

International Association of Paper Historians
Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Papierhistoriker
Association Internationale des Historiens du Papier

THE PRESIDENT

Łódź, 5 December 2004

Dear friends of Paper History,

This September of this year the 27th IPH Congress was held in Poland, in Duszniki Zdrój and Cracow. The town and health resort of Duszniki Zdrój (read: *Doushneekie Sdruy*), located in Lower Silesia, is well known in paper history under the German name Bad Reinerz. A baroque structure of such a famous papermill, built in 1605 by Gregor Kretschmar of Saxony, has miraculously survived through ages. It was an initiative (in 1996) of the late George T. Mandl, our dear former Vice-President, to open the IPH to the east of Europe. However, the disastrous flood, which afflicted Lower Silesia in the Summer of 1998, damaged also that historic building, preventing our already planned congress being organised there in the year 2000. In such a way, our congress has come to Poland in a year of the accession of that country to the European Community.

The 27th IPH Congress has been excellently organized by the Museum of Papermaking located in that historic mill, and a great deal of personal activities of Mrs. Bozena Schweizer-Makowska, the director of that museum, should be pointed out. IPH authorities, lead by our President Dr. Albert Elen, were also involved in the preparation of that congress, with a great deal of work done by Alphonse Radermecker, our Treasurer, and Jos De Gelas, our new Vice-President. The first part of the congress (3 to 7 September) took place in Duszniki Zdrój. We had the opportunity to visit that ancient mill, carefully restored after the 1998 flood, the financing of which had been covered by domestic and foreign funds, including the IPH. Regrettably, Mrs. Margit Wessel, a granddaughter of Karl Wiehr, the last proprietor of the Reinerz mill, was not able to participate in it. It was her grandfather who decided in May 1939 to change his mill into a papermaking museum. That museum in Bad Reinerz was established in 1968, but the town was in the meantime renamed Duszniki Zdrój. The participants had an opportunity to examine very interesting and informative exhibitions there and to watch a demonstration of papermaking by hand which is also one of the museum's activities.

The participants were lodged in the nearby Jamrozowa Polana hotel, a modern winter sports centre. However, presentations of papers and discussions took place in the pleasant atmosphere of the historical manor in which young Frédéric Chopin had given, on 26 August 1826, his first concert abroad, the revenues of which were allocated to two orphans. The opening lecture "450 Jahre Papiermacherei in Reinerz/Duszniki" was delivered by Prof. Gottfried Schweizer. Later on, under the general theme "Paper as a support of historical memory", papers have been presented on many aspects of paper-history, from the earliest papermaking techniques in China, Tibetan manuscripts, and medieval papermaking in the Near-East, to changes in craft technologies, paper permanence, paper as historical evidence, groundwood making, early patents in machine papermaking, history of some mills, watermarks in machine-made paper and an international bibliography on paper history. Additionally, the paper museums of Portugal and at Spain presented themselves. The twenty-four lectures, including reports presented during excursions outside Duszniki Zdrój, will be published by the Museum of Papermaking in the IPH Congress Book Vol. 15. Bozena Schweizer-Makowska has an ambitious plan to issue this IPH publication the next year (2005).

The Ordinary General Meeting of the IPH on Sunday 5 September 2004 was chaired by IPH-President Dr. Albert Elen. The assembly rose to honour the memory of our dear members who had passed away after the last congress (Rome 2002), namely: Lia Nadler, Françoise Paireau, and Rémy John Barcham Green. The President's biannual report was presented, as well as reports on the accounts by the treasurer and auditors. After the discussions the assembly voted unanimously to discharge the Executive Council. The assembly elected unanimously Dr. Józef Dąbrowski (Poland) as new President

President: Dr. Józef Dabrowski, e-mail: dabrowski@paperhistory.org

Secretary: Ursula Reinhard (postal address c/o the treasurer), e-mail: reinhard@paperhistory.org

Treasurer: Alphonse Radermecker, Hochstrasse 87, B-4700 Eupen, e-mail: radermecker@paperhistory.org

International Association of Paper Historians
Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Papierhistoriker
Association Internationale des Historiens du Papier

for the next four years, and Jos De Gelas (Belgium) as Vice-President for the same term, and both Mr. Martin Cuppen (The Netherlands) and Ing. Darko Cafuta (Slovenia) as Auditors for the next two years. Mr. Alphonse Radermecker (Belgium) and Mrs. Ursula Reinhard (Germany) had already been elected Treasurer resp. Secretary during the congress in Rome, also for terms of four years. The assembly positively evaluated the efforts made on preparing the next IPH congress in 2006 in Spain (Capellades and Madrid), as well as the initiated actions to organise the 2008 congress in Sweden (Uppsala and Stockholm, with a possible extension to Finland). For 2010 and 2012 The Netherlands (The Hague and Apeldoorn) and the United Kingdom (Surrey) have been mentioned. Dr. Paola Munafò presented a copy of the IPH Congress Book Vol. 14, so splendidly published at Rome by the Istituto Centrale per la Patologia del Libro. During the Duszniki sessions the participants were offered the opportunity to see the specially organized photo exhibition "The Conservation of Works of Art", prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Wiesław Faber, highly experienced restorers of fine art objects, including paper, also recognized outside Poland.

