

## **Sir James Alexander Mirlees,**

Nobel in Economics in 1996

Birth: 5 July 1936, Minnigaff, Kirkcudbrightshire,  
Scotland  
Civil Status: Married, 1961-1993, two children

### **Education**

1941-54 Primary School and Douglas Ewart High School  
Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, Scotland  
1954-57 Edinburgh University  
MA Mathematics and Natural Philosophy  
1957-62 Cambridge University, Trinity College  
1958 and 1959: Mathematical Tripos, Parts II-III  
1963 Cambridge University  
Ph.D. in Economics, thesis *Optimum Accumulation Under Uncertainty*

### **Academic employment**

1962-63 Adviser with M.I.T. Center for International  
Studies, India Project, New Delhi  
1963-68 Assistant Lecturer, then Lecturer, in Economics,  
University of Cambridge  
1966, 1967, 1968 Adviser, Pakistan Institute of Development  
Economics, Karachi, for brief periods  
1968-1995 (Edgeworth) Professor of Economics, University  
of Oxford  
1995- Professor of Political Economy, University of  
Cambridge  
March-July 1968  
Sept-Jan 1970-71

Jan-May 1976 Visiting Professor, Department of Economics,  
M.I.T.

1986 Visiting Professor, University of California,  
Berkeley

1989 Visiting Professor, Yale University

### **Fellowships**

1963-68/1995- Fellow of Trinity College, University of  
Cambridge

1968-1995 Fellow of Nuffield College, University of Oxford

### **Books**

(with I.M.D. Little) *Manual of Industrial Project Analysis in Developing Countries, Vol II: Social Cost Benefit Analysis* (O.E.C.D., Paris, 1969)

(with I.M.D. Little) *Project Appraisal and Planning for Developing Countries* (Heinemann, London, and Basic Books, New York, 1974)

"Models of Economic Growth", Introduction to volume of same title, eds. Mirrlees and Stern (Macmillan, 1973)

### **Selected papers**

(with N. Kaldor) "A New Model of Economic Growth", *Review of Economic Studies*, June 1962

"Optimum Growth When Technology is Changing", *Review of Economic Studies*, January 1967

"The Dynamic Nonsubstitution Theorem", *Review of Economic Studies*, January 1969

"The Evaluation of National Income in an Imperfect Economy", *Pakistan Development Review*, Spring 1969

"An Exploration in the Theory of Optimum Income Taxation", *Review of Economic Studies*, April 1971

(with R.A. Diamond) "Optimal Taxation and Public Production I: Production Efficiency" *American Economic Review*, March 1971

(with P.A. Diamond) "Optimal Taxation and Public Production II: Tax Rules: *American Economic Review*, June 1971

"The Terms of Trade: Pearson on Trade, Debt, and Liquidity", in *The Widening Gap*, ed. Barbara Ward (Columbia University Press, 1971)

(with P.J. Hammond) "Agreeable Plans", in *Models of Economic Growth*, ed. Mirrlees and Stern for the I.E.A. (Macmillan 1973)

"On Producer Taxation", *Review of Economic Studies*, January 1972

(with I.M.D. Little) "Further Reflections on Project Analysis", *Development and Planning* (Essays for Paul Rosenstein-Rodan), eds. Bhagwati and Eckaus (Allen and Unwin 1972)

(with N.H. Stern) "Fairly Good Plans", *Journal of Economic Theory*, April 1972

(with P.A. Diamond) "Aggregate Production with Consumption Externalities", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1973

"The Optimum Town", *Swedish Journal of Economics*, 1972

"Population Policy and the Taxation of Family Size", *Journal of Public Economics*, 1972

"Optimal Accumulation under Uncertainty: the Case of Stationary Returns to Investment", in *Allocation under Uncertainty*, ed. J. Dreze (Macmillan 1974)

"Notes on Welfare Economics, Information and Uncertainty", in *Essays in Equilibrium Behavior under Uncertainty*, eds. M. Balch, D. McFadden, and S. Wu (North-Holland 1974)

"Optimal Taxation in a Two-Class Economy", *Journal of Public Economics*, 4, (February 1975)

(with A.K. Dixit and N.H. Stern) "Optimum Saving with Economies of Scale", *Review of Economic Studies*, 52 (July 1975)

"A Pure Theory of Underdeveloped Economies, using a Relationship between Consumption and Productivity", *Agriculture in Development Theory*, ed. L. Reynolds (Yale University Press, 1975)

(with J.A. Kay) "The Desirability of Natural Resource Depletion", in *The Economics of Natural Resource Depletion*, ed. D.W. Pearce (Macmillan 1975)

"The Optimal Structure of Incentives and Authority within an Organization", *Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science*, Spring 1976

(with R.A. Diamond) "On the Assignment of Liability: the Uniform Case", *Bell Journal of Economics*, Autumn 1975

(with R.A. Diamond) "Private Constant Returns and Public Shadow Prices", *Review of Economic Studies*, February 1976

"Optimal Tax Theory: A Synthesis", *Journal of Public Economics*, December 1976

"Implications for Tax Rates", Conference lecture at Institute for Fiscal Studies, published in *Taxation and Incentives*, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London 1976

"The Theory of Moral Hazard and Unobservable Behaviour I", mimeo., Nuffield College, 1975

"Arguments for Public Expenditure", in *Contemporary Economic Analysis*, eds. Artis and Nobay, Croom-Helm, 1979

"Social Benefit-Cost Analysis and the Distribution of Income", *World Development*, 1978

(with R.A. Diamond) "A Model of Optimal Social Insurance with Variable Retirement", *Journal of Public Economics*, 1978

"The Economic Uses of Utilitarianism", in *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, ed. Sen and Williams, C.U.R 1982

(with R.A. Diamond and J. Helms) "Optimal Taxation in a Stochastic Economy: A Cobb-Douglas Example", *Journal of Public Economics*, 1980

"The Theory of Optimum Taxation", *Handbook of Mathematical Economics*, eds. Arrow and Intriligator, Vol.III, North-Holland, 1985

"The Implications of Moral Hazard for Optimal Insurance", mimeo., Nuffield College, 1979 (Conference in honour of Karl Borch, Bergen 1979)

"Optimal Foreign-income taxation", *Journal of Public Economics*, 1982

(with R.A. Diamond) "Insurance Aspects of Pensions", in *Pensions, Labor and Individual Choice*, ed. David A. Wise, (University of Chicago Press for NBER, 1985) pp.317-356

(with R. A. Diamond) "Payroll-tax financed social insurance with variable retirement", *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 88 (1), 1986

"Taxing Uncertain Incomes", *Oxford Economic Papers* 52, 1990

(with I.M.D. Little) "Project Appraisal and Planning Twenty Years On", in *Proceedings of the World Bank Annual Conference on Development Economics 1990*, eds. Stanley Fischer, Dennis de Tray and Shekhar Shah, (The World Bank, 1991)

(with R.A. Diamond) "Optimal Taxation of Identical Consumers when markets are incomplete", in *Economic Analysis of Markets and Games* (ed. Dasgupta, Gale, Hart and Maskin), M.I.T. Press 1992

"Optimal Taxation and Government Finance" in *Modern Public Finance* (eds. Quigley and Smolensky), Harvard University Press, 1994

"Welfare Economics and Economies of Scale", *Japanese Economic Review*, April, 1995.

"Private Risk and Public Action: The Economies of the Welfare State", *European Economic Review*, 39 (1995)

(with R. A. Diamond) "Social Insurance with Variable Retirement and Private Saving", mimeo., M.I.T., 1995

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