

Letter of the President, May 2008

Dear members of the IPH,

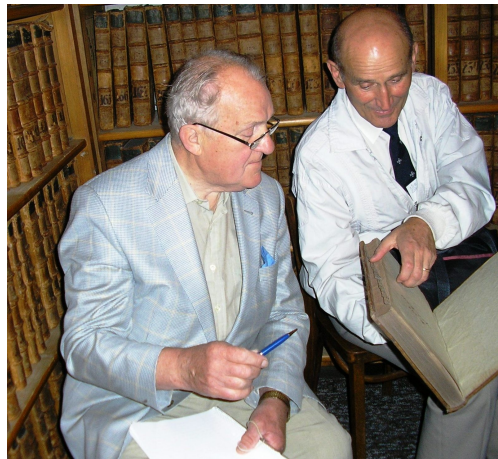
Dear friends of paper history,



In 2006, the 28th IPH Congress has been organised in Spain. During its first part, so successfully prepared and supervised by our dear friend Victòria Rabal, director of the Museu Molí Paperer de Capellades, three sessions with scientific presentations were held in the museum, two sessions were held in Barcelona, one in the Fundació Miró and in the Archives of the Corona de Aragón, and the last session in the Monastery of Montserrat. In this first part of the Congress, the paper-historical issues were interlaced with our direct contacts with the culture of Catalonia.

The second part of the Congress was entirely devoted to visiting museums and libraries in Madrid and surroundings, among them the Museo de América, the Museo del Prado, and the Real Biblioteca del Escorial. Participants in this second part got the unique opportunity for seeing the treasures of Spanish cultural heritage, thanks to our dear friend Maria del Carmen Hidalgo Brinquis of the Instituto del Patrimonio Histórico Español, where the participants also received a warm reception. These fruitful efforts of our dear Spanish Ladies resulted in such a great success of the 28th IPH Congress, so much appreciated by its participants. However, all members of our international family of paper historians will soon have

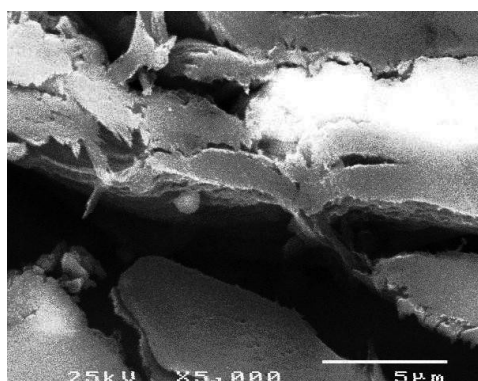
a possibility for their own evaluation in detail of the scientific outcome of the 28th IPH Congress. The editing of the IPH Congress Book Vol. 16 by the Capellades museum has just been finished by Ton Lloret under the guidance of Victòria Rabal, and its publication and distribution is expected during the next months.



Before the Spanish IPH Congress, my closer cooperation with Göran Wohlfahrt, President of the Nordic Paper Historians (NPH) and the initiator and coordinator of the 29th IPH Congress in 2008 in Sweden, had been started. He elaborated a highly interesting programme and organised the support and involvement of serious institutions and their representatives into the activities required by the programme. The Swedish IPH Congress will be combined with celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Swedish Association of Pulp & Paper Engineers (SPCI), and STFI-Packforsk AB - one the world's leading Research & Development companies in the fields of pulp, paper, graphic media, packaging and logistic - is co-organising this IPH Congress, with Dr Lennart Eriksson responsible for the overall organisation and Karin Hagy as secretary of the Congress. The deep involvement of Anna-Grethe Rischel of Denmark, Vice-President of the NPH, and of Jan-Erik Levlin of Finland responsible for the scientific programme, adds a Nordic touch to this Swedish IPH Congress.

Due to close cooperation of the involving institutions and persons, under the indefatigable guidance of Göran Wohlfahrt, there was no need for me to visit Sweden at the end of 2007 to check the venues and discuss any further details with the organisers. Thanks to their activities, we will start in Stockholm our discussions on *The Birth of an Industry – from Forest to Paper during the 19th Century* on Tuesday (27 May 2008).

After the 28th IPH Congress in Spain, two meetings of the IPH Council were organised. First of them, on 12 June 2007, was devoted mainly to discussing the financial statements & auditors' report, the new Members' Directory 2007 (assembled and distributed by Dr Sabine Schachtner, our secretary), and to the 29th IPH Congress in Sweden. The second meeting of the council, on 23 February 2008, was mainly devoted to the preparing for the General Assembly in Stockholm. Both meetings of the IPH Council were held at the home of Alphonse Radermecker, our treasurer, in Eupen, Belgium. His hospitality is gratefully acknowledged here.



The new and genuinely European art of paper-making was developed in the city of Fabriano, Italy. Among other inventions, the fibre loading with particles of carbonate pigments (see SEM micrograph of a cross-section of fibre at higher magnification, shown above) was introduced in Fabriano to regular papermaking practice. *The Use of Techniques and Work by Paper-makers from Fabriano in Italy and Europe*, this theme was discussed during two European Paper Days (16-17 June 2006), organised by the Cartiere Miliani Fabriano – Fedrigoni Group; a company that is historic yet modern, with its top-quality products.

