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Sir Richard Hausler

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Sir Richard Hausler

BY MICHAEL H. GRAHAM

“Sir Richard,” an apt title for a person who referred to others apparently based upon whim as either “doctor” or “child.”

Professor Richard Hausler, Sir Richard, graced the University of Miami London Summer Program on three occasions during its first nine years. Other than myself, no other faculty member had taught in London more than once. Richard and I both fully expected a fourth adventure, if not more.

Sir Richard was at home in London as he appears to have been everywhere. Within what seemed like minutes of his arrival, he had located the most appropriate Catholic church and determined which mass he would attend each day. He never failed to fulfill his pre-ordained schedule, even when his leg was bothering him greatly.

During his first sojourn in London, Sir Richard stayed near Queensway on the north side of Hyde Park in an apartment owned by a friend of his who generally resides in Italy. For the entire six weeks of the program, the flat lacked both hot water and a working telephone. Sir Richard, however, not only survived in good humor, he prospered.

For Sir Richard’s second and third visits he relocated to the Nell Gwynn in Chelsea where I stay. He absolutely loved Chelsea. The Catholic church was only two minutes away. I would often arrange to meet him for dinner following his attendance at mass. Sir Richard would always have a new restaurant to suggest, each more interesting than the last. He reveled in the adventure of new places. During Sir Richard’s third visit, Professor John Ely joined us, and we became the three musketeers.

Sir Richard would frequently tell me to meet him at such and such location. After eleven years teaching in the London Summer Program, I can name about three streets. Sir Richard knew every street by heart within a day or so of arrival. How, and moreover why, will always be a mystery.

Returning to London knowing Sir Richard will never again be calling about dinner brought many sad moments. Like everyone else who had the privilege of crossing paths with Sir Richard, I will miss him always but be thankful for the wonderful times spent in his Highness’s presence. I will carry such memories with me forever.