



Klaus Grasshoff

9 June 1932 – 11 March 1981

Professor Klaus Grasshoff died on 11 March 1981 after a short but severe illness. Klaus Grasshoff was born in the former Swinemünde and went to school in Kiel in 1938. He studied chemistry at the Christian-Albrecht University in Kiel and got his master's degree in 1958. He then worked as a research assistant at the University of Würzburg from 1959 to 1961 and wrote his doctoral thesis in 1960 on "Zur Polarographie der 1:12 Heteropolysäuren des Molybdäns". In 1961 he was appointed research assistant at the Institute of Marine Research in Kiel and in 1963 he became the head of the chemistry group of the institute. In 1968 he wrote his habilitation thesis on "Zur Chemie des Roten Meeres und das inneren Golf von Aden". The same year he was appointed Head of the newly established Department for Marine Chemistry at the institute and was appointed Assistant Professor in marine chemistry in 1971 and Professor in 1972.

Klaus was Visiting Scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in 1968 to 1969. He was a member of many national and international commissions and committees in marine sciences and was con-

sultant for UNESCO in oceanography in the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Oman, South Yemen, Egypt, and Thailand.

Klaus was Senior Scientist of the Conferences of Baltic Oceanographers and acted as Chairman during 1974. He was a member of the UNESCO/ICES/IAPSO/SCOR Joint Panel of Experts on Oceanographic Tables and Standards and Chairman of the Panel from 1973 to 1977.

Klaus attended the ICES Statutory Meetings regularly since 1962. He became a member of the Hydrography Committee in 1972. He was Chairman of the Working Group on Chemical Analysis of Sea Water from 1966 to 1969 and from 1976 to 1978. He was also Chairman of the Working Group on the Coordination of Hydrographic Investigations in the Baltic from 1972 to 1974.

During his short life Klaus wrote some 60 papers in chemistry and oceanography of which the last one is still in press. His main interest was directed towards analysis of different components in sea water, standardization and intercalibration of marine chemical methods, and

development of sampling equipment. He devoted his interest especially to automatic methods and when automatic systems for continuous chemical analyses were introduced in clinical chemistry, he recognized its possibilities for application on board research ships. He developed methods for analysis of nutrients with the automatic systems introducing a completely new tool for continuous analysis of chemical parameters in sea water. Auto-analyzers are now used in marine laboratories and on board research vessels all over the world.

Klaus was one of the founding editors of the international journal *Marine Chemistry* and editor of the textbook *Methods of Seawater Analysis*, which has found a worldwide use. He himself was the author of several of the chapters. At the time of his untimely death Klaus was finalizing a second edition of the book, containing several new chapters and revisions of many of the chapters in the first edition.

In oceanographic research Klaus naturally directed his interest to the Baltic Sea with its unusual and fascinating problems and properties. He soon became one of the leading personalities among the Baltic oceanographers, keeping up the traditions of his famous predecessor Hermann Wattenberg. Klaus devoted his interest especially to cooperation among the Baltic marine institutions arranging intercalibration exercises, working for introduction of standard methods, and planning cooperative multiship programmes.

The pollution of the sea, and especially the pollution problems in the Baltic Sea, became one of his main concerns. He had a substantial influence in the creation of the Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Sea Area and was Scientific Advisor to the delegation of his country at the meetings of the Interim Helsinki Commission, and a member of its Scientific-Technical Working Group.

But Klaus did not restrict his interest only to the Baltic Sea. He was a member of many expeditions in different sea areas. He participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition on board the "Meteor", in the Black Sea cruise of the "Atlantis II", and in several cruises with the "Meteor" in the Atlantic, often as Chief Scientist.

Klaus was an excellent lecturer and teacher, who could impress and inspire his colleagues and the students in his department. Many students from the developing countries have studied chemical oceanography at Klaus' department and have spread his ideas and working methods around the world.

He worked as a student during a summer in northern Sweden where he met his future wife. He learned Swedish and spoke it almost fluently. He also understood Danish and Norwegian and therefore he easily became a member of the Scandinavian community during international oceanographic meetings.

The death of Klaus is not only a loss to science, but has also made us miss a fine friend and colleague. Yet his scientific achievements will survive and his work will be continued. I think it is apt to quote here the old Icelandic "Hávamál", which says:

Deyr fé,
deyia frændr,
deyr siálfr it sama;
ek veit einn
at aldri deyr:
dómr um dauðan hvern.

Cattle die, kindred die,
Every man is mortal:
But I know one thing that never dies,
The glory of the great dead.

Stig H. Fonselius