

Alphonse Radermecker

1939 - 2014

Obituary

Alphonse Radermecker and I had met each other at the IPH congresses 1994 in Annonay and 2004 in Duszniki Zdrój, but our personal friendship did not start until June 2007.

That year Göran Wohlfahrt and I participated as congress coordinators in our first IPH Council meeting in order to present the programme of the IPH Congress 2008 in Stockholm and Uppsala. The meeting took place in Eupen at the hospital home of Alphonse and Angelika Radermecker, where the impressive collection of books and IPH publications clearly illustrated his deep interest in the history of paper and his many years of dedication to IPH. Four years later the last Council meeting in Eupen took place in 2011, and he gave me one of his rare books – the Catalogue of American Watermarks 1690-1835 as a remembrance of our meetings in Eupen and of the interest that we shared for paper historical publications.

With special interest in the regional history of Belgian paper production and especially of the region of Malmédy, it was most natural that Alphonse Radermecker became the editor of the IPH Yearbook 1990, Volume 8 of the International IPH Congress in Malmédy. Here he presented his paper with the title “Die Wasserversorgung der “Papeterie de Malmédy SPRL”.”

In 2004 Alphonse Radermecker was elected as new treasurer at the IPH Congress in Poland and continued until his retirement in 2012, where he together with his dear wife Angelika participated in the 2012 IPH Congress in the Upper Rhine Region – his last IPH Congress.

Many dear and valuable memories of Alphonse Radermecker are preserved in my correspondence and phone calls with him, full of constructive discussions and his good advice. This “long distance” friendship, which I remember with



deep gratitude, started in the summer 2007, where Alphonse Radermecker convinced me through long phone calls to accept to be proposed as president of IPH at the General Meeting 2008 in Stockholm. Some years earlier, had our Honorary President of IPH, Mr. Henk Voorn, in a similar way advised and convinced him as new treasurer to be the successor of our Honourable Member of IPH, Ludwig Ritterpusch.

From his personal experience, Alphonse Radermecker therefore knew the importance of being introduced and guided in the best possible way into the administration of IPH. In October 2007 I received a small, handwritten note, where he suggested that we met each other sometimes before February 2008, and in the meantime kept in touch per E-mail, post or phone. In that way our friendship started and continued until his death.

Alphonse Radermecker’s struggle against serious illness finally ended 31/1 2014 with the death of our dear Honourable Member of IPH. Being together with people that shared a common relation and interest was most precious and valuable for Alphonse Radermecker, and that was what he found in IPH, what is still there and what we learned in our contact with him.

Anna-Grethe Rischel