

## In Memorium Philip Prowse

The Extensive Reading Foundation is deeply saddened by the passing of Philip Prowse in June 2023. Philip was a founding member of the Board of the Extensive Reading Foundation. Despite his status as a series editor which restricted the scope of his activities within the foundation he found many ways to support the ERF from the sidelines.

Philip had written numerous graded readers first as an author for Macmillan and then later when he was series editor of the Cambridge English Reader series. Two of his books stand out to me, "The Death of a Soldier" and "Why?" both of which concerned the futility of war couched in language that even beginning learners could reflect upon.

The Cambridge English Reader series itself was in a class by itself – a well-edited series of original stories only, in clear genres, perfectly graded into six levels that epitomized the quality that the Extensive Reading Foundation was attempting to promote through its ERF Language Learner Literature Award programme.

While Philip's work with a publisher meant he could not have direct input into the award process itself, he took it upon himself to organize the *Language Learner Literature Awards nights* at the annual IATEFL conferences. With his connections, he was able to arrange British Council funding for the event for over a decade, for which the ERF will be forever thankful.

Upon his retirement, Philip kindly donated his huge collection of graded readers to the "Graded Reader Giveaway", a feature of the Fourth Extensive Reading World Congress (Tokyo, 2017) to which he had been invited as a featured speaker. Typically, he also paid for their shipment to the winners.

A few years later, he followed up by sharing his files containing the outdated word lists and author instructions from various publishers that he had gathered over time. These now comprise the "Graded Reader Historical Archives" on the ERF website.

When the ERF established a website called "Freegradedreaders.com" with PDFs of out-of-copyright readers, Philip not only supplied copies of his own early readers but also put us in contact with other authors whom he believed might also have books to share.

If only there were more Philips in this world!