

TRADITION AND PROGRESS SINCE 1894



In previous years' Editorials, I have described for you the development of the companies JOH. CARL KOCHEN HERKULA and FARBERWERKE HERKULA ST.VITH S.A.

The tradition of any company is shaped by its continuity, its technical and commercial development, and its employees' sense of satisfaction with their activities, workplace, and the esteem of their employer.

The loss of satisfaction is becoming more and more apparent, less as an outcome of political and economic factors but more through senior staff for whom employees are merely the tools for achieving material success for a company, and indeed for them personally. Frequently employees are scrupulously replaced by machinery, for the shareholder insists on his profits.

We small "private" companies therefore set our sights on supporting our employees even outside the factory.

Bodo Franke senior initially managed companies in London and Lisbon before purchasing the Krefeld company JOH. CARL KOCHEN that was founded in 1894. He managed the company using his global experience and technical instinct, and by empathy.

Successful and respected by customers and suppliers alike, he was an exemplary and appreciated boss for his employees. In 1952 he died suddenly.

Bodo Franke junior had to take over the company immediately. After his release from a prisoner of war camp in 1948, he worked in the factory, duly prepared by previously studying chemistry.



The subsequent ups and downs took the shape of a continuous upward trend after his marriage to Jutta from Budapest. Such an upward path can only be found by two people in love and trust.

In 1971 Bodo and Jutta founded FARBERWERKE HERKULA ST.VITH S.A., which took over production and development while sales and technical services largely remained with the Krefeld works. The Belgian factory is utterly modern in concept, and is maintained at state-of-the-art standards.

The production programme concentrates on special printing inks and coatings for the cable and plastics industry.

Development means technical progress with an eye to the environment, manifested by ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO 14001: 2000, as well as commitments to Responsible Care. The everyday work is carried out by employees who excel in their achievements – cheerfully and in cooperation.

Bodo Franke
President of the Board