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Henning von Gierke, leader, consensus builder, mentor, and friend

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Over his long and illustrious career, Henning von Gierke has had an enormous effect on public policy in noise and vibration, not only because he was active in the field for more than half a century, but because of his intense dedication, his persistence, and his unique, almost legendary ability to build consensus. EPA's Office of Noise Abatement and Control could not possibly have produced its Criteria and Levels documents in response to the timeframe imposed by Congress without Henning's leadership. Those of us who were lucky enough to be mentored by him were able to accomplish more than we ever could have without his guidance. In addition to his invaluable assistance in my doctoral program, I knew him as ASA's Standards Director, then President of ASA, chairman of interagency task forces, chairman of several standards committees, and participant in numerous international activities. He was always willing to share the burden of work and to encourage the rest of us to forge ahead in an effort to make the world a quieter and healthier place.