

## In memoriam professor Juan Carlos Sager (1929–2021)

It is with great sadness that we inform the readers of *Terminology* of the death of Professor Juan Carlos Sager, who passed away on the 18th of February 2021, after a short stay in a Manchester hospital. He reached the respectable age of 91. Professor Sager was a warm and respected person who also made important contributions to major transitions in his fields of interest.

He emphasized the communicative function of terminology and the growing need for effective intercultural communication. In his publications he dealt with issues in the rapidly developing fields of Terminology, Translation and Language Engineering. He wrote and translated fundamental works on language and developed a new theory of definition. He did this with modesty and determination. When he retired from UMIST in 1995, Professor Juan Carlos Sager left behind an example of being a great teacher, an original thinker, a gentle and generous mentor and a source of inspiration for many scholars and students.

Juan Sager will be remembered as the author of numerous publications, and especially as the author of “A Practical Course in Terminology Processing” published in 1990. The “Practical Course”, one of the most cited terminology textbooks, situates Terminology along three dimensions, i.e., cognitive, linguistic and communicative. Juan Sager did not claim to revolutionize Terminology, although his insights were invaluable, but the distinction he made between these three dimensions and the realistic grounding of Terminology research in applications in an environment of information technology has left a lasting imprint on the field.

He will also be remembered as one of the initiators of *Terminology. International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Issues in Specialized Communication*. He had been involved as a consultant for *Terminology* until 2015 and remained as a board member until his last time, offering advice on a variety of different topics and keeping a realistic and critical distance with respect to the changes that have been occurring in the field during the last decades. In the first issue, which was published in 1994 he contributed the article entitled “Terminology: custodian of knowledge and means of knowledge transfer”. This article placed terminology in relation to linguistics and cognitive science and traced its historic evolution and perception in order to assess its instrumental role in knowledge acquisition, representation and transfer via language. These three activities, knowledge develop-

ment, knowledge representation and knowledge transfer via language are still the most powerful motivating forces for the study of terminology.

Juan Carlos Sager must have had a sense of accomplishment to realize that so many scholars followed in his steps and contributed to the contents and the reputation of this journal which is now in its 27th years of existence.

May he rest in peace.

Kyo Kageura  
Marie-Claude L'Homme  
Rita Temmerman