

# James C. Bort\*, FCSI

*"In recognition of your distinguished and dedicated service to the Construction Specifications Institute, as a member, as a co-founder of your Chapter, as a distinguished officer of your Chapter, as a National Director, as National Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, as National Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, as National President of the Institute, you were responsible for the creation of the Technical Review Board and served as its first Chairman, and as a tireless leader in the C.S.I., you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on May 22, 1963."*  
*Detroit, Michigan*



JAMES C. BORT was born in Monticello, Iowa in 1915. In 1952 he joined with eight other Chicago area specifiers who were attempting to organize a CSI chapter in Chicago. When the Chapter was chartered in May of 1953. Bort was elected first Treasurer. The following year he was elected Vice-President. Two years later he was elected President. As President, Bort made increasing membership in the Chapter a priority and the result was a 56 percent increase to 162 members, one of the largest chapters in the very young Institute.

In 1957 Bort was elected Director of the Central States District, forerunner of the North Central Region. During his term he planned and directed the District Conference.

While serving as District Director Bort also chaired the Institute Bylaws Committee.

Bort was elected Institute Vice-President for the 1961 term. The following year he was elected Institute President. During his term as President Bort initiated and chaired the Institute

Technical Review Board, later known as the Technical Committee. Under his leadership the committee produced "The CSI Format for Building Specifications," the forerunner of MASTERFORMAT. At the same time, CSI and AIA formed a joint liaison committee to study a uniform system for specifications, data filing, and cost estimating.

From 1969 to 1975 Bort served as co-chairman of the Construction Industry Affairs Committee of Chicago, an organization that analyzed problems confronting the construction industry. During his tenure as co-chairman the committee published 20 recommendations.

Over the years Bort served as speaker at many Institute and construction industry functions. He was honored by Iowa State University's College of Engineering with its "Professional Achievement Award."

## **CSI Membership**

Chicago Chapter

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

President, 1962

Vice President, 1961

Institute Director, 1957-1959

## **Chapter Offices, Committees**

President, 1956

Vice President, 1954

Treasurer, 1953

## **Awards**

Honorary Member, 1989