My Friend Friederike

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Friederike Schriever and I made friends where I visited hers and the late Gerd Hövelmann’s home in Marburg, Germany, the land where fairy tales began.

My very first international trip outside the US was to Emmendingen and Freiburg, Germany, where I visited Gerhard Mayer and the IGPP. My first trip to another German city was to Marburg to hang out with Friederike. She showed me the personal library of her life partner Gerd Hövelmann. To see the books, the papers, the desk and the thinking space he occupied was an honor.

Friederike thought about the things I would love to do on my visit to Marburg. The Marburger Schloss wasn’t open but the drive to its location was beautiful as its surroundings. My first view of it was right from her yard at night when the castle was glowing with lights. We had dinner at “Die Sonne,” one of her favorite restaurants. We had Kaffee und Kuchen with our colleague Max Fuhrmann at a café that was historically a place for student activists. Everything was just so lovely. Friederike’s joy of showing me the city through her eyes makes it more memorable.

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https://doi.org/10.23793/zfa.2024.261
Friederike sponsored my membership into the Parapsychological Association (it had lapsed since Stanley Krippner’s sponsoring in 2016). Her genuine friendly correspondence with me gave me a very rich and lasting impression of people in the field of parapsychology and in Germany.

For my editorial contribution to volume 2022-2 Women and Parapsychology: Observations – Reflections (Leverett, 2022), her student research regarding a single case study of a woman whose dreams Friederike counted and analyzed became a topic of interest to me at the breakfast table in her home, on my first morning visiting her in Marburg. Its influence was inspiring me because it was a very strong account of the attention required for single case studies. Her description of the time she gave to the details of the project convinced me of the quality of careful approaches to topics in parapsychology.

I met Friederike in Gerhard’s office in 2019 when she brought some of Gerd’s papers for the IGPP archives. She was radiant and eager to know me. Over the few years of getting to know her I admired her ease of tending to demanding and meticulous scientific, family and community work, and thoughtful emails whether personal or for parapsychology. I found her friendship to be so conscious and it will have an everlasting effect of encouragement to me.

Reference