

## In Memoriam Heye Rumohr

Heye Rumohr died on Sep. 23, 2013, at the age of 66. A native of Hamburg, he studied biology in Göttingen and Kiel, and obtained his PhD with Gotthilf Hempel in 1980. Heye was a prominent figure in marine benthic research for over 40 years; he authored numerous publications, was sought for his expertise as a benthic ecologist, and helped many junior scientists along the way. He retired in 2012, but remained as active as before and was in the process of translating John Gray's book 'Ecology of Marine Sediments' into German when he passed away. Heye always retained his enthusiasm for new concepts and technology. His technical expertise is evident in the chapter on imaging techniques that he co-authored in 'Methods for the Study of Marine Benthos', published only a few weeks before his death.

Heye Rumohr was active in the coordination of benthic research in a multi-disciplinary context as a member of various boards and international organizations, such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) since 1973. In 1982, he helped organize the ICES symposium on shelf productivity, and was a founding member of the North Sea Benthos Ecology Working Group. In 1990 he became editor of the ICES manual on Benthic Sampling Methods, and during the following decade he took on the chair of the Biological Oceanography and Marine Habitat Committees, and of the Benthos Ecology Working Group. He was also a member of ICES' Consultative Committee, and of several other working groups, including Biodiversity and Marine Habitat Mapping, and he was an alternate to the Science Committee. He was serious about his work, and adhered to the highest scientific standards. When he believed in a cause, he fought to the bitter end to defend it.

At the same time, Heye was an educator who, going beyond the bounds of his teaching load, always found time to organize field trips, cruises and exchanges for his students in many European countries. Once he drove several students from the Institute of Marine Research in Kiel to hold their first talks at a scientific meeting in Denmark in the 1980s. The



Heye Rumohr (1947–2013)

students were apprehensive, but Heye made it clear to them that participation in science was not an ordeal and could indeed be fun, and no matter how difficult it might be not to stumble over your words, in the end people will listen if you do not give up. After one of these students later inherited his chair at the Marine Habitat Committee, Heye took him under his wing, spending many evenings together (usually over a beer) and sharing colorful stories about the people involved in the committee and how best to handle them. Even years

later, he would find something else of 'critical importance' that he wanted to share, often leading to another evening in a fine establishment (preferably one serving marinated herring).

Besides being respected for his professional achievements, Heye was extremely popular in the European scientific community. We miss Heye sorely because he was generous, caring, fun loving, an entertainer and an artist; with his broad knowledge of literature and music he spanned the gulf between science and the arts. He was an accomplished musician who performed as a soloist as well as a choir member at many an ICES conference. As one of his closest colleagues described it, 'Heye couldn't speak that clearly but he had the [singing] voice of an angel'. Heye also regaled his companions with humorous tales and anecdotes culled from his varied experience of life. From the 1990s on, the island of Crete became a focal point in his life, and he made frequent visits, working with colleagues on a variety of projects, and also enjoying its culture and hospitality; he had been planning to visit again at the time he died.

We hope that everyone will not just mourn Heye Rumohr's death, but will celebrate his life. This is surely how he would like it to be.

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