

## GEOFÍSICA INTERNACIONAL COMES OF AGE WITH CINNA LOMNITZ

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I am not a seismologist, not even specialist in any of the Solid Earth Geophysics branches; therefore it would be improper for me to try to make an assessment of the scientific legacy of Cinna Lomnitz. Of course I know the respect and admiration that many of his close colleagues feel for him and I agree that his departure is a great loss for the seismology and geophysics world at large.

He and RESMAC were already a kind of "legend" amongst students in the UNAM Facultad de Ciencias in the mid 70's. I was then one of the listeners of those legends. But my real acquaintance with Prof. Lomnitz did not happen until the mid 80's, when I was integrated as a researcher in the Instituto de Geofísica. He, of course, continued to be one of the most respected scientists not only of the Instituto de Geofísica but of the whole scientific community in Mexico. His tall, slender and smiley figure is what I remember most of my early years in Geofísica. I know he was one of the key persons to figure out what caused the earthquakes of September 1985. Shortly afterwards I became aware of his great interest on seismic prediction, his contributions on this field are summarized in this issue by Alejandro Nava in a note published as part of this written homage.

Prof. Lomnitz became Cinna for me when I was appointed as Director of the Instituto de Geofísica in 2005, he was then, and had been for many previous years, Editor in Chief of *Geofísica Internacional*. In that character, a work relationship was a duty for both of us. In those years I really started knowing him: his peaceful character, wide scientific, artistic and literary interests. A chat with Cinna, a universal man, was always a pleasure. At a certain point he expressed his interest in the academic growth of the journal he was leading, a necessary step was to incorporate it to the Science Index; and therefore we started a joint effort to towards that goal. Our endeavor finally reached the end line in 2010, we celebrated the achievement with a modest "cake sharing" amongst the academic workers of Geofísica, this simple ceremony reveals one of the distinctive signs of his personality: modesty.

His leadership in *Geofísica Internacional* continued to be an asset for all the years of my term as Director of Geofísica (2005-2013), we had frequent meetings to discuss this of that aspect of the everyday life of the journal, but I also received continuously proposals for the betterment of our publication. Whenever possible I did my best effort to support his ideas and help them become a reality, even with the scarce human and financial resources at hand. The journal changed format and presentation, the website was improved. He tried to be reasonable but strict in the refereeing process.

It always surprised me his capacity to read all the galley proofs of each and every issue and detect even the slightest fault or defect, not to mention his precise style corrections. Those abilities could only come from his scientific formation and his wide interests and culture. His family was kind enough to let us have the printed proofs of four papers published in the third issue of *Geofísica Internacional* this year. Those printings were left by Cinna on his desk as he had to be taken to hospital shortly before his death. It has been a moving experience to see Cinna's handwriting on those papers. This proves his duties with *Geofísica Internacional* were with him till the very last moment.

Based on an explicit demand by Cinna, by the end of 2014 Dr. Arturo Iglesias, Director of Geofísica nowadays, proposed me to become Editor in Chief of *Geofísica Internacional*. I accepted on the condition that Cinna should remain in the working team of the journal. It was then agreed that I became Editor in Chief while Cinna was appointed Emeritus Editor in Chief. The transition could not have been smoother; I was able to sip from Cinna's wisdom and experience whenever necessary and, as explained above, he continued doing the galley proofreading. In these brief two years we became closer as I tried to get as much advice as possible from him, moreover since this advice was given around a table where we shared a good meal and a nice bottle of wine. It was for me to pay for the dinner that never happened, a saving I had done regretfully.

This gentle man named Cinna Lomnitz Aronsfrau is not with us anymore in corpus. But his gentle, wise, modest and generous anima will remain around for many years still.

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