Hartmut Lichtenthaler:

The New King of The Chloroplast

September 12, 2015--- How he looked like--- yesterday and day before, but first... ...?

Govindjee
(gov@illinois.edu)
Playing with red light (fluorescence) from plants to monitor their efficiency—an area very dear to my heart since 1960s—Hartmut’s pioneering work on imaging leaves has been a great attraction to me.

Effects of herbicides on plants were studied wonderfully well by Hartmut.
It is best to read what Hartmut wrote himself about his research:


We think of Hartmut when we hear of:

-- the first analysis of quinones in the chloroplasts (UC Berkeley)

-- phylloquinones (Heidelberg) — plastoglobuli (University of Muenster)

-- Isoprenoid biosynthesis (citation classic)

-- Quantitative measurement of chlorophyll a/b in leaves
In early 1970s, Thomas J. Bach, after 3 semesters at TU, Karlsruhe, was ready to give up “biology” and to study only chemistry; he was frustrated with biology. But, he was saved by whom?: Our own Hartmut Lichtenthaler, who indeed had a chemical formula on the blackboard during his lecture. This was a true revelation to Bach: this is “biology”! Bach wrote “Hartmut’s lectures were indeed fascinating: filled with news on latest research in photosynthesis”, and Bach became Hartmut’s PhD student.
Professor Thomas J. Bach: On Hartmut’s Collaborative spirit and being an educator of the highest order

Bach added “Hartmut K. Lichtenthaler has set a high standard in the organization of international collaboration and projects across borders at a time when the “Iron Curtain” was still existing, as editor of books and author of an impressive number of articles, and, amazingly, is still maintaining his deep interest in photosynthesis research and ……”
Hartmut really drove his group with his dynamism and “speed”; and as Bach said, “with his “hunger” for new data; the door to his office was usually kept open……. He gained a special reputation for his dynamic attitude, at the TU Karlsruhe”.

Thomas J. Bach: On Hartmut’s research style
Photos from his early life, 1936-1965

1936
1943
1951
1961
1962, Pasadena
1962, Skiing
1963, In Melvin Calvin’s lab
1965, Field trip in Morocco
Hartmut, in the late 1970s—1980s
Hartmut, during 1994 and 1995

With Schindler, after her exam
Hartmut, 1998, 1999

Top Left: With Bob Buchanan at UC Berkeley, 1998
Bottom Right: With Laurie Bogorad, at Harvard

Honorary Doctorate, 1998; he has received several honorary doctorates from many institutions
Hartmut in 2000s, and now you can see him in person.. Sep. 12, 2015

With Andy Benson, in 2007, at his 90th birthday
At Perocope, Paris, where Napolean had dined long ago,
Hartmut received a medal from the Czech Academy of Science, in 2004.

Hartmut, “Herzlichen Glückwunsch” at the 2015 Award in Urbana-Champaign.