

PREFACE

Gerhard Storch was one of the beacons of the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt. As an internationally renowned and recognized specialist in Mammalogy, his publications and contributions at conferences have always been regarded as cornerstones and inspiration for the scientific community.

Gerhard Storch belonged to the generation of researchers in the 1960s to the early 2000s who provided the basis upon which many of our current research is being built. Unfortunately, many of today's active scientists in these fields (especially those born after the 1970s) did not have a chance to know him personally. Only a few years after his retirement in 2004, Gerhard Storch had to stop active research activities due to health reasons.

Those who had the luck to meet him valued him as a warm, humorous and supportive colleague. Although he didn't strive to be the center of attention, he inherently WAS because of his professional presence.

We are very touched that so many of his former colleagues, with many of whom he was also connected in friendship, responded to the call for contributions to a commemorative volume. The more than 30 contributions that are now collected in two volumes, speak for themselves.

With the initiative and support of Ivan Horáček (Charles University, Prague), it was possible to publish the commemorative volumes (Volume I presented here will be followed by Volume II next year) in the journal *Fossil Imprint*.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this publication and wish that these papers attract worldwide interest to highlight the inspiration and legacy of Gerhard Storch.

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