

Professor Hugh Zachariae, Anniversary of the Nestor of Danish Dermatology

Professor Hugh Zachariae, Århus, Denmark on November 5th, 2005 reached the age of 80. This he did in good health and spirit. His life and professional career has been a fairy tale. Born in Bangkok, gifted and out of a talented family with roots in Germany, Denmark and the Danish colonies St. Croix and St. Thomas, Professor Zachariae was early in his life coded for an international career full of challenges. He was a student of the Metropolitan School in Copenhagen. As a student he participated in underground activities against the German invaders. His ambition to make a career in the marine was not fulfilled, and instead he became

a pilot. He started the medical study late, and it was not until 1958 he graduated from the University of Copenhagen. A period as general practitioner in Sweden and doctor on a ship followed. In 1961, finally, he started in dermatology at the Finsen Light Institute. Being focused, well prepared, well supported by his wife Eva and hard working the achievements in dermatology came swiftly: 1965 specialist; 1965 dr. med.; 1966 assisting chief physician at Rigshospitalet; 1970 chief physician at Marselisborg Hospital and professor of dermatology at Århus University. He raised this department to appreciation and honour in modern dermatology and carefully cultured young talents such as Dr. Knud Kragballe, Dr. Kristian Thestrup Petersen and Dr. Peter Bjerring. Already in 1987 he generously gave

up his professorate, 8 years before retirement, and extended opportunity for a successor. In 1975 he published "Lærebog i hudsygdomme" (Fig. 1) for medical students as a follow-up of Professor H. Haxthausens highly appreciated book, which came out for the last time in 1959. Zachariae faithfully referred to Haxthausen's book on the front page. From the 6th edition in 1988, Professor K. Thestrup-Petersen co-edited the book. Along with all these activities Zachariae published science, books, articles in newspapers. In 2002 he published the book "Lyst og nød, træk fra kønssygdommenes historie - fra pokker til AIDS" (Fig. 2). He became a public person who contributed to the debate on hot topics such as AIDS epidemiology and prevention and uranium pollution in the Thule airbase district in Greenland.



Fig. 1. H. Zachariae: Lærebog i hudsygdomme, Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1975.

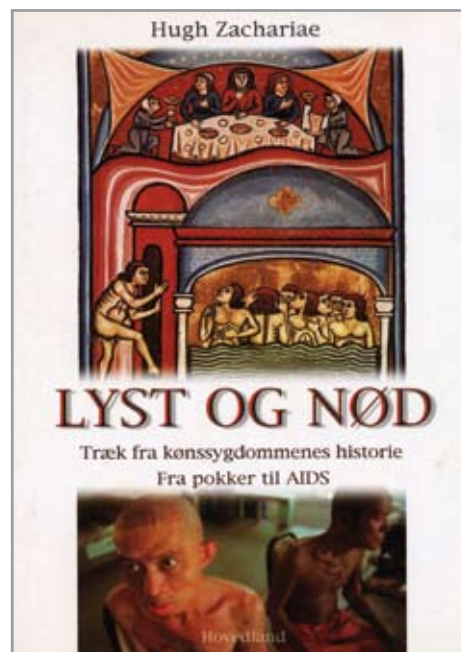


Fig. 2. H. Zachariae: Lyst og nød, træk fra kønssygdommenes historie, fra pokker til AIDS. Hovedland, Højbjerg, 2002.

Professor Zachariae always has an idea and power and passion to fulfill the idea and overcome convenience and political and practical barriers ever coming up. However, Zachariae despite the passionate style and eagerness always remains focused on the theme, respectful and with an aristocratic distance. He is a person of utmost integrity and dedication, still going strong and still active as a practicing dermatologist. In 2000, Zachariae published his biography "Hudløs, en fortælling om rødde og liv (Fig. 3).

Professor Zachariae was the first Danish national editor of *Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology* and strongly supported our journal during the initial period before the journal became established. The Forum editors extend their profound gratitude to Hugh for his generosity.

Jørgen Serup, Chief editor

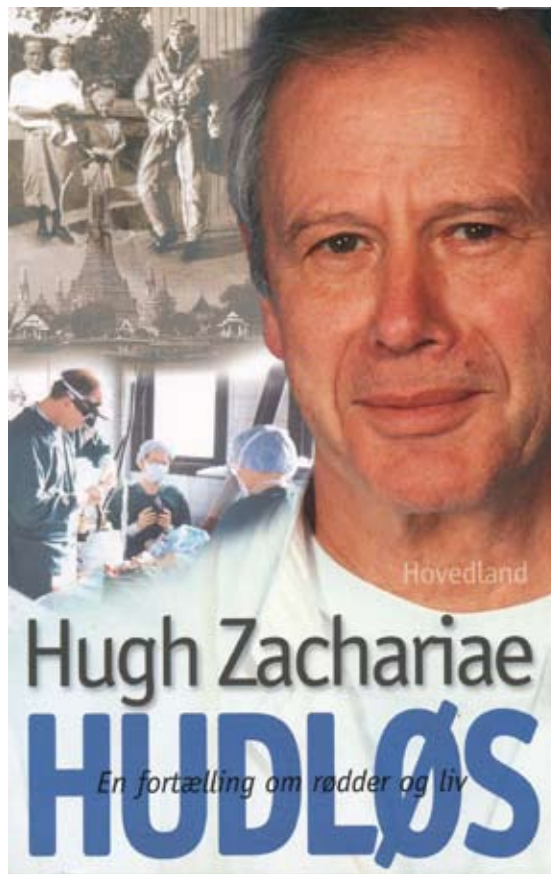


Fig. 3. H. Zachariae: Hudløs, en fortælling om rødde og liv. Hovedland, Højbjerg, 2000.