A group of European members of the IPH was kindly invited to Fabriano as the guests of this company; I am gratefully acknowledging this fact. At the end of 2007, the organisers published the volume of essays in a bilingual version (English and Italian), with an *Introduction* by Deputy Chairman Giuseppe Fedrigoni; edited by Dr Giancarlo Castagnari, in cooperation with: Dr Ulisse Mannucci as consultant in paper-science, Paola Farenzi as translator of the texts, and Dr Maurizio Chiavarini as editing secretary. This volume is of utmost significance for European paper-history. Once again, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for supplying the IPH with additional copies of this volume, which were conveyed to some of our members.



No doubt the successful Spanish IPH Congress in 2006 was a powerful stimulus for our French friends to create the Association of French Paper Historians. In fact, the name is more complex: Association Française pour l'Histoire et l'Étude du Papier et des Papeteries (AFHEPP), established at the beginning of 2008, with Dr Denis Peaucelle, an active member of the IPH, as its first President. Our warm congratulations and best wishes! The official seat of the AFHEPP is Musée du Papier in Angoulême (see photo above), located in the ancient "Nil" factory, so named after the cigarette paper formerly produced there.

ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE POUR L'HISTOIRE ET L'ETUDE DU PAPIER ET DES PAPETERIES - (A.F.H.E.P.P.).

No de parution : **20080012**

Département (Région) : **Charente (Poitou-Charentes)**

Lieu parution : **Déclaration à la préfecture de la Charente.**

Type d'annonce : **ASSOCIATION/CREATION**

Déclaration à la préfecture de la Charente. **ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE POUR L'HISTOIRE ET L'ETUDE DU PAPIER ET DES PAPETERIES - (A.F.H.E.P.P.).** *Objet* : encourager toute initiative utile à la recherche scientifique et à la diffusion des connaissances sur l'histoire du papier et des papeteries, encourager les contacts personnels et les échanges d'idées sur des bases internationales, nationales ou régionales, contribuer à sauvegarder les monuments et documents historiques concernant le papier, encourager l'inventaire scientifique des monuments, des documents et de la littérature historique du papier et des papeteries, accroître le prestige de la recherche scientifique et de l'enseignement dans le domaine en question et encourager la formation de jeunes universitaires. *Siège social* : Musée du Papier, 134, rue de Bordeaux, 16000 Angoulême. *Date de la déclaration* : 5 mars 2008.

Moreover, President Peaucelle, together with Dr Claire Bustarret and the group of French paper historians present in Capellades, decided to propose an organisation of the IPH Congress in 2010 just at Angoulême. On 26 February, I have received the official proposal, signed by President Peaucelle, with some explanations and detailed remarks about this ancient (since 1516) centre of paper-making. The historic papermill Moulin du Verger à Puymoyen (established in 1635) is officially registered as *Monument Historique* and five industrial papermills and converting

plants manufacture different kinds of paper and board, also corrugated board. Libraries and archives with rich collections are worthy to be visited, and Cognac is situated not so far from Angoulême. In the opinion of our French friends, the city of Angoulême is more welcoming for a larger group than Paris. Due thanks for such a concrete proposal; it will be considered during the general meeting in Stockholm.

A múltat tiszteld a jelenben és tartsd a jövőnek.

(Respect the past in the present, and keep it to the future.)

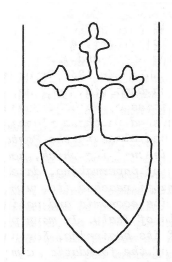
Vörösmarty Mihály (1800-1855)

Also at the beginning of 2008, the Hungarian Paper and Watermark History Association (HPW) has been established, in Budapest, with Jenő Pelbárt, a member of the IPH, as its first President. Our warm congratulations and best wishes!



The first and very serious task of our Hungarian friends in paper-history is the organisation of an International Congress in 2010 (probably in May) to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the first document written in Hungary upon paper. President Pelbárt invites cordially all members of the IPH to participate in this event. Information will be presented in the HPW website:

<http://www.mapavit.extra.hu/>; its English version will be available soon. On the good beginning I have sent the volume of the Fabriano Congress Book (so it is also a present from the Cartiere Miliani Fabriano) to President Jenő Pelbárt, with whom I am in touch by e-mail.



Shortly before the IPH Congress in Stockholm, Angelo Tajani, an active member of the IPH, kindly informed me about a strategic plan for the coast of Amalfi, called “Waterpower”. Since 1997, this territory is under the protection of UNESCO for “the joined peculiarities of the Mediterranean landscape to the cultural and natural value which had to its spectacular characteristics and to its historical evolution”. Keeping in mind the beautiful Paper Museum situated in an ancient paper mill, and abandoned old paper mills in this area, this strategic plan is highly interesting for paper historians. Owing to his health problems, Angelo Tajani will be absent in Stockholm. We wish him a quick recovery, counting on his further cooperation.



Last Month on 7 April our dear friend and founding member, first President and Honorary President of IPH, Henk Voorn died at the age of 86. He had been ill for some time and spent his last years in the good care of a nursing home in his home village Velp near Arnhem. He was last among us during the IPH congress 2002 in Rome, his 26th congress. An extensive *In memoriam* written by our member Dr Albert Elen has been put on our website and Henk will also be commemorated in Elen's contribution to the forthcoming Congress Book. Henk Voorn has been one of the pioneers in paper history and a driving force in our association from day one. He will live on in his countless publications, as well as in our hearts and memories.

The term of my office will expire during our meeting in Stockholm. Closing my presidency, I would like to present to the international family of paper historians my elaboration giving an insight into hand paper-making in Central and Eastern Europe, by making it available through our website. It will be made available to you on-line after the congress.

Wishing all of you fruitful paper-historical activities, I remain,
yours sincerely,

Dr Józef Dąbrowski
President of IPH