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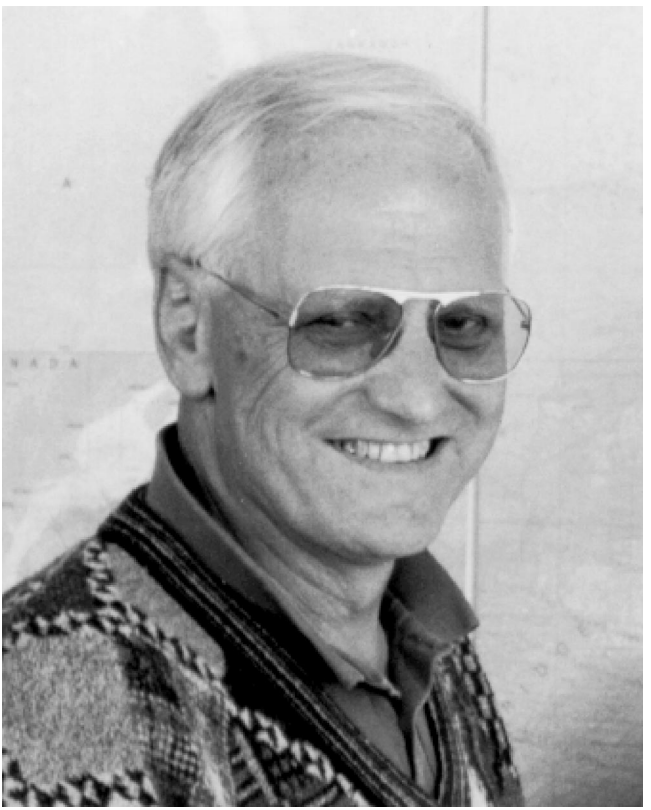
DEEP-SEA RESEARCH
PART II

Preface



Gerold Siedler in his office at the Institut für Meereskunde, Kiel, ca. 1996 (Foto: I. Oelrichs)

Gerold Siedler has worked for more than 38 years as a marine scientist and also as an academic teacher in Physical Oceanography at the Institut für Meereskunde of the *Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel*. On 16 August 1998 he celebrated his 65th birthday. For many of his colleagues and friends it is hard to imagine that this date – or to be more precise the end of the summer semester 1998 – marks the beginning of his official retirement, in accordance with the statutes of the state of Schleswig-Holstein. All who know Gerold Siedler will agree that he is remarkably youthful and

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energetic, and certainly will continue doing important research and administration for many more years.

Gerold Siedler belongs to a small and distinguished group of individuals in the international community of oceanographers who have significantly influenced the course of marine science over the past 30 years. In 1960 he was asked by Professor Dietrich to strengthen the instrumental capabilities of the Institut für Meereskunde, and ever since he has devoted his professional skills and abilities to the progress of physical oceanography in many areas.

His professional positions have included appointments as Director of the Marine Physics Department (1969–1998), Acting Director of the Institut für Meereskunde (1976–1978) and Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences of the *Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel* (1991–1992). A number of invitations has allowed him to take up numerous positions as visiting scientist in renowned laboratories in Woods Hole, Honolulu, Miami, Pasadena, Paris and Brest. In addition to his many teaching obligations in Kiel (from 1966), he has over the years been guest lecturer in Woods Hole, Trieste, Hamburg, Rio de Janeiro and Concepcion. He has chaired the advisory committees of over 80 Diplom and Ph.D. students, and also many *Habilitation* candidates. Gerold Siedler has literally been a teacher to a whole generation of graduate students in oceanography from Kiel.

He has spent a considerable portion of his working career as an observational oceanographer at sea. We have counted 28 cruises in which he has participated, mainly as chief scientist. These cruises were spread over all three oceans. His world-wide activities, paralleled by his professional success and organizational skills, turned him into a highly valued consultant on the German and international stages of marine science. Among the most distinguished tasks, to which he has devoted much of his time, were the chairmanship of the Commission of Oceanography of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (1986–1995) and the presidency of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (1983–1988). The number of additional committees on which he has served is too long to tabulate here. However, we want to emphasize his increasing efforts to strengthen the European component in the international marine science endeavour. Gerold Siedler greatly benefited from his time as visiting investigator in the US, but what appeared to be a one-way route until the mid-1970s today has become a true exchange process for scientists between the Old and the New World. To this Gerold Siedler made a major contribution. His Marine Physics Department at the Institut für Meereskunde has hosted numerous colleagues from many laboratories world-wide, thus fostering exchange of people and ideas.

