

Antje Lingner, 1930–2016

ANTJE LINGNER, one of Canada's finest and least known book designers, died on January 25, 2016. Born in Romania in 1930, she studied design in Offenbach, Germany (one of her instructors was Hermann Zapf) and worked at the Bauer Type Foundry in Frankfurt before immigrating to Canada in 1954. Here, she quickly found employment at University of Toronto Press, where she became one of Canada's first full-time in-house book designers—a position she held for more than 40 years.

Antje was part of the golden age of Canadian typography of the 1960s and 1970s. She knew instinctively how to find the most appropriate typographic voice for a text. Allan Fleming's arrival at University of Toronto Press in May 1968 expanded the design skills in the press's academic publishing program. When I joined the press later that year I experienced first-hand Antje's quick wit, generosity, determination, and passion for achieving design excellence. We often had good-natured battles for the design of the most interesting manuscripts (Antje always won), and we enjoyed the specific challenges in the design of scholarly publishing.

Antje's sensitive skill in handling the subtle but demanding elements of academic book design was shown in the many series she

planned, including *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography* and the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, and in her handling of typographic minutiae for *Collected Works of Erasmus*, a series she worked on for three decades.

Over the years, Antje's unique talent was recognized by awards from Design Canada and the Association of American University Presses. She received two citations from the Alcuin Society—in 1987, for designing Peter G. Bietenholz (editor), *Contemporaries of Erasmus: A Biographical Register of the Renaissance and Reformation*, vol. 2, and in 1988 for Robert D. Denham, *Northrop Frye: An Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources*. She also received a silver medal from the Internationale Buchkunst-Ausstellung in Leipzig.

Antje fought with quiet determination to maintain design standards during difficult times. After retiring from the press in 1995, she continued to use her sensitive eye as an enthusiastic photographer, honing her skills under the tutelage of luminaries such as Freeman Patterson.

Her legacy is a remarkable body of work, designed with subtlety and passion.

Ruht wohl, Antje.

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 ~ Will Rueter is the founder of the Aliquando Press in Dundas, Ontario.

