

## OBITUARY: RAINER ROTH

Rainer Roth, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Hannover, Germany, passed away on 5 February 1999 at the age of 66 after a long and severe illness. He had served on the editorial board of *Boundary-Layer Meteorology* from its beginning in 1970 until 1979.

Rainer Roth studied Meteorology at the Universities of Bonn and Munich, where he also received his Ph.D. degree in 1964. During his time at Munich he was able to attend lectures by one of the fathers of micrometeorology, the late Rudolf Geiger. This must have influenced the direction of his research activities, which were mainly devoted to problems of atmospheric turbulence and planetary boundary layers.

After a postdoctoral stay with Eric Webb at CSIRO in Aspendale he became a professor at the University of Frankfurt in 1972 before he moved to Hannover University to take over the Institute of Meteorology and Climatology in 1975. Here he stayed until his retirement in 1998. During these years, Rainer Roth was engaged in various field experiments on the atmospheric boundary layer. We might mention the national campaigns PUKK and MESOKLIP or the international experiments EFEDA in Spain or BALTEX in the Baltic Sea area. One of his particular interests over many years was in polar boundary layers. He was among the scientists on the first expedition of the new German research vessel Polarstern to Antarctica in 1983.

The major aim of his participation in field experiments was to obtain as accurate measurements of turbulent fluxes as possible in order to provide modellers with improved parametrization schemes, especially for climate modelling. This interest finally led to the development of the first instrumental platform flown by helicopters, the device named HELIPOD, which is intended to provide observations of wind, temperature and moisture in the atmospheric boundary layer with great accuracy in areas not easily accessible to aircraft or instrumented towers. Rainer Roth regarded this device as one of the highlights of his scientific career and he was fully engaged in this project until the last days of his life, when illness overcame his strong will. It is especially sad that he cannot witness the publication of papers in this and other journals on scientific results obtained with HELIPOD. Two such papers are included in this issue, they were under final revision at the time of his death.

His death will leave a large gap in our institute and in the meteorological community. Rainer Roth will be remembered by his friends and colleagues from all over the world as a vivid person strongly engaged in our science.

*Hanover, Germany*

DIETER ETLING



