

Roger Morgan and John Pinder

In the past two weeks we have learned of the passing of two distinguished heavyweights in the European cause, namely Professors John Pinder and Roger Morgan, both of whom shared our membership of LDEG. I feel sure that all of us, who, like them, have devoted so much of our lives to European Unity, will feel genuine grief to lose two such distinguished colleagues in such a short span of time. They both belong to that small band who gave us genuine academic leadership.

Roger Morgan was born the elder son of Esther and Donald Morgan, headmaster of Wolverton Grammar School, Buckinghamshire and the first headmaster of the Radcliffe School. He studied at Cambridge, Hamburg and Amsterdam before pursuing a career as an academic historian specialising in Europe and Germany. He wrote or edited numerous books on British, American and International Affairs as well as making contributions to the BBC World Service, serving as Chairman of the International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP) in 1974/75, and being long associated with the Franco British Council. Indeed it was in 1975 that I was first introduced to him by his first wife Annette, who was then a Lecturer in the Department of Government at Brunel University and had been one of my tutors. She knew of my commitment to Europe and that I was also a German scholar, and recommended me to Roger, who was then just about to leave Chatham House to take up a chair at Loughborough University. I worked with him for three years researching the Brandt/Scheel and Schmidt/Genscher coalitions in Germany, being supported by the Ford Foundation. A book that he subsequently published testifies to this. He went on to spend eight years at the European University Institute in Florence, before returning to the London School of Economics. In subsequent years, apart from continuing to meet regularly at Chatham House, we would also regularly enjoy each other's company at cricket matches at Lords and elsewhere. I am a lifelong member of Middlesex, and Roger's allegiance was always to Northamptonshire.

John Pinder was born in 1924 and read maths and economics at King's College, Cambridge. From 1950 to 1952 he worked for Federal Union before moving on to the Economist Intelligence Unit for a period of twelve years. I first met John in 1960, when as a Young Liberal I decided to identify with Federal Union. Four years later he became the Director of the research institute that was then known as PEP (Political and Economic Planning). He was a great champion of a federal Europe, a cause that had apparently first inspired him when reading about it during a prolonged stay in a sanatorium in the 1940s. He went on to become Chairman of the Federal Trust and Federal Union, Deputy Chairman of the European Movement in the United Kingdom, Vice President of the International European Movement and President of the European Federalists. He also served as a member of the International Political Science Association's Research Committee on European Integration and on the boards of the Trans European Policy Studies Association and the Institut für Europäische Politik. He wrote some fifteen books, sometimes in collaboration with other European champions, such as Richard Mayne, Roy Pryce and Andrew Duff and all on either the politics, economics and history of the European Union and before that the European Communities or on federalism.

Sadly, one sees on the horizon no replacement for the wisdom that these two champions have brought to our common cause. We can now only speculate on what they would have wanted to say about the current inadequacy of progress towards the aspiration that they cherished.

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