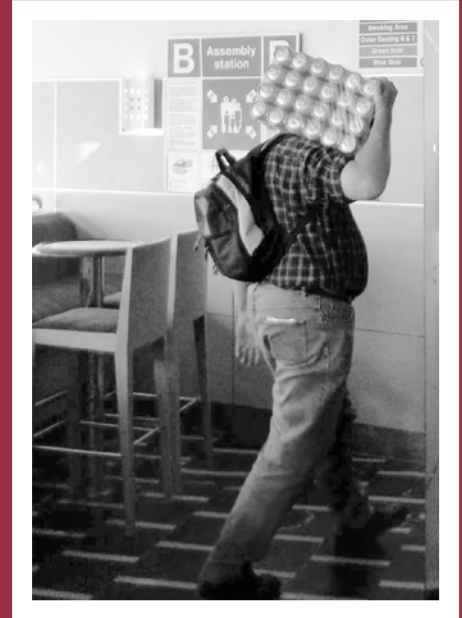
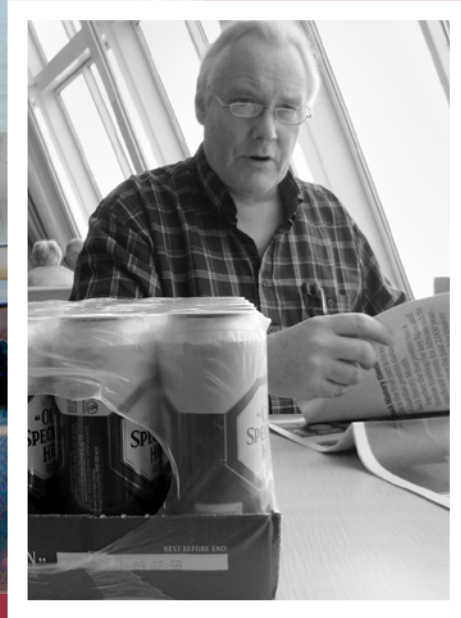
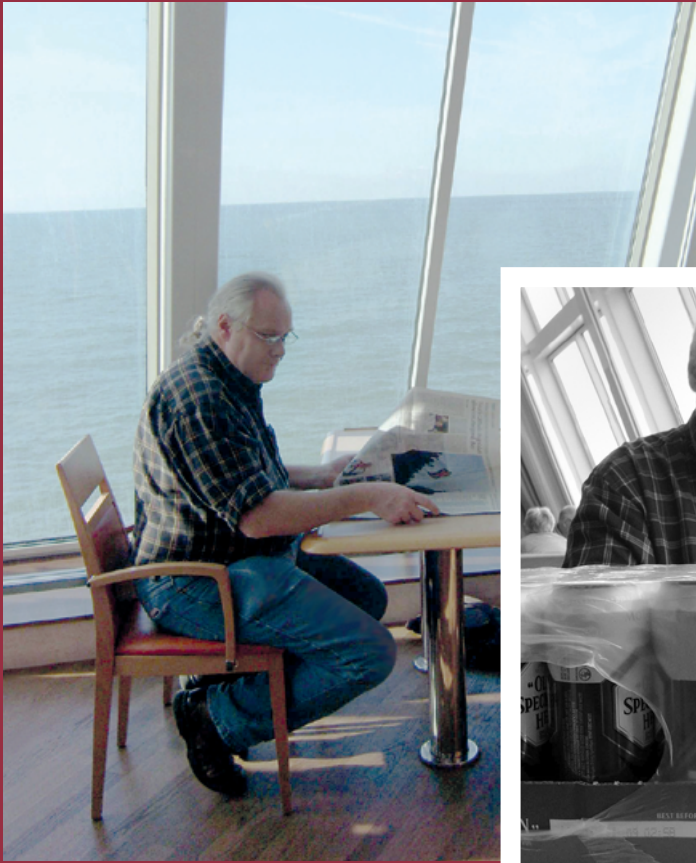


A PERSONAL  
NOTE

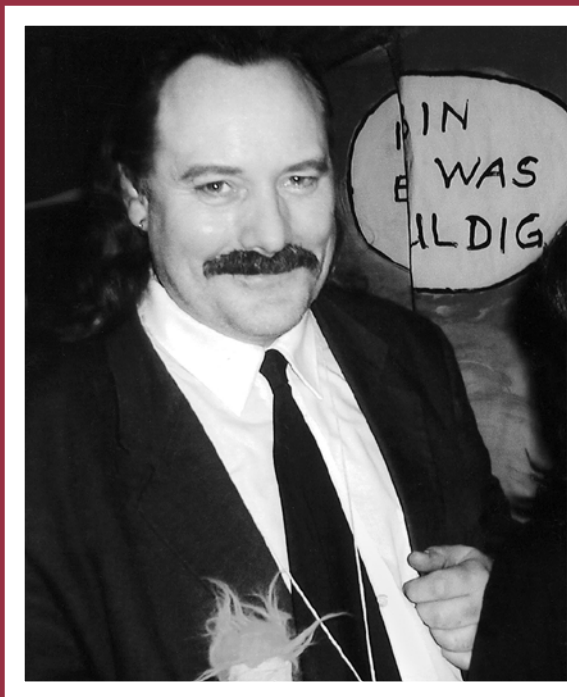


Martin on his way to home country – ferry on English channel, 2008.

