



Peter Breitenlohner, 1940–2015

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With deep regret and heavy sadness I learned that our DANTE member Peter Breitenlohner unexpectedly passed away in October. Peter wasn't only a member, but a helper whenever there was a need.

Peter's T_EXnical story started before the time when the DANTE e.V. association was founded. He was involved in T_EX when it was published. He found several errors in the software, thus one of the people who got several checks from Donald E. Knuth (DEK). He developed a program to manipulate DVI files and also a special T_EX version which was able to write from right to left. Once DEK commented that probably Peter knew the T_EX code better than he himself.

When I got the PublicT_EX software from Klaus Thull and was looking for people who were willing to help me to revise the software and to distribute it to our members, he joined immediately. His overriding interest was to make the T_EX system better. He developed a improved T_EX version called ε -T_EX which was able to act like the original T_EX, but contained a number of T_EXnical innovations to improve and to make it better.

Furthermore, when we started to design NTS, Peter joined immediately to help. In 1994, during the TUG conference in Santa Barbara, California, when I organized an appointment with DEK, for him it wasn't any problem to drive quickly 300 miles to Stanford. Together with other colleagues they discussed the idea of NTS with DEK, and after that

First published in *Die T_EXnische Komödie* 1/2016, pp. 10–11. Translation by the first author. Reprinted with permission.

he drove back to UCSB. He was a very active member of the NTS team.

It would be easy to tell you a lot more from Peter. During the time when I was the president of DANTE e.V. he was always available. He was absolutely modest, as we learned when we tried to get official money for the NTS project from the European Union. There were some professors in different counties who were willing to support the project, but unfortunately none from Germany. So we were sitting in the ZOO restaurant considering what to do. Until Peter unexpectedly asked us: why don't you ask me. And so after several years we found out that Peter was a professor.

Peter had his very special humor and everyone who knew him a little bit better, knew about the special history about Professor Kabelschacht. What exists behind that story one can read on the Internet or ask at one of the next DANTE meetings. [Ed. note: Prof. Kabelschacht also published once in *TUGboat*: vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 184–185, tug.org/TUGboat/tb08-2/tb18kabel.pdf.] At DANTE meetings we always enjoyed these stories from Peter.

Here also we will miss him as a special individual as well as active member in the T_EX world. For myself and for many other people in our association a man passed away who we monumentally appreciated. But just as much for many of us he was more than a good colleague: he was a very good friend.

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