In memoriam

Barbara Beeton

Over the past year, the TEX community has lost several individuals without whose contributions our landscape would be very different.

The first of these is one of TUG's past presidents, Pierre MacKay. An early adopter of TEX, Pierre's first goal was to create an environment for creation of documents in the Arabic script. As president, Pierre instituted regular reports to members in *TUGboat* [1], a practice continued by succeeding presidents to this day.

Two type designers whose work played a significant part in making TEX the quality tool it is today passed away this spring: Hermann Zapf and Richard Southall.

Hermann Zapf, who has been called the *fontifex maximus* of the world of typographic and calligraphic letters, needs no introduction to anyone in the least familiar with type design. His direct contribution to TEX consisted in designing the Euler family of fonts and, as a present for Don Knuth's 70th birthday, "reshaping" those fonts to take advantage of improvements in font technology. He is rightly listed among the TUG "notables" as "Wizard of Fonts". Less directly, his *hz* system of paragraph justification made its mark, through its TEX-based implementation by Hàn Thế Thành, whose Ph.D. dissertation launched pdfTEX. Finally, owing to collaboration on the font tuneup, he was named an honorary member of DANTE, the TEX group for German speakers. His kind cooperation with me in preparation of the English version of his DANTE presentation on that occasion [2] taught me much, about both the niceties of typography and his generous spirit; sadly, I never had the opportunity to meet him. He will be greatly missed.

Richard Southall was less well known, but he too made his mark on TEX. The sans serif fonts of the Computer Modern family owe much to his touch. Richard attended the 1984 TUG meeting, presenting a session on "First principles of typographic design for document production" [3], explaining the merits of a more austere approach to typography than is now (or was even then) the norm. Richard's typographic specialty was fonts for use in directories and other situations where recognition and absence of ambiguity are paramount.

Another individual important to the TEX community passed away in the summer of 2014: Thomas Koch, past president of DANTE, the users group for German speakers, from 1999–2001. (A memoriam for Thomas will be included in the next issue of *TUGboat*.)

Brief comments were shared at the meeting in memory of these four individuals, by Volker Schaa (Hermann Zapf), Joachim Schrod (Thomas Koch), and Barbara Beeton (Pierre MacKay and Richard Southall).

While I was writing this introduction, I learned of another passing: Kees van der Laan, one of the founders and first chair of NTG (the Dutch TEX group), succumbed to a long illness on August 24. Kees contributed freely to *TUGboat* [4], and the publications of other TEX groups on a wide range of topics, and was a frequent and welcome participant at BachoTEX gatherings.

Some remembrances in honor of these departed colleagues follow this introduction.

References

[1] Pierre MacKay, "From the President", a series of reports in *TUGboat*, linked from `http://tug.org/TUGboat/Contents/listauthor.html#MacKay,Pierre`

[2] Hermann Zapf, " My collaboration with Don Knuth and my font design work", *TUGboat* **22**:1-2, pages 26–30. `http://tug.org/TUGboat/tb22-1-2/tb70zapf.pdf`

[3] Richard Southall, "First principles of typographic design for document production", *TUGboat* **5**:2, pages 79-90. `http://tug.org/TUGboat/tb05-1/tb10south.pdf` Corrigenda: *TUGboat* **6**:1, page 6. `http://tug.org/TUGboat/tb06-1/tb11gendel.pdf`

[4] Kees van der Laan, contributions to *TUGboat*, linked from `http://tug.org/TUGboat/Contents/listauthor.html#Laan,Keesvander`

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