Gerold Siedler has always been, or better still remains, actively involved in a substantial number of international oceanographic experiments. They belong to the geographically most extensive in earth science that have ever been performed. Among them are the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP) Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE) in 1974, its successor Joint Air-Sea-Interaction Project (JASIN) in 1978, and the unprecedented World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) since 1990. To chair the "International WOCE Scientific Conference" in Paris in 1988 was one of the biggest challenges he had to face during his career, due to enormous and unforeseen political pressures brought to bear at the time. How much satisfaction

must he have felt ten years later that the 1998 WOCE Conference on Ocean and Climate in Halifax was such a resounding success, not least because of Gerold Siedler's decade-long involvement.

In the middle of his career, Gerold Siedler devoted quite a portion of his time to advisory boards and to the editing of oceanographic journals. Among these have been *Oceanologica Acta* and *Deep-Sea Research*. He has also worked in numerous German, European and American professional societies, e.g. he is a Charter Member of *The Oceanography Society*.

During the last few years he has payed special attention to the development of the European program CANIGO under the supervision of the European Commission. The project's aim is to understand the functioning of the marine system in the Canary-Azores-Gibraltar region of the Northeast Atlantic Ocean through comprehensive, interdisciplinary, basin-scale studies. From the day he retires officially in Kiel, Gerold Siedler plans to continue his perpetual effort in support of international co-operation in marine science from his new professional affiliation at the Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas in Las Palmas.

The scientific work of Gerold Siedler is outstanding. He has authored or co-authored over 80 refereed journal articles and books, or contributions to books. It is difficult to judge which of these publications had the strongest impact on the course of oceanography. However, a whole generation of German graduate students saw in Dietrich's et al. text book, *Allgemeine Meereskunde*, the basis of their studies in physical oceanography. Gerold Siedler is a co-author of this book.

In recognition of Gerold Siedler's tireless dedication and superb contributions to oceanography we have planned this special issue of *Deep-Sea Research*. Since his research interests have been very broad in scope – ranging from estuarine discharge to basinwide oceanic circulation – it was not an easy task to focus on a single topic. Geographically, however, his research has been largely directed at the Atlantic Ocean (with a few exceptions in the Indian and Pacific Oceans in the early and recent years of his scientific career). With this in mind, we solicited contributions from those of his colleagues and former students who have an interest in the regional and larger, basin scale of the Atlantic Ocean. We hope that together these will provide new views of the circulation of a well-sampled ocean. Our project was initiated during the general assembly of the European Geophysical Society in the Hague in the spring of 1996 which – characteristically – was substantially organized and guided by Gerold Siedler.

We discussed our proposed project with John Milliman, chief editor of *Deep-Sea Research*, Part II, and an old friend Gerold Siedler's. He was highly enthusiastic about a Gerold Siedler *Festschrift* as an individual issue of this journal. We have aimed at a respectable collection of original scientific manuscripts preceded by Gerold Siedler's full bibliography and some remarks on his career. Our heartfelt thanks go to all authors for their manuscripts and patience. In particular we want to acknowledge the self-sacrificing work of Connie Schuster as an editorial assistant. She took on this huge extra load to act as focal point for the exchange of manuscripts and letters and to do this with the utmost discretion. This was over and above Gerold Siedler's regular correspondence and her normal management tasks. Our thanks also include over forty peers who have reviewed the submitted papers with great diligence. The

Festschrift was planned as a surprise. We wish that its content will be scientifically well-received and will adequately express the admiration and respect of all his colleagues for the honouree.

1 September 1998

Walter Zenk, Kiel
Ray Peterson, San Diego
Johann Lutjeharms, Cape Town

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