

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

Good morning.

I am Anastasia Pagnoni, with Università degli Studi di Milano, still.

Thank you for inviting me.

One of Professor's Petri dearly held beliefs was that words that matter should better be read -- "Lectures, Vorlesungen, lezioni ... " he said "were called this way because they were read out-loud – vorgelesen."

Therefore, today, I will read to you.

I will read a partially ordered collection of memory flashes -- images of my 30 years-long, scientific conversation with Carl Adam Petri, a formal conversation that turned into a special friendship when I married Anatol Holt in 1990.

Anatol has been one of Petri's closest scientific counterparts – both soul buddy and rival -- since they first met in 1964.

In the sequel I will read a few paragraphs from letters Petri wrote to Anatol.

One of them addresses the question of the naming of "Petri nets".

So, here are my recollections, just partially ordered.

Sitting in Petri's office at the GMD

Listening, talking – Frau Kuhle bringing coffee – menthol smoke

New insights into:

Concurrency -- out goes the central clock

The many souls of uncertainty.

Conflict and choice; probability and information.

About nets: case class or initial marking? – why directed arcs? –

what about their graphical representation? Necessary? Too complex?

Synchronic distance – “the” *net metric*

Conferences -- called workshops, because workshops they were

Petri listening – privately answering questions -- no question too simple

The Varenna workshop (the third-one, 1982)

Playing concurrent chess, in a number of ways – quite fun indeed

Complexity -- what about a Petri net model of a soccer game?

Twenty years later, Petri wrote me a letter about that old question.

The Espoo workshop (the sixth-one, 1985)

Carl Adam and Tolly – a first, for me

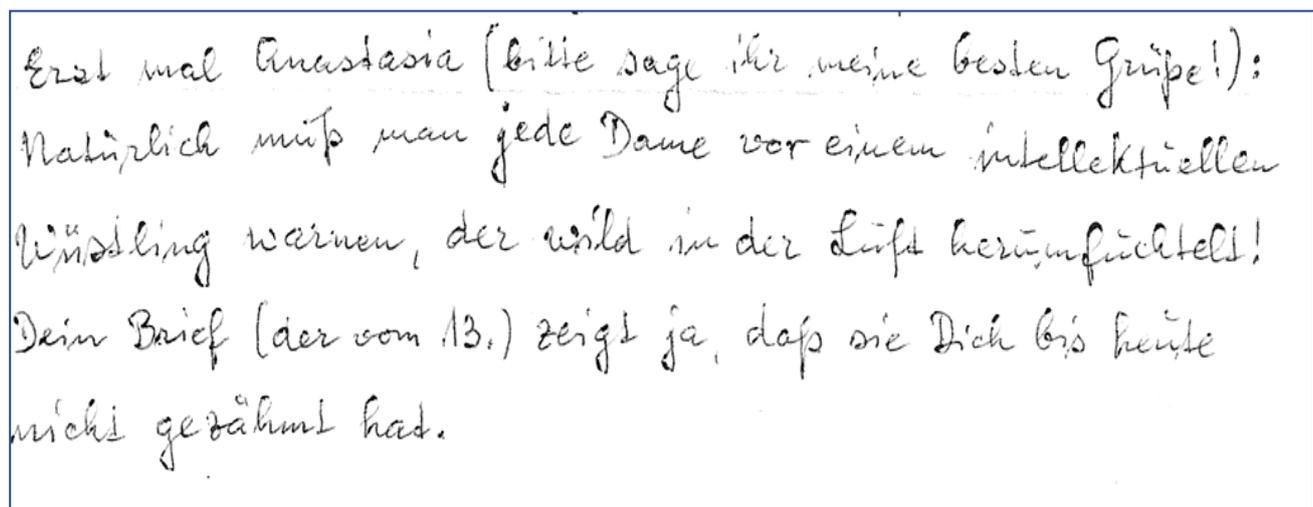
The Venice workshop (the ninth-one, 1988)

Discussing information flow in nets: potential and actual information.

Me getting involved with Anatol Holt: “Eine sehr schlechte Idee”

my son’s eyes widening ...

Excerpt 1 – 1998.

