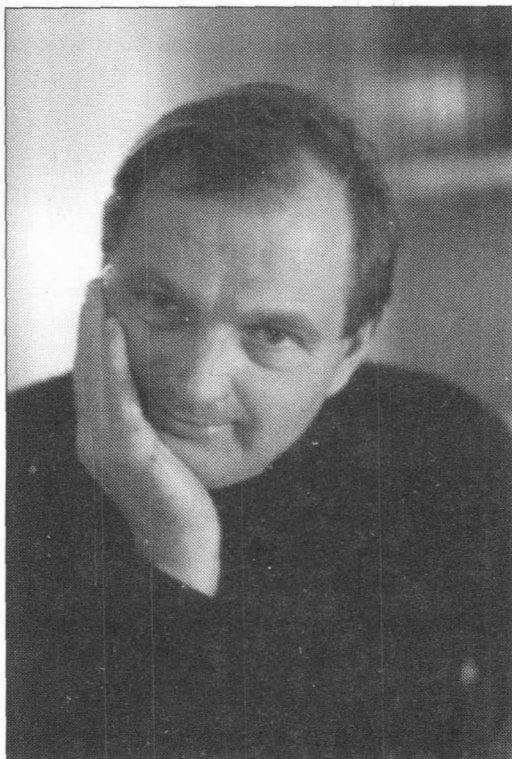


Obituary

Klaus B. Hendriks, 1937-1996



Dr. Klaus B. Hendriks, internationally respected scientist and pioneer in the conservation of photographic records, died on 27 May 1996 in Kemptonville, Ontario after a courageous bout with cancer. Dr. Hendriks joined the Canadian Conservation Institute as a senior scientist in 1993. He had previously been Director of the Conservation Research Division of the National Archives of Canada since 1990.

Born in Altona-Blankenese, Germany in 1937, Klaus Hendriks obtained a doctorate degree in Organic (Carbohydrate) Chemistry from the University of Alberta in 1971. He then undertook four years of research in the Department of Biochemistry at Laval University in Quebec City.

In 1975, Dr. Hendriks joined the National Archives of Canada as Photo Conservation Chemist. The NA was the first national institution to employ a full-time chemist to study the preservation and restoration of photographic images. Since there was a global lack of knowledge and experience in this field, Dr. Hendriks initiated research to study photographic record properties, their patterns of degradation, and ways to restore photographs that had suffered damage. For two decades, he continued this work in collaboration with staff and colleagues around the world.

In 1977, he became Director of the NA Picture Conservation Division, with responsibilities for staff and work involving conservation treatments for oil paintings, works of art on paper, photographic images, and medals. In 1990, Dr. Hendriks became Director of the National Archives' newly-founded Conservation Research Division, which has since been transferred to the Canadian Conservation Institute.

The pioneering Canadian research work of Dr. Hendriks and his colleagues has provided the archival and scientific communities worldwide with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Their bibliographic database (dubbed PHOCUS) on the manufacture, properties, storage, preservation, and restoration of photographs provides some 7500 references to the Conservation Information Network (Getty Conservation Institute). Their research experience has been regularly diffused over the years through numerous presentations, papers, and publications. Recent work explored conservation issues relating to the permanence of paper; the deacidification of paper; the restoration of discoloured and faded black and white photographs; and the challenges presented to archives in preserving electronic machine-readable records for the future. Dr. Hendriks continued to make his contribution to this scientific work until the week of his death.

Dr. Hendriks' national and international professional involvement was extensive. He served on various Canadian committees as well as on the American National Standards Institute subcommittees concerned with the testing and storage of contemporary photographic records. He was frequently an expert consultant for national and international bodies and institutions, including the Notman Photographic Archives of the McCord Museum of Canadian History, the Frederic Remington Art Museum, the New York State Conservation Consultancy, the Smithsonian Institution, the Canadian Conservation Institute, the National Library of Venezuela, the National Archives of Zimbabwe, UNESCO, the International Development Research Centre, and the International Council on Archives.

