

Obituary

Göran Wohlfahrt

Göran Wohlfahrt died at the age of 85. He was the former president of the Association of Nordic Paper Historians (NPH) and for many years the international director of the Swedish Association of Pulp and Paper Engineers (SCPF). His closest relatives left behind are his wife, Monica and their three children and seven grandchildren.

Göran Wohlfahrt was graduated as a civil economist and cand.fil. His professional career was dominated by questions concerning SPCF, and already at the beginning of the 1960-s he created a network of contacts on the European continent for his organisation, much before Sweden joined the EU in 1995. His travels mostly went to Brussels, where he was an efficient and wise disseminator of information. It was not until 1992 that Sweden and even Finland and Norway were accepted of CEPAC, the paper industry's cooperative organization based in Brussels.

Göran Wohlfahrt's main interest was focused on the questions of trade, but he also had early contacts with the European Commission in questions concerning research and he introduced me to the area already in the beginning of 1980-s. For me it was the start of more than 25 years of intensive contacts in the field of research on the European continent. He had a special interest in the continuously current questions of energy and he functioned as a connecting link in the SCPF Energy committee for a great number of years. Together with him, as member of a Swedish delegation, I had the opportunity to participate in travels to China in the middle of the 1980-s, where among other issues the questions about energy were on the agenda. He was also active within the historical commission of the Swedish Forest Industries Federation (Skogsindustrierna), a fact which formed the background for his involvement in NPH.

Göran Wohlfahrt was the president of NPH during the years of 1999-2008. It was a period combined with problems in recruiting active members into the Board of the Association. This was illustrated for instance by the fact that he for some periods also had to function as the secretary and even the treasurer. This illustrates his working capacity and



Photo: Else Wohlfahrt Larsson

commitment. Among many other topics he was also responsible for the arrangements of the international IPH-Congress 2008 in Stockholm, a meeting with a great success.

Göran Wohlfahrt was a truly gifted and cultivated person. He was fluent in many foreign languages and he paid a great attention to informing both his own organisation and his colleagues about his travels and other experiences in reports which he generously shared with others. He was well-informed, prepared to listen and he also contemplated the issues. He was acting without making noise of his efforts. Due to these features of his personality he was met with great respect within the circles in which he was involved. He was truly characterized as a man of honour.

We are many who warmly and gratefully treasure the memory of Göran Wohlfahrt and a great number of friends within NPH and IPH are joining us.

Lennart Eriksson