



Simon Phillips Norton (1952 – 2019)



Simon Phillips Norton passed away at the age of 66 on February 14th, 2019. He was born on February 28th, 1952, in London and received his *PhD* in 1976 in Cambridge, under the guidance of John Conway. Norton was famous for his contribution to the theory of finite simple groups; in particular, he discovered one of the 26 sporadic groups, the so-called *Harada-Norton group*, and was among the authors of the

ATLAS of Finite Groups. Simon Norton's incomparable genius and eccentricity was the subject of the biography *The Genius in My Basement* written by Alexander Masters. Although it has a precise mathematical meaning, the title of his last paper, *The monster is fabulous*, is emblematic, and could be seen in relation to his sentence:

*I can explain what Monstrous Moonshine is in one sentence. . .
it is the voice of God.*