In memoriam

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Joachim Elster
(1908–2001)

The Annual Meeting of the German Limnological Society and the German members of SIL at Kiel in September 2001 had a sad opening as it became known that HANS-JOACHIM ELSTER had passed away on 10 September 2001 at the age of 93 years. We had lost the Great Old Man of German limnology and a serious advocate of the social responsibility of scientists. I was particularly affected by his death, as I was his student, he accompanied my scientific career through all the past years, and I finally took over the editorship of this journal from him. A few months before his death I had the chance to visit him in his house near Constance and we had a long and very pleasant conversation. He was active with a very clear mind until the end.

HANS-JOACHIM ELSTER was born in 1908. After school he studied sciences with a broad approach at Leipzig, Freiburg (Brsg.) and Munich. Already in 1931, he got a Ph.D. from the philosophical faculty of the University of Munich for a study on *Heterocope weismanni*, a prominent copepod in the oligotrophic Lake Constance. This work established his devotion to the aquatic environment and particularly to the largest lake in Germany. In the same year, he was appointed head of the Institut für Seenforschung und Fischereiwirtschaft founded in 1920 at Langenargen at the northern shore of Lake Constance. The name of this institute, lake research and fisheries management, reflects the character of his approach combining fundamental research with applied problems. Together with the Max Auerbach Laboratory run by the town of Constance, he started an early ecosystem study at Lake Constance.