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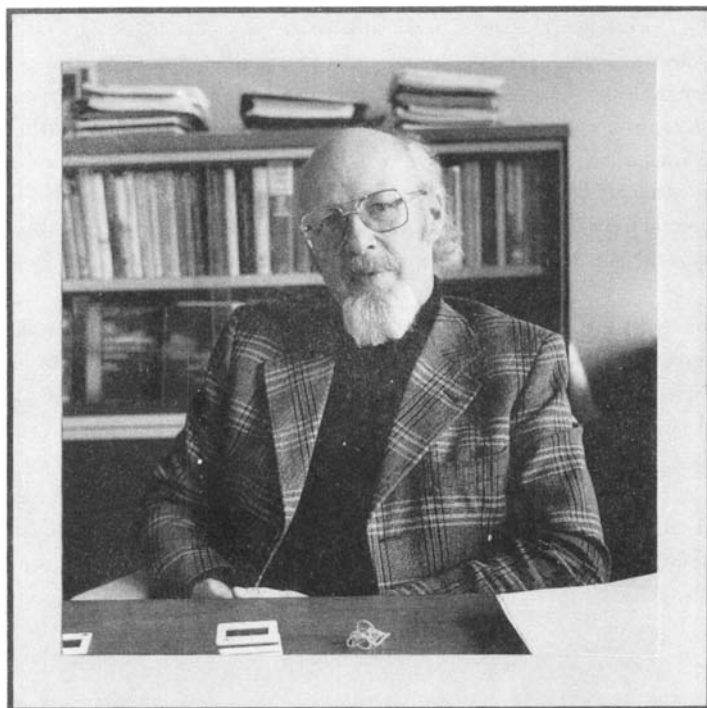
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In Memoriam

ROLAND W. FREI



In 1977, Roland Frei arrived in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) to take up a position as professor of Analytical Chemistry at the *Vrije Universiteit* (Free University). After studying in Switzerland he had travelled widely: he was awarded his Ph.D. degree in Hawaii, was an associate professor at the University of Halifax (Canada) and then became head of the analytical chemistry department of Sandoz (Basel). He had a wide-ranging interest in analytical chemistry but, at that time of his life, it was high-performance liquid chromatography that primarily interested him. It was with this technique that he wanted to make a name for the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the Free University. He loved life in the Netherlands, where there is an informal

atmosphere. He rapidly learnt to speak Dutch, and often held open house in Amstelveen, where he lived with his family.

As regards his professional career, in the decade Roland Frei worked in Amsterdam he succeeded in bringing his plans to fruition. With his colleagues and an increasing number of collaborators, he published a steady stream of scientific papers on, especially, on-line precolumn technology and post-column reaction detection. He was an enthusiastic researcher who liked to combine known principles in a novel way, to further develop and optimize them, and to test their applicability to real-life environmental and biomedical systems. Besides being (co-)author of several hundred papers, he edited some ten books, was editor of the International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry and served on the editorial or advisory board of most internationally known scientific chromatographic journals, amongst which was the Journal of Liquid Chromatography. As president of the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry, he laid the basis for several successful symposia series, e.g., the 'Analytical chemistry of pollutants', 'Sample handling' and 'LC-MS' series. In 1987, he was invited to lecture at the *École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie* in Paris. In the same year he was awarded the prestigious Scheele medal by the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Roland Frei loved life and his work in an uncomplicated way. He enjoyed his many trips abroad, liked to present lectures and was always happy to meet old friends and make new ones. Early in September 1988, the first signs of his illness became apparent. After two operations during the autumn, a relatively rapid recovery followed. The high hopes which he and his friends still had over Christmas were, however, dramatically shattered in the first week of January. Three weeks later - on Sunday 29 January 1989 - he died in his hometown Allschwil in Switzerland, where many came to lay him to rest. The unexpected course of events and the suddenness of it all make all of us feel very sad and humble. May the Lord, in whom Roland Frei often expressed his trust, comfort Marianne Frei-Häusler and her daughters.

U.A.Th. Brinkman