

Professor Dr. Reinhold Freudenstein

With Reinhold's death on 24 October 2015 the Federation has lost a first-rate former Officer, Secretary General from 1972 to 1977, Editor from 1977 to 1994 and Honorary Counsellor from 1995. He remained an ardent and faithful supporter, who devoted a considerable amount of his retirement seeking to promote the Federation and the principles outlined in the Statutes. One prime example was the work he undertook to edit the English version of the *History of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes*, for which he negotiated publication by Günter Narr Verlag in Tübingen 2009 in the series 'Giessener Beiträge zur Fremdsprachendidaktik'. The former Federation Officers from Australia, the Czech Republic, Sweden and the United Kingdom, who contributed, and the editors of the Series, who also knew Reinhold well, will probably recall his earlier advice never to forget that work done on behalf of the Federation was largely done out of friendship. That might sound idealistic to some, but Reinhold's understanding stemmed from his awareness of the cumulative significance of personal friendships in promoting international peace and understanding by applying the tools of our trade, the knowledge and skills acquired from learning and teaching modern, living languages. It is no small wonder that Reinhold often represented the Federation at Unesco, for he shared a personal affinity with this world organisation.

Reinhold was many things to many people. To national and international colleagues in the Federation he was a shining example of wise diplomacy. His work and demeanour could inspire foreign-language teachers in primary, secondary, adult and university education, a unifying cross-sector force so vital for effective national multilingual and international unilingual associations. He was a constant source of good counsel on the theory and practice of foreign-language teaching, including the language laboratory, to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Philipps-Universität Marburg well after he retired from the Directorship of the nationally unique 'Informationszentrum für Fremdsprachenforschung'. Reinhold was an exemplary editor to readers of *FIPLV World News*, the results of international research seminars organised by the Federation, FIPLV publications (particularly *Teaching Foreign Languages to the Very Young* of which he was very proud) and the German professional journal *Praxis des neusprachlichen Unterrichts*, proofs for which were often laid out on his desk whenever I visited him. He and his wife, Margarete, paid regular summer visits to Brighton, where German teachers of English on in-service training could benefit from his experience and mastery of the subject. I remember him working for a time as scientific adviser to the 'Erfahrungsaustauschring Fremdsprachenausbildung Wirtschaft' and recently learned of his professional involvement in the 'Schulkammer der Evangelischen Kirche in Kurhessen-Waldeck'. Reinhold was as prolific a writer, as he was speaker and thinker, with several scholarly publications to his name. From time to time I have listened captivated to lectures and keynote addresses by him in a wide variety of cultural settings. Whenever challenged, and in sometimes trying circumstances, Reinhold was never at a loss for words. Nor was he ever at a loss for ideas, as participants in the FIPLV Executive's 'brain-storming sessions', then organised by former Secretary General Robert Kaiser in Switzerland, will remember.

I am not the only former Officer of the Federation to have had passionate arguments with Reinhold. Who won the argument and what they were all about, fades from the memory. What does *not* fade, is the image of Reinhold as a man of firm principle, who would graciously take a step back from that brink of lasting dissension, of which no good can come, the greater good ever in his mind. In such circumstances he was able to place his principles 'on the back burner' without sacrificing them.

With a quick mind and prodigious administrative ability, Reinhold was always good company. He seemed to me larger than life and I never had a dull moment in his presence, whether as friends in our respective homes in Marburg and London or in public, participating in the same Executive meetings and sharing the same platform or journey to distant fields. I hope that his family, his wife Margarete, his sons Thomas and Matthias, their wives Anke and Ulrike, and Reinhold's grandchildren, Niklas, Henry, Marlene, Felix and Clara can take comfort from the uplifting impact of his enriching and enduring influence on so many other lives in and beyond Germany.

Edward Batley

President FIPLV (1980-92) and Conseiller d'Honneur (1993)

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