

We are in the Same “Fate”...

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Dear Hellmuth,

Congratulation on your 80th birthday! It is a great pleasure for me to extend my personal memories with you to your 80th birthday.

My first encounter with Hellmuth was at the 2nd of our International Conferences held 1984 in Beijing, China. As an aside, Hellmuth and the author are the only two who attended all of the subsequent International Conferences (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Hellmuth (left) and the author (right) at early International Conferences

The 1st International Conference in this series was held 1978 in Vancouver, Canada in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Engineering Design Graphics Division (EDGD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) [1]. The 3rd International Conference was held 1988 in Vienna, Austria. At that time, we did not have a permanent international committee, and the main sponsor of all these three conferences was the EDGD of ASEE. During the closing ceremony of the 3rd International Conference, the idea came up to establish an international committee which should help with the organization of future activities, such as regular holding of international conferences and publication of an international academic journal.

After 4 years discussions under the leaderships of Steve M. Slaby, USA and Hellmuth Stachel, Austria, in which the author participated with other colleagues from over the world (note Figs. 8 and 9 in [1]), the *International Society for Geometry and Graphics (ISGG)* was

created in 1992 by a unanimous vote of the participants at the 5th International Conference held in Melbourne, Australia [3]. An interim slate of officers was designated in Melbourne to arrange the election of the Charter Officers. Hellmuth became the interim president, Roland Jenison, USA the interim vice-president, and Walter Rodriguez, USA the interim secretary-treasurer. The election of Charter Officers, as called out in the initial bylaws approved by the attendees at the 5th International Conference, was organized by Roland Jenison in the years 1993/1994. The Charter Officers are as follows;

President: Walter Rodriguez, USA

Secretary-Treasurer: Vera Anand, USA

Vice-President, Asia/Australia: Kenjiro Suzuki, Japan

Vice-President, Europe/Africa: Hellmuth Stachel, Austria

Vice-President, North/South America: P. J. Zsomer-Murray, Canada.

The second election was conducted in January 1997 under the control of an election committee chaired by Dennis R. Short, USA. The second term officers are as follows;

President: Kenjiro Suzuki, Japan

Secretary-Treasurer: Shigeo Hirano, Japan

Vice-President, Asia/Australia: V. O. Tom Thomas, Australia

Vice-President, Europe/Africa: Hellmuth Stachel

Vice-President, North/South America: Larry D. Goss.

Since the 8th International Conference held 1998 in Austin, USA, the main sponsor of the conferences has changed from the EDGD of ASEE to the *ISGG*, and since the 9th International Conference held 2000 in Johannesburg, South Africa, its title has been changed to the *International Conference on Geometry and Graphics (ICGG)*.

In the early years of the *ISGG*, the number of (paying) members was as small as about 100, so the membership fees collected were not large, and it was difficult to publish an academic journal from an economic point of view. The author together with Hellmuth and other officers made efforts to increase the members. Shigeo Hirano, the 2nd term secretary-treasurer, tried to get financial supports and succeeded to receive sponsorship from about 10 Japanese companies. As a result of these efforts, we were able to publish an international academic journal, the *Journal for Geometry and Graphics (JGG)* in 1997 [2]. Hellmuth had been the editor-in-chief from the first issue in 1997 to the 24th issue in 2020, over 23 years! It is thanks to Hellmuth that the *JGG* has maintained the quantity and quality of published papers for such a long time.

Hellmuth not only contributed to the establishment of the *ISGG* and the issuance of the *JGG* as mentioned above, but also cooperated in activities related to the Japan Society for Graphic Science (JSGS). At the invitation of the JSGS, he participated together with Gunter Weiß, Germany in the 5th Japan-China Joint Conference on Graphics Education held 2001 in Osaka, Japan, which was co-sponsored by the JSGS and the China Engineering Graphics Society (CEGS). Also, he contributed deeply to hold the 1st International Conference on Design Engineering and Science in Vienna, Austria in 2005, which was organized by the Japan Society for Design Engineering (JSDE) and co-organized by Vienna University of Technology to which he belonged. Furthermore, in response to an invitation, he together with Tong Bing-shu, China and Ted Branoff, USA participated in the 40th Anniversary of the JSGS held 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. And he gave a commemorative lecture “The state of today’s descriptive geometry related education (CAD/CG/DG) in Europe”. We, Japanese educators and researchers related to geometry and graphics, are deeply grateful for his contributions to the JSGS.

Let us conclude by citing the conversation between Hellmuth and me at the banquet of the 8th International Conference held 1998 in Austin, USA (Figure 2). I told him, “*We are of the same generation*”, since he was 56 years old and I was 53 years old at that time. I will never forget his reply, “*We are in the same fate*”. It is my great honor and pleasure to have been working with Hellmuth for the *ISGG* and *JGG* (Figure 3).



(Mrs. and Mr. Stachel, Mrs. and Mr. Suzuki (the author), Mrs. and Mr. Juricic, USA)
Figure 2: At the banquet of the 8th International Conference held 1998 in Austin, USA



Figure 3: At the Exhibition of “the 40 years of Geometry and Graphics”, the 18th International Conference held 2018 in Milano, Italy

Best wishes for a long and successful life of our *ISGG* and *JGG*, and for a long and healthy life of Hellmuth!

References

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