Special Issue in Memory of Günter Effenberg

Published online: 31 July 2020
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It is with great sadness, but also with a feeling of great honor, that I write an editorial for this special issue of the *Journal of Phase Equilibria and Diffusion* dedicated to the memory of Günter Effenberg. Günter died on August 31, 2019, following a long battle with a debilitating illness. He was very much a larger-than-life person. Anyone that knew him could not fail to be drawn to his sense of humor and wit. Beyond this, Günter made significant contributions to the field of phase equilibria and thermodynamics for which he was awarded the Hume-Rothery Prize by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining in the UK. For more than 30 years he was the driving force behind MSI, a small company that grew from a project at the Max Planck Institute for Materials Research in Stuttgart, Germany. MSI has been responsible for publishing numerous volumes containing thousands of ternary and binary phase diagram evaluations. Although MSI is a small company, it was supported by a large team of scientists from all over the world.

I have had the privilege of being a member of that team for around 30 years, attending the annual Workshops on

Heterogeneous Multicomponent Equilibria at the Schloss Ringberg where the team made its unofficial home. It was the perfect place to work. During the day there was the quiet hum of people working, discussing, and even arguing, while in the evening, there was fun and games, including *Feuerzangenbowle*. Günter encouraged hard work but enjoyed nothing more than spending evenings in the relaxing company of friends.

I considered Günter to be a good friend. He was generous to a fault, great company, and will be missed by many. When we asked the team to contribute to a special issue for him, we were flooded with replies. However, time constraints reduced the number of contributions to those that appear herein. With more time, we could have filled a second issue with ease.

It's common today for people to talk about 'legacy'; that which is left behind. Günter's legacy to the scientific community is substantial and twofold. Firstly, there are the documents that were produced by the team under his leadership as Editor-in-Chief. Secondly, and just as important, there is the team that he created that will continue his work under the leadership of his successor at MSI, Svitlana Iljenko. The next time the team meets at Schloss Ringberg, surely they will raise a glass to celebrate Günter's memory and his many accomplishments.

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Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.