

Paul Woudhuijsen (Woudhuysen) (1935–2020)

Paul Woudhuysen was born on 21 September 1935, the only son of Lewis Woudhuysen (d. 1985) and his wife Cornelia. While in Leipzig Lewis had developed an interest in book design and had subsequently worked for the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson in Amsterdam. In May 1940 the Nazis invaded Holland; Paul remembered watching the parachutes during the invasion. His father, who was Jewish, fled to England with Loes (Louise A. Spaander), whom he married in 1944. Paul was brought up by his mother in Holland, and his partial Jewish identity had to remain a closely guarded secret. Lewis' sister Veronica was killed in Auschwitz in September 1943.

After the war Lewis settled in London, and in 1950 married his third wife, Alice F.K. Roberts. Lewis set up his own design practice in London, Woudhuysen Ltd. Meanwhile Paul remained in Holland and studied Germanic languages at the University of Groningen. Paul then moved to England where he obtained agricultural skills. He married Josephin Fox, and they migrated to Israel and settled in a kibbutz. During this period he joined the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), serving in a parachute unit and gaining a reputation as a marksman. In 1994, reflecting on the recent killing of Arabs at Hebron in a short piece for *The Guardian* (14 March 1994), he recalled his briefing by his IDF commanding officer on lawful and unlawful orders: 'There is no doubt in my mind that my commanding officer and the members of my unit would have considered the order revealed at the Committee of Enquiry [relating to Hebron] unlawful. We would have known our duty.'

In May 1964 Paul joined Beno Rothenberg's excavations of the Timna (Wadi Arabah) copper mines in the Negev. It was there that he met Morag Gordon, and they married in Surrey in early 1965. Paul worked as a librarian at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London, and at Birkbeck College, London. In 1974 Paul succeeded Phyllis Giles as Keeper of Manuscripts and Printed Books at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, a post he held until 1999. He served under three directors: Michael Jaffé (1973–90), Simon S. Jervis (1990–95), and Duncan Robinson (1995–2007). In 1975, shortly after his arrival in Cambridge, he helped Penelope Bulloch with an exhibition in memory of 'Tim' Munby (1913–1974), who had been librarian at King's College. Paul arranged an exhibition (with catalogue), 'The Dutch Connection: The Founding of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge' (1988), and contributed catalogue entries for *Treasures from the Fitzwilliam: "The Increase of Learning and Other Great Objects of that Noble Foundation"* (1989) that toured a number of venues in north America. While in Cambridge Paul helped to excavate on Castle Hill with John Alexander: Morag had been responsible for recording on the site from 1960 onwards.

Paul married for the third time in 1982: Renate Keller, a painting conservator at the Hamilton Kerr Institute just outside Cambridge. Together they collected a wide mix of students, conservators, curators, artists and other academics, who met regularly at their home for informal gatherings. Paul and Renate developed a love for Japan, and Paul became increasingly interested in Japanese paper in his final years at the Fitzwilliam, but a planned exhibition never took place, much to his regret. In 2013 Norwich University of the Arts (NUA) hosted an exhibition of

handmade paper, 'Washi: the Art of Japanese Paper', in conjunction with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, and the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens.

Paul amassed a library of some 18,000 volumes that were displayed in extensions to his Cambridge house. He prepared four exhibitions at the Cambridge University Library, some of which drew from this private collection: 'Dutch Clandestine and Illegal Printing During the German Occupation' (2002), 'The Schocken Verlag in Hitler's Germany, 1933–1939' (2007), 'A Cambridge Treasure of Books' (2009), and 'An Almost-Forgotten Treasure: Dutch Bindings' (2011). Paul donated some of his books to the Library.

Paul had a wide range of interests. He obtained his private pilot's licence and was an experienced sailor: he took part in the Tall Ships Race. Renate and Paul enjoyed sailing at Waldringfield in Suffolk, and taking their sea canoes to Rock in Cornwall and to the west coast of Scotland. Their Japanese-inspired garden was the setting for so much of their generous hospitality. Paul was devastated by Renate's death in 2012.

In his final years Paul suffered from dementia, necessitating a move into a care home in Cambridge where he died, during the coronavirus pandemic, on 3 May 2020, two days short of Liberation Day that was to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. His ashes are placed with Renate's at the Hamilton Kerr Institute.

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