Being at Duszniki Zdrój, we visited also the Foundation for International Chopin Festivals, organizing such festivals in Duszniki Zdrój since 1946. It was a real pleasure to listen to the piano recital given by Mrs. Miku Omine, a Japanese piano virtuoso. Before that piano recital, Mr. Bolesław Krawczyk, the lord mayor of Duszniki Zdrój, conferred on Mrs. Schweizer-Makowska the honorary citizenship of that town. The first part of that congress was supplemented with two excursions. One was a visit to the hand-paper mill at Velke Losiny (Czech Republic). We were welcomed there, with true Czech hospitality, by Mrs. Blanka Dittrichova, the head of that mill. We visited the interesting Paper Museum, and witnessed the entire process of making paper by hand, carefully carried out there to manufacture permanent papers from long-fibred pulps, with an alkaline reserve, of high quality recognized also outside of Czechia. The second excursion was to the city of Wrocław, the capital of the Lower Silesia, in history rather known as Breslau. There was a particularly interesting visit to the State Archives, in which an exhibition of rare documents and selected ancient maps was organized specifically for our congress, and we were presented two lectures on ancient papermakers of Lower Silesia. We also had a very interesting visit to the Ossoliński National Institute (Ossolineum). Count Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński, an eminent Polish librarian, was the prefect of Imperial Library at Vienna. In 1817, by virtue of an Imperial Privilege, he was authorised to donate his collection to the Polish People, establishing the Ossolineum at Lwów. Wrocław, the city where many former inhabitants of Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine) settled after 1945, became the new seat of the Ossolineum, housed in an old monastery building of the Hospital Order of the Cavaliers of the Cross with a Red Star. We had an opportunity to see that building and the exhibition of rare books of the Ossolineum collection which was specially organised for us, together with a presentation on conservation techniques. A highly interesting lecture was delivered by Dr. Adolf Juzwenko, the director of that institute. Our visit to Wrocław was accompanied by many other interesting events, including a guided tour of the old town, and a meeting with authorities of Lower Silesia at the National Museum.

The second part of the congress (8 to 10 September) was situated in the city of Cracow. During our visits to the Jagiellonian Library and University we had an opportunity to see both an exhibition of rare books and the paper deacidifying unit (C 900 of Neschen); two lectures were presented. After a guided tour of the old town, we had a very impressive visit to the medieval building of the Collegium Maius, where the museum of the Jagiellonian University is housed. That university was established in 1364, and renewed in 1400. The next day we enjoyed a guided tour to the Royal Wawel Castle and Cathedral, and also a very interesting visit to the archives there. In the nearby town of Wieliczka we visited the world-famous ancient salt mine. The last day we had visits to two interesting museums in Cracow: the Centre of Japanese Art and Technique "Manggha", with a magnificent collection of ukiyo-e and other Japanese artefacts, and the Czartoryski Museum which has many interesting fine art objects among them paintings by Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt.

The 27th IPH Congress was a very interesting and fruitful event, showing both the surprising vitality of the IPH and a growing need for further improvements in its activities. Fortunately, considerable assistance is given to me by Dr. Albert Elen, our former President, and further support was friendly promised by Dr. Peter Tschudin, our Honorary President. My cooperation with the IPH Executive Council is very close and seems to be efficient, with a great deal of work of Mr. Radermecker, our Treasurer, and with significant assistance by Mrs. Ursula Reinhard, our Secretary, who took on the task of sending to our members the IPH CB Vol. 14. Some initial measures are taken to resume our periodical, and we are

President: Dr. Józef Dabrowski, e-mail: dabrowski@paperhistory.org

Secretary: Ursula Reinhard (postal address c/o the treasurer), e-mail: reinhard@paperhistory.org

Treasurer: Alphonse Radermecker, Hochstrasse 87, B-4700 Eupen, e-mail: radermecker@paperhistory.org

International Association of Paper Historians
Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Papierhistoriker
Association Internationale des Historiens du Papier

thinking about publication of a new volume (no 3) in the IPH Monograph series. Mrs. Inge van Wegen, René Teygeler and Dr. Henk Porck are working on a plan to improve our website and introduce electronic newsletter. However, we have to wait for its final presentation and discussion until the safe return of René Teygeler from Irak.

My first official address as your President was delivered to our dear Russian colleagues, gathered in conference in St. Petersburg on 14 October this year. It was successfully presented by our dear member Stefan Feyerabend, an initiator of very thorough studies on watermarks in machine-made papers. And I am receiving positive responses from Russia. During a meeting of the IPH Executive Council, planned for January 2005, we will discuss the first fruits of our teamwork and the prospects for the next years. Hopefully, our enthusiasm for these activities will prove, allow me to say, contagious, so we do hope that some other members will join us in our efforts towards strengthening our dear IPH.

Dear friends, in many traditions the end of each year is considered as a Holy Time. Therefore, please accept my special greetings, directed to all of you, and especially to our dear doyens. Let that Holy Time revive your spirits, adding you strength throughout the New Year. And let 2005 also be fruitful for your paper-historical activities, manifesting themselves in your national circles of paper historians and in our dear IPH association as well.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Józef Dąbrowski
President of IPH