



Elaine and Martin at the Lower Palaeolithic site of Miesenheim I, 1984/85.

VERY WELL
DONE INDEED!



DEAR ELAINE AND DEAR MARTIN,

The Times They Are A-Changin' – despite being not that keen on Bob Dylan, and quoting here a song older than we are, we nonetheless use the song title to point to the recent changes that rather predictably befell our MONREPOS-team, as both of you went into retirement: Elaine already in 2019 and Martin in 2020. We guess you've seen these moments slowly approaching, too. And maybe you have even feared this situation, after having lived two long dyed-in-the-wool careers dedicated to archaeology and to archaeology at MONREPOS. Although you both have retired now, we are happy and proud that you decided to plough on in MONREPOS and continue with your research and your support for the institute.

As the institute owes you so much, we feel that we must give you at least something back and thus decided to honour your relentless commitment to Pleistocene Archaeology with this *Festschrift*. As you arrived together in Germany from the UK in the middle of the 1970s and since then your private and working lives were inextricably intertwined, it seemed a logical consequence to dedicate a *Festschrift* to both of you, thereby choosing the rather uncommon format of a tandem.

While we were in the very last stages preparing this *Festschrift*, which as everybody knows who ever edited a volume from top to bottom, is not in the least a rewarding task, we found a print-out at the copy-machine in MONREPOS that Martin had not picked up. It was his reply to a Belgian colleague who probably had betrayed our surprise Tandem-*Festschrift* idea to Martin. In his reply, Martin was wondering whether the idea of secrecy is a valid concept in Belgium, as another Belgian colleague in an earlier mail had apparently already cryptically hinted at a *Festschrift*-in-the-making. Given this conspiracy we are happy that Mietje kept silent! In hindsight, it was surely rather naive to assume that such an endeavour involving so many of your close friends and colleagues could be kept secret for the lengthy time of the production of such a volume – and we all know that what Martin knows, Elaine also knows in a flash, and will be kept secret until their dying day. So likely you would never have told us that you knew!



Wobbly Business! Elaine and Martin at the Middle Palaeolithic site of Ariendorf, 1981/82.



Elaine and Martin at the Late Upper to Late Palaeolithic site of Andernach-Martinsberg, 1982.





Elaine and Martin at Solutré (France), 1995.



Elaine transcribing lists of site documentation, Jagdhaus Monrepos, ca. 1983.

So unfortunately, this *Tandem-Festschrift* is not the surprise we had hoped to offer – although we managed to keep it secret almost until the publishing date. We were delighted to see how many colleagues from all over the world were prepared to contribute to the present publication. The result of all the input is a two-volume *Festschrift* with excellent and inspiring contributions that will surely be recognised in its own right in the future. We are relieved that some further 40 friends and colleagues of yours who initially promised additional contributions, were forced to decline as the pandemic situation had impacted too severely on their work schedules. To prepare a four-volume *Festschrift* would have stolen all our remaining energy. The present two volumes could only be published with help of many others. For the graphic design we thank the adept Nicole Viehöver who improved most the figures that were submitted. Under normal circumstances we would have approached you, Elaine and Martin, for proof-reading and if we would have been more aware of the conceptual differences in the perception of secrecy in neighbouring European countries, we could have spared all detours and could have asked you directly. But Sophie Jørgensen-Rideout and Geoff Carver willingly stepped in with a lot of help in editing and proof-reading as native English speakers. We are grateful for their support, which sometimes included even repeated cross-reading and checking of numerous manuscripts that were written in all imaginable regional versions of what some people call English – including our own contributions. This concerns a very sensitive issue as both of you are perfectionists and will surely immediately and at first glance spot a mistake!



Elaine visiting Coudolous (France) in 1995 (see the contribution by Brugal and Jaubert, this volume).



You, Elaine and Martin, and MONREPOS form an inseparable unit. You are dyed-in-the-wool MONREPOS-*Urgestein* even before MONREPOS was properly founded in the middle of the 1980s. Both of you worked behind the scenes when MONREPOS was in the making and made the institute what it is today. Your eminent expertise in research has been a guarantor for the path the institute took and for the high quality of MONREPOS-research over the decades. And without your jokes and British humor, our working lives would have been a great deal bleaker.

It was the scarcity of excavations in older archaeological periods and the limited perspectives in archaeology in the UK in the mid-1970s that drove you to look for opportunities across the channel. Both of you had been educated at Birmingham University and still keep in touch with your student friends. Once in Germany, you became interested and entangled in Gerhard Bosinski's research into the German Palaeolithic. But, at least for you, Elaine, we know that you were very much into Celtic Art when you came to Germany, which must have had something to do with certain animals being the central topics in the Celtic *Tierstile* ornaments.

After having initially inhabited the Gönnersdorf excavation-hut, life and research continued in the "*Forschungsstelle Altsteinzeit*" of Cologne University, located in the Hunting Lodge at Monrepos – a quite idyllic and romantic setting during summer. What sounds like a proper institution would never withstand modern workspace safety standards, with guaranteed frost-bite during winter,



Martin at the Late Upper to Late Palaeolithic site of Andernach-Martinsberg, 1982.



Elaine in 2013, inspecting the newly arrived taxidermy for the exhibition at MONREPOS.



Martin and Gabi Gräser, who was for numerous years the logistic backbone of MONREPOS during the Virchow-Lecture in 2015.

and, everything to do with the upkeep of the lodge – including chopping wood and catching mice (just to name the more pleasant tasks) – just part of the daily working schedule – *The Times They Are A-Changin'* indeed.