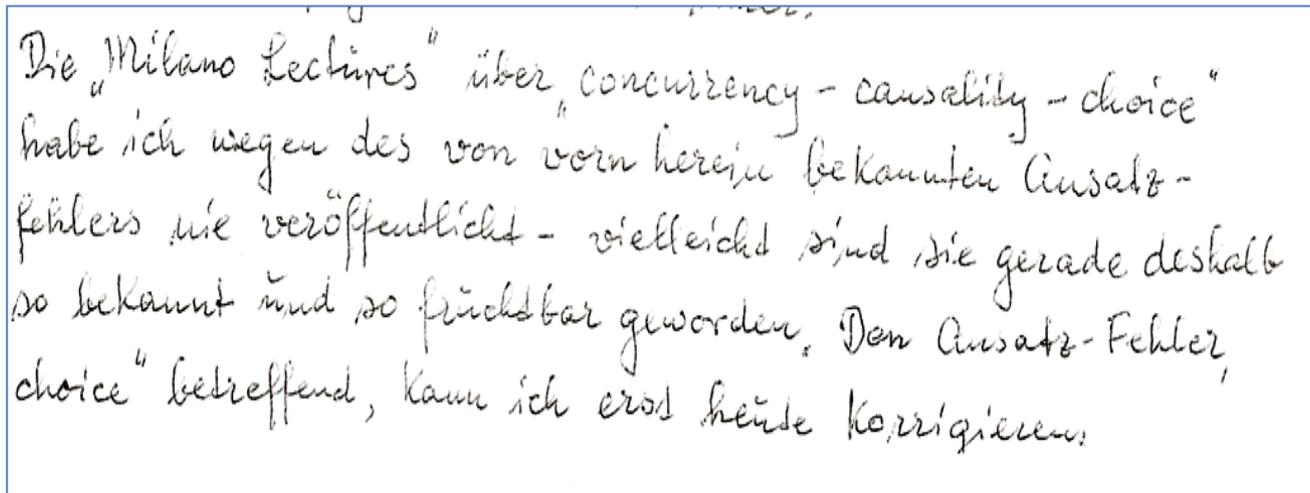


Erst mal Anastasia (bitte sage ihr meine besten Grüsse!):
Natürlich muß man jede Dame vor einem intellektuellen
Wüstling warnen, der wild in der Luft herumflichtelt!
Dein Brief (der vom 13.) zeigt ja, daß sie Dich bis heute
nicht gezähmt hat.

1982-2002 - Milano lectures -- a twenty-year stretch, not every yearly though

Reading to doctoral students, three hours a day, five days a week, slowly.

Excerpt 2 -- 1996



Die „Milano Lectures“ über „concurrency - causality - choice“ habe ich wegen des von vorn herein bekannten Ansatzfehlers nie veröffentlicht - vielleicht sind sie gerade deshalb so bekannt und so fruchtbar geworden. Den Ansatz-Fehler, „choice“ betreffend, kann ich erst heute korrigieren.

