

## On the occasion of Professor Hartmut Lichtenthaler's retirement



In March of last year, Prof. H. K. Lichtenthaler retired from his professorship at the University of Karlsruhe. Prof. Lichtenthaler had worked as a book editor for the Journal of Plant Physiology since 1990 and is still member of the advisory board for our journal, a post he has held for 17 years. He was editor of one special issue of JPP on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. Martin Bopp and of the special JPP volume 148 on vegetation stress.

Prof. Lichtenthaler was born in Baden-Württemberg. Like Wilhelm Pfeffer, he started his academic career as pharmacist and later earned his Ph.D. in Plant Physiology. After a two year post-doc position in the laboratory of the Nobel prize winner Melvin Calvin, he returned to Germany and in 1970 he became Prof. of Plant Physiology at the University of Münster. That same year he moved as "Ordinarius" to the University of Karlsruhe where he stayed until his retirement. His fields of interest were basic research in photosynthesis, especially pigment dynamics and light acclimation and stress physiology. In 1983 he started to study the physiological events in forest trees in the context of the "new forest decline" in Europe. In

close cooperation with world-wide institutions, he developed new remote sensing technologies to classify the forests on the basis of air-borne information. In the last few years he was one of the leading scientists who identified the 1-Deoxy-D-Xylulose-5-Phosphate pathway of isoprenoid biosynthesis in plants.

Prof. Lichtenthaler received many important honorary titles. He was awarded three honorary doctorates and in 2000 the G. Farkás medal of the Hungarian Society of Plant Physiology. In 2001 he received the "Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande", the highest tribute that is awarded in Germany. Prof. Lichtenthaler was one of the fathers of the "Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology", and was elected as its president from 1984 to 1986. He published 375 papers in international scientific journals and books and to date has edited five text books or monographs.

As editor in chief I thank Prof. Lichtenthaler for his association with the Journal of Plant Physiology. I am happy that Prof. Lichtenthaler will keep his position on the editorial board so we can profit from his support and encouragement to improve the quality of our journal and plant science.

Prof. Dr. Christian Wilhelm  
Editor in Chief

### Twelve years of book reviews in the Journal of Plant Physiology

The Journal of Plant Physiology (JPP) started reviewing scientific books in the fall of 1990 with Prof. Hartmut K. Lichtenthaler as Editor of Book Reviews.

From JPP Vol. 137 in 1991 to Vol. 159 in 2002 approximately 920 Book Reviews were published. In those 12 years and in 23 volumes of the Journal of Plant Physiology an average of 77 book reviews were published each year. It was our intention to serve the scientific community with basic and valid information on the scientific topic, structure, content, and value of newly published books.

New essential text books and books on scientific proceedings were reviewed, but main emphasis was placed on books on new scientific topics in the field of plant physiology, plant biochemistry, molecular biology of plants, and phytochemistry, as well as books on herbicides and in the fast develop-

ing field of plant ecophysiology and stress physiology. Primarily, new books in the English language were reviewed, but also essential ones in German, and even some that appeared in French. However, in recent years the reviews concentrated on books published in English in order to serve the international scientific community that comprises a major percentage of readers and subscribers of the *Journal of Plant Physiology*. For me it was, in deed, a fascinating time learning so much about newly edited scientific books.

At the end of the year 2002 I will resign in my function as book review editor of *JPP*. At this occasion I would like to thank the numerous book reviewers for their commitment and their assistance. They thoroughly evaluated new books and thus provided essential information for their colleagues on the value of new and revised textbooks, as well as books on the most recent research developments in plant biology. Most reviewers worked very fast, others needed some reminders.

The goal, which was to publish book reviews in less than 5 months, could be achieved frequently.

Book reviews are a great help for the scientific community of plant biology, since it is impossible for the individual scientist to evaluate or assess the great number of plant biology books newly published and edited each year. In fact, he is unlikely to be able to differentiate between all the editions of new essential books on the one hand, and less interesting or even low-value books on the other. Thus, book reviews written by specialists in their field will be a continuous necessity to serve the scientific community. Although at present publishers and journal editors are forced to concentrate on publishing original research papers, there will hopefully always be some space for short reviews of essential new books in the *Journal of Plant Physiology*.

Hartmut Lichtenthaler, Karlsruhe