

# Cyrille de Klemm: First Laureate of the Wolfgang E. Burhenne Award

by Nicholas A. Robinson\* and Parvez Hassan\*\*

The Commission on Environmental Law conferred its first Wolfgang E. Burhenne Award on the late Cyrille de Klemm in October, 2000, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress, in Amman, Jordan. The award recognised Cyrille de Klemm's lifetime of extraordinary contributions to developing the law of biodiversity. The Award was conferred posthumously by the Commission during

a plenary session of the Congress. Dr. Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin delivered a remembrance of the accomplishments of Cyrille de Klemm. The Award was presented by the Chair of the Commission, Prof. Nicholas A. Robinson, and was received on behalf of her late husband by his wife, Mme Amalia Thaler-de Klemm.



The Commission on Environmental Law established this Award during the First World Conservation Congress of IUCN, held in Montreal,

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<sup>1</sup> See also *Environmental Policy and Law*, Vol. 30 (2000) No. 6, p. 282.

Canada, in 1996, under the chairmanship of Dr. Parvez Hassan. The Award celebrates and honours the founding chairman of the Commission, Dr. Wolfgang E. Burhenne. Dr. Burhenne is the honoured recipient of many international awards, but none as yet had been established in his name. The Commission wished to recognise his lifetime of work, and to encourage many more years of work on his behalf and on behalf of the future recipients of an award in his name.

With the financial support of the Elizabeth Haub Foundation, the Commission arranged for the distinguished sculptor, Kurt Arentz, to design and cast an original medal bearing the likeness of the man in whose name the Award is conferred at every World Conservation Congress. The sculptor has created over 100 important commemorative works, including busts of Herbert von Karajan, President Bush, Willi Brandt and Sir Peter Ustinov, and is also well known for his sculptures of animals.

The Commission on Environmental Law invites future nominations for the Wolfgang E. Burhenne Award. These should be sent to the Chairman of the Commission,

at the Commission's offices, Godesberger Allee 108-112, 53175 Bonn, Germany. There is no form for nominations, but a full *curriculum vitae* and supporting documentation is requested.



From left to right: F. Burhenne-Guilmin, Nicholas A. Robinson and Amalia Thaler-de Klemm

Courtesy: IUCN