Through his teaching, lecturing, and presentations, Dr. Hendriks has left a legacy of guidance, knowledge, and inspiration. He addressed audiences around the world. His professional presentations included papers delivered at: Second International Symposium, "The Stability and Preservation of Photographic Images," Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, 1985; "An Ounce of Prevention: A Symposium on Disaster Contingency Planning for Information Managers in Archives, Libraries, and Records Centres," 1985; the International Symposium, "The Stability and Conservation of Photographic Images: Chemical, Electronic, and Mechanical," Bangkok, Thailand, 1986; "IFLA: The Preservation of Library Materials," Conference held at the National Library of Austria, 1986; The International Council of Museums Committee on Conservation, 1980s-1990s, "Preservation of Photographic Records," Symposium at the Academy of Fine Art, Stuttgart, 1992; "To Preserve What Can Still be Saved," Symposium at the Munich Photomuseum, 1992; American Institute for Conservation, 1993; ARSAG: Journées internationales d'études de l'ARSAG, 1991, 1994; IADA, Seventh and Eighth International Congresses of Restorers of Graphic Art, Sweden, 1991 and 1995; and Kolloquium zur Bestandserhaltung in Verbindung mit der Konferenz der Archivdirektor(inn)en der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alpenlaeder, Ludwigsburg, Germany, 1995.

He took his professional invitations and obligations seriously, welcoming opportunities to make a scholarly and professional contribution through discussion and debate. Colleagues, students, and participants in many sessions over the years will recall with fondness the depth of his knowledge, his meticulous, exacting preparation and presentation, the seriousness of his focus, and the clarity and precision of his delivery, whether it be in English, French, or German. They undoubtedly cherish and value the opportunity they had to learn personally from him the complexities and worth of photographic research, conservation, and preservation. Klaus Hendriks was always concerned that others be as committed as he was to preserving our documentary heritage; that they be knowledgeable about what was required to do this; and that, above all, they take their responsibilities seriously and as enthusiastically as he did. For such people, Klaus Hendriks had unlimited time and willingness to debate, discuss, learn, and impart knowledge and wisdom.

Dr. Hendriks has left an extensive legacy of writings. Canadian archivists, and members of the Association of Canadian Archivists, the Association des archivistes du Québec, and the Society of American Archivists will specifically recall his articles in *Archivaria* ("The Preservation of Photographic Records," Vol. 5, [1977-78], "Notes on Microfilm," Vol. 23, [Winter 1986-87]), *Archives*, *The Archivist*, *Picturescope*, *History of Photography* ("On Storage Conditions for Photographic Film," Vol. 11, no. 2 [1987]), *American Archivist*, *Canadian Photography*, and *Industrial Photography*.

Some sixty-five of his works have been published. His books, chapters in books, and articles appear in English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. The more significant ones are:

Klaus B. Hendriks, *The Preservation and Restoration of Photographic Materials in Archives and Libraries: A RAMP Study with Guidelines* (Paris, 1984);

Klaus B. Hendriks, Douglas R. Madeley, Fred Toll, and Brian Thurgood, "The Duplication of Historical Back-and-White Negatives," *Journal of Imaging Technology* (1986);

Klaus B. Hendriks, Brian Lesser, Jon Stewart, and Doug Nishimura, "The Properties and Stability of Gelatin Layers in Photographic Materials," *American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Preprints* (1984);

Klaus B. Hendriks and Diane Hopkins, *PHOCUS: A Bibliographic Data Base for the Conservation of Photographic Materials* (1985);

Klaus B. Hendriks, Debbie Hess Norris, and James Reilly, "Photograph Conservation: The State of the Art," *American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Preprints* (1986);

Klaus B. Hendriks and Anne Whitehurst, *Conservation of Photographic Materials: A Basic Reading List* (1988);