Research at MONREPOS during its infancy was very much determined by the large interdisciplinary research projects funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, focussing on the East Eifel volcanic region which provided exceptional archives, spanning the last ~1.2 million years of the Palaeolithic. In one way or another everybody involved with MONREPOS had to pay tribute to this very large research adventure. Parallel excavations, numerous interdisciplinary working groups, involvement of long-time unemployed helpers, an entire student cohort, and a never ending stream of visitors very much determined the daily routine. Needless to say, you both were in the midst of it all, being excellent field-archaeologists – Elaine with her excavations at Ariendorf and Miesenheim I, and Martin with the excavations at the Martinsberg at Andernach and of an entire forest at Miesenheim II and other Late Glacial and early Holocene exposures. You were always prepared to help wherever needed and for many years you were – and still are – the institute's backbone. Both of you provided the social glue at an institute with a highly fluctuating personnel.

During the 1970-1980s German Pleistocene Archaeology was still very much occupied with the compilation of lithic tool catalogues, and the study of animal bones was basically restricted to species tables compiled by palaeontologists. You were familiar with animal bones and aware of the new perspectives zooarchaeological investigations had to offer for our perception of human behaviour. It is against this background that the development of the MONREPOS research perspective



Gerhard Bosinski explaining Niederbieber to colleagues, among them Joachim Hahn from Tübingen University. Elaine and Martin rather bored in the background.



particularly profited from your input. You provided the foundation for the Archaeozoology Laboratory at MONREPOS and for a long period of time were amongst the few Pleistocene Archaeologists in Germany familiar with this valuable source of knowledge. Here lies the foundation for an important research focus MONREPOS has dealt with over the years and continues to do so. This is true even though many of us were quite outspoken that you, Elaine, took it a bit far with your installation of a *Dermestes* population for bone maceration in what is now the MONREPOS elevator, as for years its stink vaguely wafted through the castle.

Until the late 1980s and early 1990s publishing in English was not considered a priority by our authorities, in fact the opposite was true. Money for translations was simply unavailable and with the new spirit that the "New Archaeology" had set free, it became imperative to communicate important findings to the wider English-speaking community. As a result, everybody who wanted to contribute just had to jump in at the deep end – a blessing in disguise. Nobody has probably ever counted the amount of *denglish* and occasionally *frenglish* manuscripts both of you copy-edited over the years for friends, colleagues within the Palaeolithic research community, and to certain degree for the entire Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, whenever it was required. Although it cannot be entirely excluded that you Martin – with your love for keeping lists – might even have kept an account of the thousands of pages you corrected during your career. There is no doubt that both of you are to be especially acknowledged as the trailblazers for the internationalisation of Pleistocene Archaeology in Germany. Being part of the editorial board of *Quartär* Martin, you even institutionalised these copy-editing activities for the sake of quality control. It was basically the never-ending patience and willingness of you both to help that did a great deal to make German Pleistocene Archaeology internationally visible.

Over the years you were engaged in numerous research projects from the Middle Pleistocene Lower Palaeolithic up to the early Holocene Mesolithic and you, Martin, even took a detour into medieval times. One can hardly find colleagues who were willing to involve themselves with such numerous and challenging tasks, as is reflected in the wide array of topics that have been submitted to this *Festschrift*. In your research both of you always followed a very much down-to-earth approach, always looking for the most plausible of all possible explanations, always looking for the best of "all possible pasts". The most parsimonious explanation and the most solidly argued one has always been your priority, withstanding the *Zeitgeist* or trends to sell your scientific results best. What you always had on offer was sound and solid data one can chew on, data that will remain relevant for generations to come. Your publications present "the beef behind all possible pasts", based on the hard data that supports the most plausible of all possible explanations – independent of how long you have to chew on these data. Not surprisingly, little of what you have published since the start of your careers would require revision. It is this state of "beef" that structures the table of contents of this *Festschrift*. If you, Martin, would have been responsible for the editing, you would surely have come up with alternative suggestions for sorting of the papers according to e.g., methods, site-studies vs. studies focussing on periods, regions, etc. – just to avoid the simple chronological solution. We chose the latter, following the sequence from "well done" via "medium", "rare" and "freshly caught" to "alive and kicking", as the spectrum of topics was simply too diverse to come up with a more intellectually challenging structure.

The diversity of topics reflected by these contributions is due in large part to your rock-solid research, which is based on your exceptionally broad expertise and reflected in your highly interdisciplinary research projects. It is only with this background of knowledge and experience that enables one to evaluate all "possible pasts". Given this, one might even go as far as to say that



Cheers, Elaine and Martin!

you in a way, succeed Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1718) who argued that the actual world is to be perceived as “the best of all possible worlds”. Although today, the scientific base for this argument would need revision, the basic attitude of how to do research is comparable to yours. You developed and followed this attitude independently since the beginning of your scientific careers, long before the Leibniz research association chose Leibniz’s quote as its motto.

Research is never finished, and once you became interested in a specific topic, you immediately were committed. We thank you very much, Elaine and Martin, for everything you have done over the many years for MONREPOS and the RGZM and for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Germany and beyond. And for us, the people behind MONREPOS, and all your friends and colleagues, and we hope that we will be able to continue together for the foreseeable future. Very well done!

Sabine and Olaf

Note: We thank our numerous friends and colleagues who have followed Elaine and Martin over decades, and who have kindly and generously provided us with photos, documenting their careers. We have refrained from acknowledging every single contributor individually, as many remained anonymous or have been difficult to track down.