

In memoriam

Gerd Aarsland Rosander (1934–2014)



Dear friends and colleagues!

We have received the sad news – our beloved friend and colleague Gerd Aarsland Rosander passed away after a long period of increasing, incurable sickness.

She was one of the great profiles in our committee, ICLM. She joined the committee very early, and she both worked in the national ICOM committee and in several international committees within ICOM.

She joined ICLM while she was building up and being the director at the Henrik Ibsen Museum in Oslo. Before the work at the Ibsen Museum – where she ended her professional career – she worked for many years at The Norwegian Folk Museum in Oslo.

She was an extremely engaged person, and she went into all kind of challenges with great energy and efficiency. She contributed at all our conferences with papers and in our discussions. But most of all – thanks to her, we could make wonderful conferences several times in Norway and Sweden. She organized everything – themes, places to be, people to contribute, money for support etc.

Dear colleagues,

I was very saddened to learn about our Gerd Rosander's passing. She was one of the brightest lights in my more than 10 years experience with ICOM. I cherished our friendship and always admired her as the most wonderful person and a professional at the highest level. She made a significant contribution to ICLM with her tremendous energy, creativity, and unwavering support! She will be sorely missed by me and the entire ICLM family.

Galina Alekseeva

For those of us working together with her, her energy made us try harder and to do better.

Everyone who met Gerd learned to know her as a colourful lady – both in the way she dressed – always modern and colourful – and in her way to be. Her clear and high voice was easily recognized either it was laughing – which she did a lot – and in discussions.

Many of us were embraced by her compassion, and we will miss that beautiful side of Gerd, too.

She could not join us to the conference in Irkutsk, even though she really wanted to. Last time I spoke with her, I gave her my many good impressions and experiences from the conference. She was happy to hear, and she said that the work in and for ICLM had been a great value and pleasure for her. The many wonderful people she met gave her life meaning after having lost her beloved husband some years ago. And the conferences also gave her the opportunity to explore and see new places and meet people where they lived.

We are all blessed having known Gerd, and we will keep her memory alive while she can Rest In Peace.

Erling Dahl



I first met Gerd Rosander in Prague in 1996. It was the last but one of Committee meetings I had attended and one of the first Gerd did. She had recently lost her husband and was deeply mourning and next to despair. She talked to me, a stranger to her then, about her husband, about their life together and about what he had meant to her, about their hopes and wishes. Never before had I ever listened to a most warm, most frank and genuinely human talk as this one was. We became friends.

The last Committee meeting I attended was the one done in Norway in 2000, hosted by her representing the Oslo Ibsen Museum and Erling Dahl of the Bergen Grieg Museum. The meeting was excellently organized and one of the great events that taught participants how near literary and music museums actually are and what

joint efforts on an international level could mean for them and for a new structure of the Committee then envisaged. Gerd proved to be a wonderful host, her approaches to the projects the meeting's agenda offered were professional, well-considered, amazing in each and every respect.

The way we first met was extraordinary and so was the official course I later learned she was inclined to follow in her Committee work to further its purposes.

The deeply human and the highly professional – thinking of her now that she is dead I can only think of both as an inseparable unit, the way it should be with us museum people. That is, at least, what she had taught me.

Wolfgang Barthel



The memories of Gerd take me back to the first times I joined the annual meetings of our Committee. As it happens, at first with some emotion and anxiety, which melted away as soon as I saw her beautiful deep blue eyes and the warm welcome of her vivacious smile. Upon seeing her, I immediately felt that I had arrived, that I was at home. With her, the days ahead would be full of wit, friendship, the shared pleasures of being together, and the joys of partaking knowledge – be it large or slight. She was, for me as well as others a friend and a colleague without rival. Thanks to her wisdom and generosity everyone found her or his proper place within our magnificent community, making it grow along the lines she has so much helped shaping.

Maria Gregorio

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Our thanks to Maria Gregorio, Erling Dahl, Göran Söderström, Wolfgang Barthel for their assistance, and to Dr. Andrew Kotchoubey for editorial help.