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### PROF. DR MEINHARD M. MOSER

Prof. Dr Meinhard M. Moser passed away on Monday 30 September 2002, after a brief illness in Innsbruck, Austria. He had a long career as a specialist in the taxonomy of larger fungi, particularly the Agaricales and was widely regarded as a world expert in the genus *Cortinarius*.

He carried out important work at the Forest Institute in Imst and later was Director of the Microbiology Institute at the University of Innsbruck, an association that continued after his retirement.

He was widely known for his encyclopaedic knowledge of European mushrooms. This was demonstrated in his **Agaricales and Gasteromycetes** in Helmut Gams *Kleine Kryptogamenflora von Mitteleuropa Band II*, first published in 1953, with later editions up until the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition in 1983. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition was translated into English and published as **Key to the Agarics and Boletes** in 1983. Other works included **The Genus Phlegmacium** (1960), and, in collaboration with W. Julich, and later, others, **Colour Atlas of Basidiomycetes**, parts 1 to 19, 1985+, an ongoing collection of photographs.

The coverage of the handbook was constantly upgraded to more adequately represent the Nordic flora, the Mediterranean flora and in later years, the eastern European flora.

A long-term project was to try to untangle the true sense of the species described by Fries. For this project he spent long holidays in most summers at Femsjo, collecting in forests where Fries had also collected, with a view to building up a set of collections which really represent the species collected by Fries.

In recent years he had spent many long trips in North America, particularly collecting the genus *Cortinarius*, to help towards an answer to the question of how many of the European species of *Cortinarius* are also found in North America.

The Australian connection was also part of his life. In 1975, he published, with Egon Horak a major monograph on ***Cortinarius* and Related Genera in South America**. In this he highlighted many new species which are similar to Australian species.

I had the opportunity to spend an extended period with him in Innsbruck in 1979 to study *Cortinarius* and to learn to understand the genus in Europe. This was followed by later visits in 1986 and 1990, when this work was extended and also to work on the genus *Galerina*. In this he was very happy to share his vast knowledge. Invitations to join in collecting trips all over Europe were a particular privilege. While by nature he was quiet and retiring, he was always generous and thoughtful in caring for visiting learners. We are the beneficiaries of his careful taxonomy and we will miss his immense knowledge and experience.

Above all we are saddened by the loss of a friend.

Alec Wood