

Breaking News

Russ Archibald, Project Management Icon: 1924 - 2020

World loses globally-respected and popular project management expert to natural causes at 96, after a life well lived

5 May 2020 – San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and Dallas, TX, USA – Russell Archibald, one of the world's best known and most popular project management experts, passed away at his home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico on Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 at the age of 96. With Marion, his wife of 74 years, at his side, he died of natural causes and was at peace at the time of passing. According to his family, his ashes will be interred in a special wall of St. Paul's Anglican Church of San Miguel. He is survived by his wife Marion, daughters Barbara and Danielle, son Mark, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many, many friends around the world. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in his name be made to the San Miguel el Grande Pro Musica Association Scholarship Fund. Russ' obituary and donation information can be found at <http://www.promusicasma.org/>.

Russell Dean Archibald, PMP was a founding trustee and member #6 of the Project Management Institute (PMI), today the world's largest professional organization serving the project management field. He presented the first paper at PMI's first conference in Atlanta in 1969, presented keynote presentations and papers at many other PMI conferences over the years, was PMI vice president and program chair of PMI's first Seminars/Symposium in 1970, received the PMI Fellow Award in 1989, served as President of the PMI Southern California Chapter during 1991-92, and received the Jim O'Brien Lifetime Achievement Award from the PMI College of Scheduling in 2006. He actively supported the formation and growth of the PMI Mexico Chapter in Mexico City, and spoke at many other PMI chapters over the years.



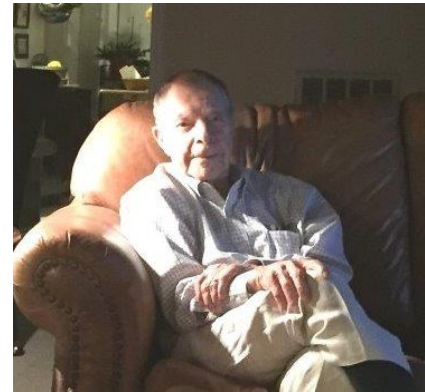
Russ (as he was known to his friends) who happened to be working in England at the time, was also a founding member (#3) of the Association for Project Management (APM) in the UK in 1970. He was later named an Honorary Fellow of APM, maintaining many friendships among APM leaders over the decades. While living and working in Europe in the 1970s, he met the leaders and became active in the International Project Management Association (IPMA – initially called INTERNET), serving on the INTERNET Board of Directors during 1979-1990; he presented keynote papers at IPMA/INTERNET International Congresses in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972, Birmingham, UK in 1976, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany in 1979, and Florence, Italy in 1992.

Russ had more than 70 years of broad international experience in program and project management, as well as operations and engineering management. He described it all as having had three basic careers:

- **United States Army Air Corps and Air Force** (1943-46, 1951-58)/**Aerospace** (12 years), as USAF Senior Pilot (Captain), project officer, design and project engineer, and branch manager with the USAF Air Research and Development Command; and 3 years as design engineer and department manager, Aerojet General Corporation and Hughes Aircraft Company.
- **Corporate:** (17 years), as a mechanical engineer in petroleum refinery construction and operation (Creole Petroleum, Venezuela), and project manager and senior executive in telecommunications (ITT Corp., USA and Mexico) and in automotive manufacturing (Bendix Corp., France, India and the United States.)
- **Management Consultant** (35+ years: Archibald Associates; CPM Systems, Inc.; Booz, Allen & Hamilton), in project and strategic management. He consulted in 16 countries on 4 continents to large and small companies in telecommunications, information technology, industrial, engineering, construction, consumer product and service sectors, plus federal and local government agencies and international development banks. Russ also presented expert witness testimony to USA state and Federal rate-setting agencies for several nuclear power plant and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline design/construction projects, and on litigation involving project management software application packages. From 2007 – 2012, he was a member of a senior program management advisory team supporting the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) in Washington, DC. (GTRI was the U.S. government's massive program to secure at-risk nuclear and radiological materials around the world from the threat of misuse or terrorism).

Russ is co-author of **Leading and Managing Innovation** (CRC Press, 2nd Ed. 2016) author of **Managing High-Technology Programs and Projects** (Wiley, 3rd Ed. 2003), also published in Russian, Italian and simplified Chinese 2004; previous editions 1976/1992 published in Italian, Japanese, and Russian; and co-author of **Network-Based Management Information Systems (PERT/CPM)** (Wiley, 1967), published in Hungarian 1971; plus numerous articles, papers and presentations. He was co-author, with Darci Prado, of **Project Management for Executives – Including Portfolios and Programs**, published in Portuguese and English in Brazil.

Remaining active over the last 15 years, he authored or co-authored seminal papers on the topics of Integrated Project Planning & Control; Project Categories and Life Cycles; Organizational Project Management Maturity; Strategic Enterprise Development with PM; The State of the Art of PM; Leading and Managing Innovation; Cognitive Readiness in Project Management; and other topics.



And that's not all. After Russ and Marion moved to San Miguel de Allende, a world heritage site at 6,400 feet in the State of Guanajuato, in the central mountains of Mexico, he became active in supporting local arts, cultural and social programs and organizations, including the following:

- Advisor in project management to several not-for-profit community organizations that benefit the people of San Miguel de Allende.
- Co-founder in 1990 of the [San Miguel el Grande Pro Musica Association](#), that presents world-class chamber music concerts during 10 months of the year in intimate settings in San Miguel with professional musicians from Mexico, North and South America, and Europe.
- Past President (2005) of the [Festival de Música de Cámara de San Miguel de Allende](#), a two week summer festival and music school featuring world-renowned string quartets, trios, and soloists; this festival attracts students and young professionals from all over Mexico, other Latin countries, and the U.S., and celebrated its 32nd year in 2010.
- Past Senior Warden and committee member of [St. Paul's Anglican Church of San Miguel](#), an active community center that is a member of the Iglésia Anglicana de México, an independent Province of the worldwide Anglican Communion.
- Past President of the International Lions Club of San Miguel de Allende.
- Past Board member of the [Feed the Hungry Program](#), which now feeds over 4,000 needy school children each school day in kitchens attached to 35 schools in and around San Miguel.
- Past President of the San Miguel Suzuki String Program for Children, providing musical education on violin and cello for children from ages 4 to 16 using the world-famous Suzuki method, including a number of children in three orphanages in San Miguel.



An accomplished amateur musician, Russ became even more famous in San Miguel when he donated his 300 year old violin to the San Miguel el Grande Pro Musica Association for use by a young musician named Turkkan Macias (pictured with Russ' old violin), who went on to study at the Manhattan Conservatory of Music in New York.

Russ Archibald held Bachelor of Science (University of Missouri 1948) and Master of Science (University of Texas, Austin 1956) degrees in mechanical engineering, and was awarded an Honorary PhD in Strategy, Programme and Project Management by the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Lille, France* (2005).

Editor's note: Russ Archibald was a global advisor, supporter and close friend to PM World Journal managing editor David Pells. A tribute to Russ will be published in the June PMWJ; testimonials or statements of experience with Russ, impressions or condolences will be welcome. Please send statements to editor@pmworldjournal.com.