



Photograph by Rigmor Mydtskov Courtesy of The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters

## Biography of Gert D. Billing

Professor Gert Due Billing died on December 4, 2002, of cancer. He was born on April 8, 1946, in Southern Jutland in Denmark. After his parents divorce he lived with his mother and later with his grandfather while completing requirements for his studentereksamen (high school degree) at Haderslev Katedraskole in 1965. He then moved to Copenhagen and obtained his formal education at the Department of Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, starting with the Cand. Scient. (M.Sc.) degree in theoretical chemistry within the area of non-equilibrium kinetics in 1969, and Lic. Scient. degree (Ph.D.) in 1973 with the dissertation report *The Semi-classical Method in Inelastic Scattering Theory*. He defended his Dr. Scient. dissertation in 1978 with the title: *Introduction to the Theory of Inelastic Collisions in Chemical Kinetics*.

After his M.Sc. degree, Billing was employed at the department as Assistant Professor (a tenured position) until 1975 when he obtained a position as Associate Professor at Medicinsk Kemisk Institute at the Faculty of Medicine, where he taught in various aspects of elementary chemistry. In 1988 he returned to his old department, and shortly after he received a Research Professorship in theoretical chemistry. In 1994 he was finally appointed as professor in theoretical chemistry.

Gert Due Billing published more than 325 scientific articles and four books, many of them as single author. The misplacement of this brilliant scientist at an institute with teaching in only elementary chemistry and without any graduate and Ph.D. students was turned to good account, and he formulated many

of the ideas and theories in chemical dynamics which made him well-known and highly respected in the international community in quantum dynamics long before his promotion to professor at the University of Copenhagen. After the cancer was diagnosed in January 2002 he continued his research until shortly before he died. The book *The Quantum Classical Theory* (Oxford University Press, New York, 2003), in which he expresses his ideas, was finished during 2002 and appeared shortly after his death.

Gert Due Billing was a remarkable character. We who have known him appreciated his very fine personality, his unique humor, and his helpfulness. Many of the contributors to this memorial issue have benefitted from his hospitality at the institute as well as in private, where he and his wife, Inge-Lise, often hosted foreign guests. Although his family was second to none (Gert leaves Inge-Lise, three children, and now three grandchildren), he was unusually dedicated to science. His far too premature death leaves us with a deep void.

**Michael Baer**

*Soreq Nuclear Research Center, Yavne, Israel*

**Cecilia Coletti**

*Università "G. d'Annunzio"*

**George C. Schatz**

*Northwestern University*

**Søren Toxvaerd**

*University of Copenhagen*

**Lichang Wang**

*Southern Illinois University*