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“Chairman Mau”

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IN MEMORIAM

"Chairman Mau"

I first became acquainted with Dr. Maurits Dekker about twenty years ago, when he sent me a letter which began . . . "Allow me to introduce myself to you. I am known to many as Chairman Mau." This was his inimitable way of "breaking the ice". And that's how innocently it all began! I didn't realize, then, the impact he would have on my life.

Mau had written to ask (no . . . to tell) me to become Editor of his Chromatographic Science Series of books. He assured me there would be "little, if any, work" on my part. He quickly pointed out the advantages of the notoriety this would bring to me and how it would immeasurably enhance my career. I refused . . . he followed up with another letter . . . then another . . . and a few phone calls and, finally, after a year of correspondence, he wore down my sales resistance and I accepted. Mau was certainly PERSISTENT and PERSUASIVE.

Needless to say, it did, in fact, involve work on my part, but it was the start of a business association which rapidly turned into a unique friendship I have always cherished and which has always resided in a special place in my heart.

If I have to pick the single most important lesson I learned from Mau it's **persistence!** He never tired and he never gave up. He never took **NO** for an answer. He never tired of asking me to accept yet another, and another assignment from him. He was persistent . . . and his persistence is the most important characteristic he imparted to me. And I have always been thankful for this. It has served me well.

No one has had the influence on my life that he has had. He was my greatest mentor; the principles and skills he taught me have served me well throughout my life, both in business and in social relationships.

To Mau, I say go with God . . . and let God occasionally have his way. It has been a pleasure and privilege to know you and to work with you. You are sorely missed.

Dr. Jack Cazes