

A Personal Memoir

MARIO VARVOGLIS⁶

I felt a great deal of sadness when I read about Friederike's passing away. Although I cannot claim to have known her that well, I felt a close connection to her and to Gerd Hövelmann, her life companion.

Over the past 35 years or so, our paths crossed at PA conventions and Euro-PAs, where the three of us always made sure we had some quality time together. These were encounters of friendship, of genuine dialogue, of shared doubts for our field and hope.

One realizes how precious such moments are only once they are gone, for good.

Friederike and Gerd were a beautiful couple whose bond was deep and evident to all who knew them. When I last saw them together at the 2013 PA convention at Viterbo, I was especially touched by her loving attention to Gerd, her refusal to give up hope. Then, when I saw her at the 2017 convention in Athens, Gerd had lost the battle, and Friederike was presenting a tribute to him. In our exchanges, I found her down and frail; it was clear she had been greatly affected by the loss. Yet, there were moments when her face would light up once more, and one could see the beauty of her soul peeking through the sadness.

I hope the sadness is now gone and the love remains.

Who knows – despite their healthy skepticism, perhaps Friederike and Gerd found their way back to each other.

⁶ **Mario Varvoglis**, Ph.D., has been involved in the field of parapsychology since the mid 1970s. A past president of the Parapsychological Association and current president of France's Institut Métapsychique International he has conducted ganzfeld-telepathy research with Charles Honorton and research on precognition and PK. Besides his professional articles, he has authored several general-public works, including the CD-ROM Psi Explorer.