, Federal Home Loan Board and was a member of both the Jonathan and California Clubs.

Following his Presidency, Mr. Johnson continued to express his devotion to LAI. He traveled to London in 1992 to be part of the historic chartering of the overseas chapter, and he attended the Los Angeles LAI meetings well into his 80’s. International Fellow James Fawcett remembers him as an affable person with a great public spirit.