

Alfred Reitermayer 20.12.1960 – 6.10.2016

It is with great sadness and shock that we in Euroclassica learnt that Alfred Reitermayer has died suddenly. He was very active within our association for many years, always concerned to promote the learning of Classics in Europe. He served as committee member from 2003 to 2007 and as President from 2007 to 2011. Among the initiatives he undertook were the European Curriculum Framework for the Classical Languages (ECFRCL), which set out for the first time a common programme for Latin and Greek which all national associations in Euroclassica could use as a resource. Arising from this came the two entry-level tests for Latin and Greek, Elex and Egex which are now taken by hundreds of young learners each year all over Europe. Every year since 2011 on or near to the European Day of Languages on 26th September, young learners of Latin or Greek in many different countries have taken the same test. According to their results they can receive a gold, silver or bronze Euroclassica certificate to show they have passed the *Vestibulum* level of Latin or Greek. This is entirely due to Alfred's efforts to make this programme a reality, with the result that over four thousand awards were made in 2014. With Alfred at its centre encouraging its expansion by welcoming and sharing knowledge with new countries joining in, a team of teachers created, distributed, set, and corrected the tests, and finally awarded certificates to the successful candidates.

Alfred's political skills were immensely important in getting these initiatives going and he ensured the recognition of appropriate agencies at European level. He was constantly active in lobbying and making contact with the Council of Europe and the organisation of the European Day of Languages. His energy and commitment to the teaching of Latin and Greek in all European countries were clearest here. Within Euroclassica he knew he did not have to set out arguments in favour of Latin and Greek: we were already convinced. He wanted to make concrete plans to promote our subject and put his energy into achieving this.

He was always a welcome figure at the annual conferences of Euroclassica, charming and good-humoured, always enjoying the opportunity to discover a new European capital. He is particularly remembered by our French colleagues at the annual conference which took place in Paris in 2011 under his presidency. He showed here his commitment to all the European associations, and in particular showed his attachment to the French capital. Another colleague recalls his visit to the European Festival for Latin and Greek in Luxembourg in 2010, where he demonstrated his deep culture and understanding of pedagogy. Other tributes have come from Croatia, Spain and many places in between, all expressing their sadness and regret. We in Euroclassica knew him personally in a European context meeting him in many different places at intervals, but we shall always remember his presence: speaking excellent English in his distinctive style (some said he spoke English like Arnold Schwarzenegger) he was commanding and influential and sometimes demanding in his requests, but then afterwards in the bar or the restaurant charming and relaxed, often finding a piano in unexpected places which he then proceeded to play. I recall

his, what seemed to me very Austrian, love of a large piece of cake with his coffee in the afternoon. In the year of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of Euroclassica, it seems far too early to lose one of our most influential figures. In the world of European Classics he will be much missed.

John Bulwer

President of Euroclassica