

Nachruf auf CHRISTINA GROH
Conchology, Inc. : NEWSLETTER: 16 JANUARY 2025 - FROM MACTAN ISLAND

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A terrible loss for all who got the privilege having known her, is the passing away of Christina Groh on 8 January this year, few days ago in fact.



Christina Groh - Madeira, 2025.

As many disciplines, the “malacological and conchological microcosm” of a few ten thousand very enthusiast amateurs and professionals, is driven by a few dozen people who usually “do their thing”, but which are also the main motors of the entire happening. Christina Groh was such a motor for our discipline. She worked in the background, but her activities changed the lives of many, including mine.

Born in 1951 in Langen, south of Frankfurt/M., Germany, she became a bank clerk in Leonberg, northwest of Stuttgart. She met with Klaus Groh in 1967 and married him in March 1971. Got a daughter Julia in Darmstadt, in 1984. Became branch manager at Dresdener Bank in Darmstadt, until 1987.

Between 1984 and 2012, she was much engaged as the “Soul” of Christa Hemmen Verlag in Wiesbaden, later ConchBooks. That company, which belonged to the Groh’s and the Hemmen families in equal parts, published conchological books of importance, a specialist bookstore and an antique bookstore about mollusks and marine invertebrates. Klaus was a close personal friend of Jens and together they decided to publish my first important books: European Seashells I & II, which sold out at 5000 copies in no time... And Christa was definitely one of the decision makers for that one.

In 1994, Christa Hemmen Verlag became property of the Groh family alone who renamed and extended the business as ConchBooks. Also, in 1993, the Groh family moved to Hackenheim, near Bad Kreuznach, where they found the proper place to host ConchBooks: the stocks of books became indeed considerable under their leadership and needed a lot of space. For almost two decades Christina and Klaus managed masterly this company, which became the number one for conchological/malacological publications on the planet. In 2013, the company changed ownership and went into the hands of Anke and Carsten Renker. The Groh family is still very close to the Renker family at present.

Unfortunately, Christina, got a hemorrhagic stroke on 3 January and died 5 days later in Madeira. She was cremated on 11 January 2025 in São Martinho, Madeira. Her ashes will be buried in the rest forest of Bad Dürkheim, under an old oak at the end of this month.

Christina, apart from being very busy with all malacological, conchological affairs, was an avid collector of antique glasses, mainly of the youth style and art deco period. She loved traveling, especially to ancient historic sites and loved flowers. She supported her husband Klaus in all his endeavors.

All in Conchology, Inc. support Klaus in these difficult moments. Occasionally Klaus and Christina visited us in the Philippines, and they were loved by the ladies working in our company...

You can send a message to Klaus: klaus.groh@conchbooks.de

Conchology, Inc. and our family wish strength to Klaus in this difficult period.

Here a few more photos of Christina, in her memory. She was especially close to Sheila, which she considered “her second daughter”, and she acted for her as such, as a friend and a mentor.



Christina and Sheila, in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, 2014.



Christina and Klaus, with what I should call “their extended conchological families”, the Poppe & Renker families. From left to right: Mona, Philippe, Alex, Anke, Christina, Klaus, Sheila, Carsten & Guido. In 2023 in Saint-Hippolyte, l’Alsace, France.