OBITUARY

In memoriam Prof. Dr. André A. Yatsenko-Khmélévsky

Only recently we heard of the death last fall of one of our distinguished honorary members, Dr. André Yatsenko-Khmélévsky, emeritus professor of plant anatomy and physiology at the Kirov Forest Academy in Leningrad. Professor Yatsenko-Khmélévsky was born in 1909 in Elisabethpol (now Kirovabad) and began his career as a wood anatomist in Tbilisi, Georgia. As early as 1936 he joined the IAWA at the invitation of the then Secretary-Treasurer Samuel J. Record. He wrote numerous books on applied and fundamental wood science, and established schools of ontogenetic, ecological, systematic, and phylogenetic wood anatomy in the USSR during his tenure at Tbilisi, Erevan and Leningrad. In 1975 he convened and hosted the very successful wood anatomy symposia of the IAWA at the XIIth International Botanical Congress in Leningrad.

That occasion was the only time I met him, but his friendly and lively character made a lasting impression on all participants of the wood anatomy meetings. At the time he was already suffering from a serious heart condition, but it was typical of his vitality and cheerful disposition that he did not allow this handicap to interfere with his role as hospitable host. At the IAWA banquet some of his

Russian colleagues even asked me to prevent him from proposing any further toasts to international cooperation and the future of the IAWA, because his doctors had forbidden him to drink any alcohol. I could only comply with this request by drinking to Professor Yatsenko's health depleting his own glass of exquisite Georgian brandy.

In 1981 he was elected an Honorary IAWA Member by our international Council in recognition of his major contributions to wood anatomy and to our association. Despite his poor health he remained active and kept a lively interest in the well-being of the International Association of Wood Anatomists. A few months before his death he sent me a message of good wishes to be shared with wood anatomists at the 14th International Botanical Congress in Berlin last year.

We must be grateful for Yatsenko Khmélévsky's contributions to our science during his productive life and for his generous and warm feelings towards all fellow wood anatomists. It would be befitting if his numerous and outstanding pupils could dedicate a volume (preferably in English) of papers to his memory highlighting recent progress in the research themes he initiated over the years in the Soviet Union.

Pieter Baas

Professor André Yatsenko-Khmélévsky (r.) in the company of his colleagues.