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Horst-Jürgen Gerigk
(1937-2024)

It seems hard to believe that forty-four years have passed since we met in Bergamo at the International Dostoevsky Symposium. As always with Horst-Jürgen, there was no small talk, but rather lively discussions of Heidegger, hermeneutics, Dostoevsky, and American popular culture, which I found that he knew better than I did. I had read his book on *The Raw Youth* before we met, and I had expected him to be at least a generation older. Little did I know then that could write serious and profound books as rapidly as the rest of us write reviews or articles. Indeed, he wrote over twenty books and edited a number of multi-author volumes. The range of topics was more impressive than the number, and the depth of critical and philosophical insight was most memorable of all.

We would see each other at these IDS symposia every three years or so, also when he came to America to visit friends and colleagues and to deliver lectures in English on a great variety of subjects. Our conversations became no less intense with the passing of years, and – on his part – no less witty and playful. One of the most memorable was a few years ago when I was preparing a dinner party for him (my wife was out of town) and, as I stirred the sauces, we were discussing philosophical hermeneutics. He slipped, naturally enough, into German, and I remember being challenged to keep pace without burning our dinner.

Over the years I have taken many photographs of us all at these Dostoevsky symposia. My favorite of Horst-Jürgen comes from Naples, 2010, in which he is standing in front of an anarchist graffito which says “Disobedience”. This slogan unintendedly captures his salient scholarly and intellectual virtue, one which his writings, talks, and conversations embodied in the best possible way. It did not prevent him from being a wise and firm president of the IDS, diplomatically and creatively helping to bring us into the twenty-first century.

23 February 2024

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Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, Geneva IDS Symposium, 2004 (photos by William Mills Todd III).

Ill. 3

From left to right: Ulrich Schmid, Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, and Robert Louis Jackson, Geneva IDS Symposium, 2004 (photo by William Mills Todd III).

Ill. 4

From left to right: Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover, Herta Schmid, Horst-Jürgen Gerigk and Dmitrij Tschizewskij in Sankt Wolfgang am See, 1974 (from Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover's archive)

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Horst-Jürgen Gerigk in Naples, 2010.

Ill. 6

From right to left: William Mills Todd III, Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, Robert Louis Jackson, Carol Apollonio, and Jackson's wife in Capri, 2010 (photo by Graf Aloysky).



Ill. 1



Ill. 2



Ill. 3



Ill. 4



Ill. 5



Ill. 6

