

Three photographs of Diter von Wettstein (1929-2017)

Edited and placed on the web by Govindjee (gov@illinois.edu); these 1972 photos and the information was provided by Armin Meister (armin.meister@t-online.de)

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Before showing the photographs, we refer the viewers to read and see (i) a 2010 presentation on Diter by Govindjee (it is the last one at: <http://www.life.illinois.edu/govindjee/honorsfrom.html>); and (ii) a 2017 Tribute : Hooper JK (2017) Diter von Wettstein (Dietrich Holger Wettstein Ritter von Westersheim): September 20, 1929-April 13, 2017. *Photosynth Res* **134**:107–110.

It was in January, 2018, Armin Meister (who had earlier worked at the of Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) in Gatersleben, Germany) sent me three photographs of Diter von Wettstein with the following note:

*“Dear Govindjee, I have just read the obituary of Diter von Wettstein in *Photosynthesis Research* (Hooper 2017). This reminded me of a meeting with him in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, during a conference in 1972. I met von Wettstein, for the first time at this conference on "Genetic Aspects of Photosynthesis" in October 1972. For me, living in East Germany at that time, it was much easier to attend a scientific conference in Tajikistan, about 5000 km away than in West Germany, which was about 50 km away from my residence (and place of work). The organizer of the above conference was Professor Nasyrov, who had invited, besides many Soviet scientists, some leading biologists from other countries. This included: **Diter von Wettstein** (of Denmark), and **Lawrence Bogorad**, **Martin Gibbs** and **Jerome A. Schiff** (all three from USA).*

One highlight of this conference was the excursion to the Hissar mountains, north of Dushanbe (highest point: 4,643 meters). I walked up a good part of the pathless terrain near the Ansob pass (3, 372 meters), with a group of young people; among them was Diter von Wettstein. Figure 1 shows a photograph of Diter taken by me at that time.”



Figure 1. Diter von Wettstein with the snow-covered Hissar mountains in the background, 1972. Photo by Armin Meister

Figure 2 is a photograph from a book (in Russian*) about the Tajik biologist Pulat Dzhuraevitch Usmanov. Here Diter (in the center) is talking with Herta Sagromsky, Armin Meister's doctoral thesis supervisor.



Figure 2. Left to right: Pulat Dzhuraevitch Usmanov; Herta Sagromsky; Sh.Sakhbnazarov; Diter von Wettstein; Kh. A. Abdullaev; and O. Kh. Yulbashev. We thank Yuri Giller for recognizing several persons here. Source: Armin Meister

*Akademik Pulat Dzhuraevitch Usmanov (1935-2002). Publisher: Akademiya Nauk Tajikistan. Insitut Fiziologii Rasteniy i Genetiki, Dushanbe 2005" [In English: Academician Pulat Dzhuraevitch Usmanov (1935-2002). Publisher: Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. Institute of Plant Physiology and Genetics, Dushanbe 2005]

Figure 3 shows Diter with others including Pulat Z. Usmanov and Zdenek Sestak (who served as the Editor of the journal "Photosynthetica" for many years).



Figure 3. Left to right: Diter von Wettstein, L. B. Rubin, Zdenek Sestak (with camera in hand), Pulat Z. Usmanov, and unidentified. Source: Armin Meister

I end this presentation with an interesting photograph of Armin Meister (see next page). *We ask : What is he doing? And where is he really?* Reading this, Meister responded: "In July 1993 I had worked for a few weeks at ENEA (*Italian National*

Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development) in Casaccia near Rome (in Italy) -- together with a colleague Joerg Fuchs. On one weekend, we visited the historical harbor of Rome and its archaeological excavations. Joerg took my picture with the part of an antique statue.”

