

## IN MEMORIAM ELAINE KORETSKY (1932-2018)

Honorary Member of IPH, Elaine Ruth Koretsky died at home, surrounded by her family November 11, 2018 after a long and brilliant life as a wife, mother, grandmother, nationally acclaimed woodworker and internationally renowned handmade paper artist and paper historian. Elaine Koretsky majored at Cornell University in Russian linguistics and studies in chemistry, anthropology, and botany and art history. She started with a successful career as a woodworker with display of her elegant furniture at the 1963 New York World's Fair and at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. In 1974 Elaine Koretsky continued with a new career in the field of handmade paper with establishment of The Studio Carriage House Paper together with her daughter Donna Koretsky. On numerous travels since 1976 around the world together with her husband Dr. Sidney Koretsky, Honorary Member of IPH, Elaine Koretsky collected handmade paper, papermaking tools, papermaking plants and artifacts. Discoveries of still existing traditional papermaking in remote places were documented with photos, videos and numerous publications, and her vast collection has since 1994 been gathered in The Research Institute of Paper History and Technology.

In 1986 I met Elaine and Sidney Koretsky at the 18th IPH Congress in Denmark, where she at her second IPH Congress presented the paper "Papermaking today in China and Tibet". It was my first IPH Congress, and we obviously shared a common interest in the history of East Asian handmade paper and technology, because my contribution dealt with field work and traditional paper making in Nepal and Thailand.

Elaine Koretsky had as delegate of IPH and faithful participant and speaker at numerous congresses contributed with valuable publications and documentation videos as well as with organization of papermaking tours for people with interest in paper history. In November 2007 I was among the lucky participants on the China-Expedition, organized by Elaine Koretsky and Donna Koretsky and sponsored by the Research Institute of Paper History & Technology. With focus on traditional hand paper-



Elaine Koretsky forms sheets of paper at Moulin Richard de Bas, Ambert, France, Aug. 6, 1991, photo by Sidney Koretsky

making and printing in Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces we travelled for two weeks through the most beautiful Chinese landscapes and remote regions and enjoyed the rich program of botanical information and paper technology that Elaine Koretsky generously informed us about on her "Papermaking Pilgrimage" through China. These memorable days together with Elaine Koretsky I will never forget.

"The Evolution of Papermaking through the centuries" was the title of Elaine Koretsky's presentation, documented with Sidney Koretsky's DVD at the XXXI IPH Congress 2012 in the Upper Rhine Region. This was their 14<sup>th</sup> participation at an IPH Congress and their last one. I will finish my commemorative words with a citation from Elaine Koretsky's paper in the IPH Congress Book, 2012, Volume 19:

"In my thirty years of field research throughout the world, I have observed fascinating changes, starting with the type of raw materials used, their preparation by cooking and beating, the modes of materials used, the modes of sheet formation, pressing and drying, and finally, I observed some amazing new processes in Thailand and Korea. With the newest development of "semi-automatic papermaking" I wonder whether we need a new definition for hand papermaking".

Elaine Koretsky will be remembered with gratitude.

Anna-Grethe Rischel