Klaus B. Hendriks, "The Stability and Preservation of Recorded Images," *Imaging Processes and Materials: Neblette's Eighth Edition* (1989);

Klaus B. Hendriks and Sebastien Dobruskin, "The Conservation of Painted Photographs," *Preprints: 9th Triennial Meeting, ICOM Committee for Conservation* (1990);

Klaus B. Hendriks, "The Preservation, Storage, and Handling of Black-and-White Photographic Records," *Conserving and Preserving Materials in Nonbook Formats* (1991);

Klaus B. Hendriks, "Image Permanence," "Restoration of Photographs," and "Storage of Photographs," *Focal Encyclopedia of Photography* (1993);

Klaus B. Hendriks, "The Evaluation of Conservation Treatments," *Research Techniques in Photographic Conservation* (May 1995, Postprint: Copenhagen 1996).

Perhaps the most significant work is the invaluable comprehensive text *Fundamentals of Photograph Conservation: A Study Guide* by Klaus B. Hendriks, Brian Thurgood, Joe Iraci, Brian Lesser, and Greg Hill. This 560-page manual, based on years of their research and teaching, was produced in 1991 by the National Archives of Canada in cooperation with Lugus Publications, Toronto.

Most of us knew Klaus Hendriks as an archivist and scientist. But there were other dimensions to Klaus' life that some of us were privileged to know and to share. Klaus was an avid canoeist, adventurer, and agriculturalist. He was a loving, caring husband, and a good companion who appreciated company and the camaraderie of friends. In the operation of his maple sugar bush, in the midst of the wild waters of our northern Canadian rivers, and in the peacefulness of his heritage farmhouse, Klaus pursued life with the same enthusiasm and precision that he expended in his work, for he was a man of deep convictions and concern for the world, both of man and of nature.

At the memorial service for Klaus Hendriks, some of his own final thoughts were read at his request. It is fitting that they be published. In them we can sense the mind, the heart, and the spirit, passion, and conviction of a respected colleague, a cherished friend.

These are the reflective thoughts of an intelligent, experienced, professional scientist with a dedicated public service career enhanced by a rich personal life, who, though in physical pain, knew with certainty that his brief life was soon to end, and who, in spite of the legacy of knowledge and accomplishment that he was leaving us, still felt that he must continue to urge us on to a better world. These are the final words that Klaus Hendriks had an opportunity to leave us:

"Thoughts for a Prayer,

I am distressed by the disparity between nations in that some are performing the most complex research and exploration in outer space, in life sciences and in the nature of matter, and other countries located in the more arid zones of our planet struggle for survival.

I am distressed by the numbers of religions in this world that have not been able to bring about peace and stability to it. Instead, each new religion preaching sharing and love has set up strict internal structures, accumulated wealth, real estate and power and has defended itself against similar streams that purport to meet the same goals. So it is not difficult to conclude that we do not need a new religion. We have been given enough religion. All we have to do is to understand their message and live by it.

This universal message of all religions can only be the love of all beings towards each other; the suppression of greed, envy and hate; and a respect for all forms of life which remain a mystery to the human mind forever. Only through seeking universal understanding and love will it be possible to break down the barriers, the disparities, the distances, the differences that separate us and prevent us from living happily.

I am fascinated by the wonders of nature which we cannot explain. Trees seem to die in the fall to come back in the spring. There are so many wonders we cannot explain. It should give us more respect for all life. I am fascinated by the whole enigma of life. Biologists can explain life through descriptions, but they do not understand it. And, of course, I am fascinated by what the end of life means.”

Unfortunately, Dr. Hendriks did not have strength or time to continue to share further thoughts with us. Hopefully, those of us who remember him will have the ability to understand and realize what he was saying to us, and to appreciate the legacy he has left us and our professions. Klaus Hendriks and his work will always be respected, and he will be missed by so many of us, and especially by his wife and our colleague, Geneviève Samson, Senior Book Conservator at the National Archives of Canada.

Richard J. Huyda

National Archives of Canada Associate