Ian Kluge (1948-2023)

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Ian Kluge

1948-2023

Ian Kluge was an active and enthusiastic participant in the Irfan Colloquium gatherings from 2002-2016. His presence will be missed by all who knew him. He had wide-ranging interests in philosophical traditions and the intellectual history of religious thought. He published some 27 papers in the Lights of Irfan volumes, two of which he co-authored with Wolfgang Klebel. The topics these papers covered include Neoplatonism, Nietzsche, Ontology, minimalism, relativism, ethics, freedom, Aristotelianism, meta-history, New Atheism, and many others. Some of the topics that he explored had previously received very little scholarly attention. These papers were all substantial—for example, his two-part article on neo-Platonism numbered some 142 pages. He exhaustively mined the Baha'i writings for relevant passages to the topics he was researching, and at the same time read widely in the scholarship of the philosophical traditions that he analyzed.

Ian Kluge was a wonderful lecturer, and his talks were always engaging and entertaining, no doubt a result of the many years he spent as a seasoned and sage-like school teacher. He never read from his papers and had a particular talent for taking complex ideas and making them accessible to non-specialists. Irfan Colloquium participants will remember and appreciate how he generously brought copies of his papers with him and distributed them to his audience. He was most approachable, always encouraging people to ask questions during his talks, and if people wanted to continue their discussions with him after the colloquium, he invited further dialog, having shared his email address and contact information before he even started his talk.

His legacy remains enshrined in his papers available to read in the Lights of Irfan volumes.

—Sholeh Quinn

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