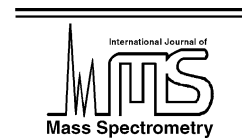




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## Pierre Longevialle remembered

Pierre was a very close friend for more than 20 years. In fact we first met during a French mass spectrometry meeting in 1978 where I presented some of the results of my thesis works. After the end of the session Pierre came to me and asked a few questions, this was the beginning of a 1 h discussion and of a profound and durable friendship. Since this date and until the sad month of August 2000, we had regular stimulating exchanges of idea on subjects as distant as the RRKM theory or the existence of God. I will always remember the monthly visit of Pierre, generally at the end of the afternoon, with new results or new projects of experiments and synthesis. It was a delightful and stimulating moment which, invariably, ended with an appreciation on a recent book, a recent music CD or a painting exhibition. The Pierre's company, his human being, his sense of humour, his culture were also, for me, invaluable during the international meetings. At several times his knowledge on the mythology and the Bible helped me to understand the scene sustaining a Caravaggio or a Chagall painting during a visit of a museum!

We cannot remember Pierre without remembering the musician. Pierre played violin and he used to play the alto part in a quartet. His composers of interest were mainly those living from the 18th to the 20th century with a predilection for Brahms and Schubert.

What has been always a subject of admiration for me was the Pierre's ability to retain a melodic line, at the exact diapason, which he heard only one time even in a polyphonic composition (he never agreed with my comparison with Mozart remembering the Allegri's miserere!). You could ask him to hum, for example, the bass part of the third Beethoven quartet, Pierre was able to do that.

Everybody who knew Pierre remembers his profound humbleness. Concerning his scientific activities Pierre described himself as an "artisan." Accordingly, his modesty was not always in line with the general scientific community way of life, and he suffered some isolation at several times. This issue, which brings together many of the researchers who knew Pierre and his works, is a recognition of his merits by the international mass spectrometry community. Thank you Pierre for your seminal scientific ideas. Thank you Pierre for the so clever and cultured moments I spent with you.

Guy Bouchoux

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