



# Stiftelsen Svenskt Färgcentrum Swedish Colour Centre Foundation

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## Anders Hård has passed away

Doctor honoris causa and colour researcher Anders Hård passed away 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 at the age of 86 years old. The chief mourners are his four children with families.

In the early sixties he started the research about how the human being perceives colour. The aim was to develop a universal language to denote and describe colours. The unique approach - his phenomenological way of looking upon colours – made it possible for him to verify theories that Ewald Hering had published almost hundred years earlier.

After several years of psychophysical research Anders Hard in collaboration with Gunnar Tonnquist and Lars Sivik were able to present a colour order and scaling system named the NCS – Natural Color System, and Colour Atlas illustrating the NCS system. The system became a national Swedish standard in 1979. Later it has been adopted as Norwegian, Spanish and South African national standard. Today NCS is the second most used colour system in the world. NCS has become the global language of colour which was the dream.

After the Scandinavian Institute AB was founded in 1978 he was working full time with colour research and colour education. He continued to conduct interdisciplinary research on colour and spread knowledge about this subject to practitioners from a wide variety of fields. He was associate research professor at the environmental design department of the architectural section at Chalmers University of Technology. Research about colour did engage him far after he was retired.

Anders Hard was one of the initiator of the international colour research organisation AIC in the sixties, which had its first congress in Stockholm 1969. He had his first paper about NCS at the Colour Congress in Luzern 1965 and since then he had lectured and given papers at most of the AIC Congresses and Midterm and Interim Meetings as long as he could. He arranged the most appreciated and memorable Forsius Symposium on Colour Systems and Environmental Colour Design in Kungälv 1983. 1989 he also became Doctor of Honour at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg.

For the scientific work Anders Hård together with Gunnar Tonnquist and Lars Sivik got the most recognized prize in the colour world - the AIC Judd Award in 1997 with the words: *Their decades lasting joint effort culminated in the NCS, the Natural Color System and its atlas. The research was characterized by the phenomenological analysis of the experience of color in the spirit of Hering.*

He was curious and followed colour science to his death. He attended the AIC interim Meeting 2008 in Stockholm, and his latest work is published in the new book "Colour for Architecture today" by Byron Mikellides. Anders followed with interest the international expansion of NCS. Today we all at the Swedish Colour Centre Foundation feel sad he did not have the possibility to take part in the 30-years celebration which will be held at the International Colour Day 2009 on May 14<sup>th</sup> in Stockholm.

We keep his lifework in mind every day and today our thoughts will be with his family.

With best regards,

Berit Bergström  
Secretary in the Swedish Colour Centre Foundation & AIC Vice President