Through both our scientific careers Elaine and Martin have been at our sides, and a professional life without them seems rather unthinkable. We have been together through the thick and thin of our institute, MONREPOS, and are glad that both decided to take the opportunity to stay on, even after retirement.

What feels, looking back, almost like a professional marriage, was in fact for years a very close collaboration and friendship, although sometimes, especially in recent years, our research interests diverged in parts. The reason for it being that on top of individual research projects, the overarching focus of MONREPOS increasingly gained centre stage, concentrating on theory building to understand human behavioural evolution. We feel that these discourses serve to highlight the relevance of Pleistocene Archaeology and position the discipline among the canon of scientific disciplines dealing with humans. But as this was and still is only part of what we are focussing on, we were always in very close collaboration, as no theory works without beef to the bone – the beef that very often could be found in Elaine’s and Martin’s projects.

←  
 MONREPOS 1989. Not a hen party – Larissa Kulakovskaja, Elaine, Antje Justus and Sabine.



MONREPOS goes Mafia. Carnival in the Rhineland is always a big issue. Above Elaine, Martin and Sabine with trophy for best costume.



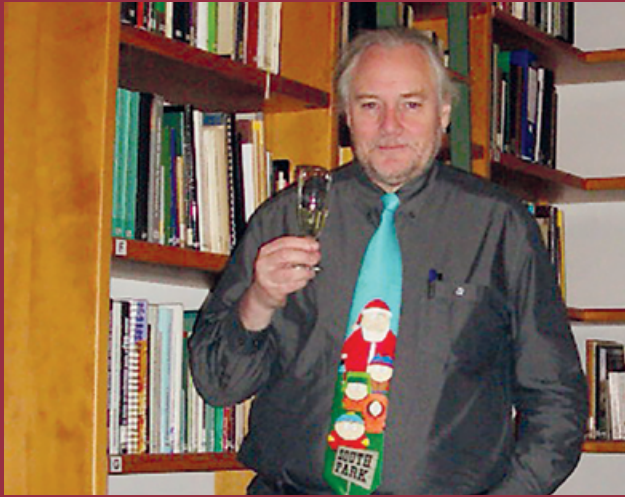
We do not know where this photo was taken but the motto must have had something to do with water.

Elaine is probably among the best organisers on earth, and apart from other skills, Martin is equipped with the rare talent that enables him to smell orthographic mistakes at a distance. While Elaine is very much down to earth in what she is doing – a talent that is very important for discussions when ideas become too aloof –, Martin is the personification of general knowledge, ranging from quantum physics to the latest Netflix-hype.

We vividly remember the numerous coffee breaks and dinners we spent together during conferences over the years in different combinations of us, chatting, laughing and gossiping away, with a lot of British humour involved.

Amongst all those experiences, we particularly recall a Hugo-Obermaier meeting in Mikulov (Czech Republic) at the end of the 1990s, with an after-conference tutorial that involved the trying of original Absint – a bodily experience that kept our olfactory senses actively and passively occupied for days, without even mentioning its consciousness-expanding or psychedelic effects, which probably explains some of our more strange/weird ideas.

What should also be mentioned is that Elaine and Martin are trailblazers of what today is called re-enactment. Both are particularly gifted with practical skills and over the years, more than once



Martin always dressed for the occasion.

we had to demonstrate hunting techniques using atlatls, bows, and arrows for the visitors of our Museum. Even though there was always somebody rough and ready to demonstrate how to use these weapons, the real professionals were always Elaine and Martin. Elaine is a very skilled archeress and Martin scored third on the world-ranking list for atlatl competitions. No wonder that whenever humans are needed for experiments in MONREPOS Elaine and Martin have to bite the bullet!

Finally, we have to acknowledge our institute the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Leibniz Research Institute for Archaeology, which provided us with the opportunity, the infrastructure and the finances not just to work together for decades, but also to produce this *Tandem-Festschrift* for Elaine and Martin. We felt we had to give back, to honour and recognise their lifelong service for and devotion to Pleistocene Archaeology!



Elaine and Patricia Anconettani,  
Ferrara (Italy), 1996.



Cheers! MONREPOS, May 2019 with Sabine.



Martin and Clive Gamble during  
Virchow-Lecture in Schlosstheater  
Neuwied in 2016.



Martin and Elaine in 2020, during the "Roaring 1920s Gala" in Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz.

