



Ingolf Lamprecht — Creative Imagination

Sixty years of Ingolf Lamprecht means — and there is no doubt about it — sixty years of creative imagination. This creative imagination is based on the study of pure mathematics and physics, as well as on a feeling for harmony, the recognition of the beautiful (beauties as well) and interest in art, music and literature. This characteristic mixture of natural sciences and affection for the fine arts gives Ingolf Lamprecht a broad view and the ability to combine matters that seem unrelated. The mixture enables him — in a very disciplined manner — not only to propose purely scientific investigations but also to make puzzling but sensible suggestions, raise bright ideas and produce sparkling reports. In short, Ingolf is a man with unusual innovative power. Moreover, his distinguished appearance invariably helps him to guide people in the direction he wants them to go, even when taking them for a ride.

For many years, from their very beginning, Ingolf Lamprecht served the Ulm Calorimetry Conferences with advice regarding the principal structure and social atmosphere of these conferences and with numerous contributions from his working group. In addition, he was always willing to support the conferences directly with his own scientific and special lectures. Not only his scientific lectures, which somehow always showed a special touch, added to the attractiveness of the Ulm Conferences, but also his attendance with his female students (he has always shown a tendency to aesthetic visual presentations). One particular contribution by Ingolf Lamprecht must be mentioned. On the occasion of the 5th Ulm Calorimetry Conference in 1983, his lecture on “FINISULM” was dedicated to very special applications of a new calorimeter. The abstract reads:

To meet the difficulties of investigating the complex metabolism of large animals, an inverted isoperibolic flow calorimeter of varying diameter was developed. Use was made of the fact that the core temperature of homeotherms shows a high constancy so that a special thermostat could be omitted.

To adapt calibration of the instrument as near as possible to the real catabolic processes, chemical calibration by means of gelatin capsules instead of the frequently used Joule effect is preferred. The sensitivity of the calorimeter amounts to $32.5 \mu\text{V}/\text{mW}$ which is slightly depending on the diameter of the flow line.

The flow calorimeter was incorporated into several vertebrates. Interesting differences appear in the metabolic structures of homeotherms and poikilotherms and within the group of homeotherms after pharmaceutical stimulation (hibernization, fever) and during the span of a whole day (diurnal periodic).

Ingolf Lamprecht talked about the construction and calibration of the new (enigmatic) calorimeter “FINISULM” and practical measurements using it. The instrument was suitable to be fitted into various animals like owls, bats, whales and so on. The audience was fascinated by his distinguished presentation including well-prepared slides illustrating the animals and the measured heat flow rate curves which he explained very seriously. After about ten minutes some members of the audience stopped making notes of his lecture, but it took another ten minutes before the final person looked round in a shy manner, stopped writing and concentrated on the joy of listening.

Another example of Ingolf’s creative imagination is his PMC (Poor Man’s Calorimeter) consisting of a cooling box, exhibited at the 9th ISBC Conference (see *Journal of Thermal Analysis*, 30 (1985) 1403–1413) a truly amusing variation of the term DSC. One more example of his creative imagination is the putting together of calorimetric investigations on bees’ products within the framework of ancient Egypt to create a dedication paper (to H.-G. Wiedemann, *Thermochimica Acta*, 234 (1994) 179–200) which mimics and perfects the dedicated person’s kind of presentation.

We hope that Ingolf Lamprecht will continue to provide the biocalorimetric community with scientific contributions and new innovative ideas. We wish him, in addition to his official duties in the university, sufficient leisure time to enjoy — together with his wife — his garden and the cultural events in Berlin.

Congratulations and many more years of creative imagination!

W. Hemminger
G. Höhne