My collaboration with István Németi and his collaborators Hajnal Andréka and Ildikó Sain started somewhat after 1977. As far as I remember, we first met on conferences at Szeged, at least in 1975. But not before his student from that time, Ana Pásztor, came to me to Darmstadt and showed me a preprint of [AN83] – this had appeared already in 1977 – I got acquainted with the work of this group and realized how it extended my ideas from [B70] and [B71]. Mainly their results in [AN82] and [NSa82], of which already preprints were around at that time, too, formed a basis for our joint paper [ABN81] and also for the central part of my book [B86], in which I could provide a lot of examples for their "Meta Birkhoff Theorem". In particular, I could show there that it leads to a wealth of different closure operators for the description of quasivarieties definable by special kinds of quasi-identities. The book contains explicitly about 30 "simple" closure operators and in addition at least 18 usually infinite families of such operators (depending on the signature). Some more have been realized in the meantime and very likely it is only the "top of an iceberg".

Unfortunately our interests developed into different directions after that time.

I wish István all the best for his future, good health, good ideas, and all the necessary strength for successful work and his private life,

Darmstadt, October 2002

Peter

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A "not yet debugged LaTeX-translation" can be found as pdf-file in the internet at
http://www.mathematik.tu-darmstadt.de/∼burmeister/

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