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**PROF. DR.-ING. HERMANN SCHLIMME (1969–2023), a tribute to an outstanding construction historian**

Over the last few decades, many international students, colleagues, and scholars in the field of construction history had the honour of working closely with Hermann Schlimme. Through his research, his work, and his friendship, he was a critical sounding board and source of inspiration for many of us. Thus, it was with great shock and sadness that we heard of his sudden death on 6th August 2023. We extend our deepest sympathy to Herman's wife, family, friends, students and colleagues, and wish them the strength to cope with this immense loss.

Hermann studied Architecture (1994) and Art History (1995) at the Technische Universität Braunschweig and at the Universities of Edmonton and Florence. The subject of his 1998 PhD from the Technische Universität Braunschweig, on early modern church facades in the city of Rome, was reworked and published in 1999 under the title *Die Kirchenfassade in Rome: reliefierte Kirchenfronten 1475-1765*. In 2006 he received the Edoardo Benvenuto prize for his outstanding research on the *Accademia della Vachia in Florence (1661-1662)*. He worked between 1998 and 2016 at the Bibliotheca Hertziana in Rome where his research spanned the history of technology in early modern architecture to the first reinforced concrete buildings in 19th century Genoa. In 2002, in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, he became Director of the research program Wissensgeschichte der Architektur (*A History of Architectural Knowledge*). This research program culminated in the publication of three, open access, edited volumes to which experts in their fields contributed in-depth articles on construction materials, technology, and organisation: it is a monumental achievement (see: <https://www.mprl-series.mpg.de/studies/3/index.html>). Hermann was also an expert on the digitisation of drawings and worked from 2013 onwards, in collaboration with Beijing Tsinghua Institute for Digitization (THID) on a project on the buildings in the Old Summer Palace Yuanmingyuan in Beijing. In 2016 he took up a lectureship at the Technische Universität Berlin, where he became Professor of Building and Urban History in 2017. Together with Sarah Rivière he also edited *Berliner Architektinnen (Berlin female architects, 2021)* a collection of oral histories recorded by his students at TU Berlin. It represents his intellectual openness to a range of methodologies and ways of researching both architectural and construction history and his close, responsive relationship with his students and their interests. Besides his career in teaching Hermann continued as a highly respected academic historian and in 2020 joined the International Scientific Committee of the journal *Opus Incertum*, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, and was also appointed Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute. Hermann's latest publication was a co-edited

book, together with Francesco P. Di Teodoro, Emanuela Ferretti and Sabine Frommel on *Leonardo da Vinci: l'architettura / Léonard de Vinci: l'architecture* (2023).

From the moment Hermann joined the Construction History Society he was a very active member and he subsequently became an indispensable part of the Scientific Committees for the International Congresses in Cambridge 2006, Cottbus 2009, Paris 2012, Chicago 2015, Brussels 2018, Lisbon 2021 and of course Zurich 2024. He became a Trustee of the Society in 2013 and regularly attended meetings in London and Cambridge where his contributions were invariably, calm and constructive. Hermann also became an editor of the Construction History Journal in 2013 and provided a welcoming and steady hand to the new editors who joined him in 2016. The range and depth of Hermann's knowledge, together with his enthusiasm for the discipline and his professionalism, made him pivotal to the editorial team. Hermann's vast network of acquaintances and friends in academia meant he was always ready with the name of a suitable reviewer for potential articles. In 2019 he was successful in getting the *Construction History Journal* included as an 'A' ranked journal by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) and the Web of Science (WoS). Hermann's significant academic contribution to the discipline of construction history remains his legacy, but our community of construction historians has lost a kind, thoughtful, and gentle presence: he will be greatly missed.

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