Vacationing in Chamonix

Alpine strolls, one step at the time

Talking science in front of the Mont Blanc, on our lawn, most of the day

Relativity, quantum mechanics, and nets

G-numbers

Organized activity – modeling the human factor

Prescriptive models, descriptive models

Causal models, occurrence models

Continuous, discrete, and combinatorial models

Errors

Net algebra -- over finite fields

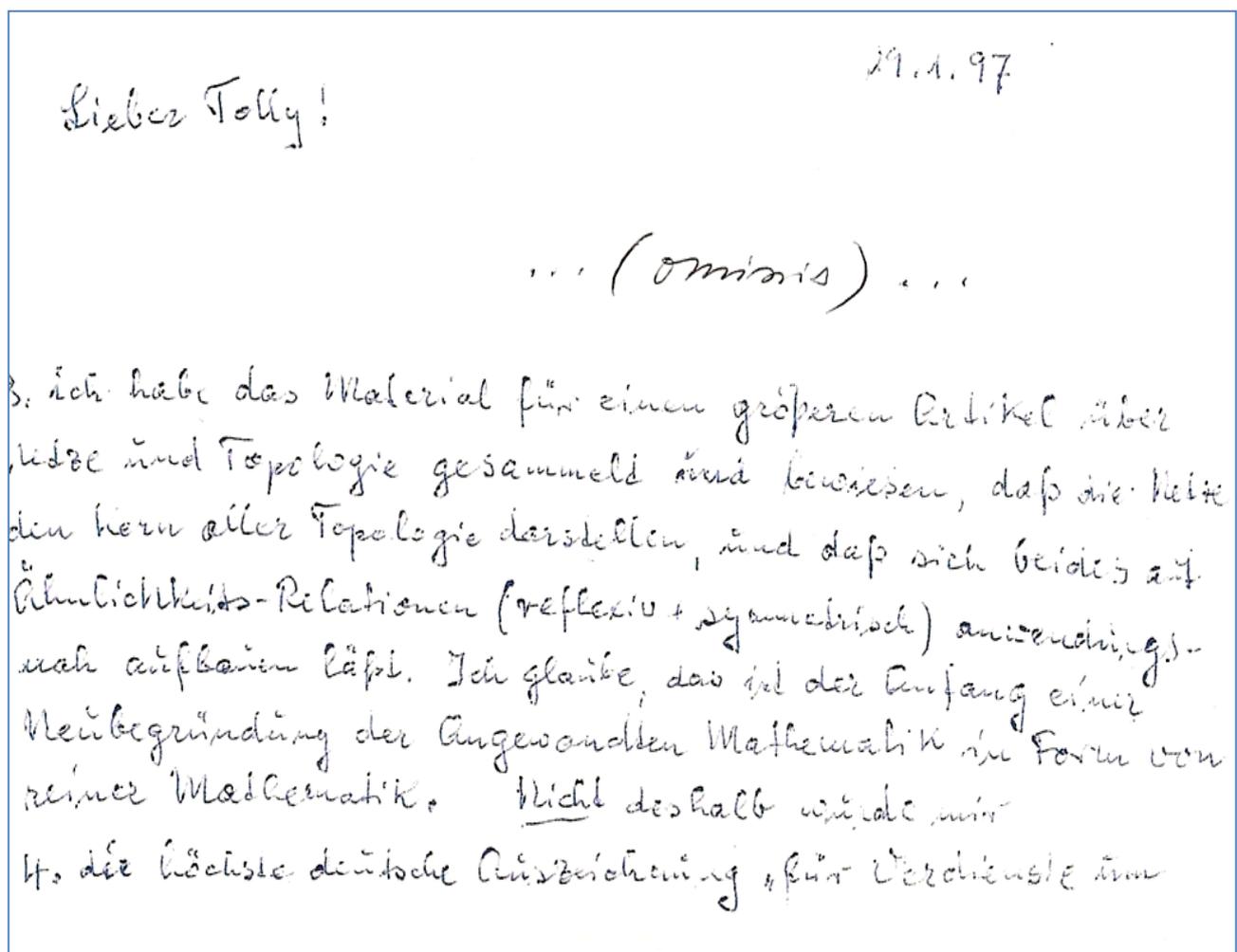
After-dinner: stories of war and captivity – by Carl Adam and by Anatol

Poetry by the fire-place: Goethe, Schiller, Petri's own sonnets, Anatol's haikus.

Carl Adam and Tolly: crossed destinies.

Half a century of fierce scientific fights, of respect, and friendship.

Excerpt 4



Naturwissenschaften und Technik" verliehen; der Werner-von-Siemens-Ring, der mir alle 3 Jahre vom Bundespräsidenten übergeben wird, Naturwissenschaften und Technik! Was sagt man dazu!

... , und ich platze fast vor Freude und Stolz ("Stolz" kommt von "stülftis" = drinnen; Trotzdem - an einem Riesenhaufen Post merke ich doch täglich, daß die Ehre groß ist. Und von dieser gebührt auch Dir ein gerechter Anteil, als einem der wenigen, die wesentlich zur Vertiefung oder Verbreitung der Netzdinge beigetragen haben - in Deinem Fall sogar zur Benennung. Umso mehr tut es mir leid, daß Du Dich von den Netzen abgewandt hast.

... talking about himself being bestowed the honor of the Werner-von-Siemens ring for science and technology ... " and of this honor you, Tolly, are entitled to a fair share, being one of the few who contributed substantially to the deepening or dissemination of net things – in your case even to their naming."

Anatol became very ill in 2003.

They wrote to each other until Anatol couldn't read, write or speak anymore.

"Peter" – as Anatol used to call him -- kept calling me -- asking about Anatol – exchanging thoughts about life, aging, and death.

Anatol died April 11, 2010.

When I called "Peter" to tell him, his son Tobi told me that Professor Petri had fallen seriously ill.

Thank you for listening.