

In memoriam Prof Hanna Bremer (1928–2012)

The community of scientists associated with the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) has lost another of its founding figures. Hanna BREMER, one of the closed circle of IAG Honorary Senior Fellows, had been an ardent supporter of the idea of collaboration among the workers in this discipline from the very beginning, from the first International Geomorphological Conference held in Manchester in 1985.

At the time of the second conference, which took place in Frankfurt in 1989, she could look back to a highly successful academic career. It started with studies in Geography, Geology and Physics in Göttingen, where she first worked in fluvial geomorphology, the topic of her doctor's thesis also defended there. Then she moved to Heidelberg and accomplished habilitation on the geomorphology of the Australian Outback and finally settled in Cologne, where she chaired Physical Geography for two decades (from 1972 to 1993) and became an authority on tropical geomorphology. In her books on morphogenesis in the tropics she exploited the experience accumulated during long years of field work on four continents: Australia, Africa (Nigeria, Mali and Kenya), Asia (India and Sri Lanka) and South-America (Amazonia). Communication in English or French was no problem for her.

After her retirement (in 1993) she travelled less frequently, but in 1996 she felt it to be her duty to participate at the Regional Geomorphological Conference at venues of Budapest and Veszprém. Unfortunately, the acting President of the IAG, Prof Dietrich



Olaf SLAYMAKER, Dénes LÓCZY and Hanna BREMER in Sümeg, at an excursion during the IAG Regional Geomorphological Conference in 1996

BARSCH suffered a stroke just some months before the Conference started. On hearing the sad news, Hanna BREMER immediately presented herself as an obvious substitute (a German professor of equal international esteem) and enthusiastically filled the gap created by the absence of the President. She was particularly delighted when she was decorated with the Medal of Veszprém, the Town of Hungarian Queens. She and Prof Olav SLAYMAKER (University of British Columbia, Vancouver) also took part at the excursions accompanying the meeting – as it is attested by the photo taken in Sümeg, where we stopped to have a rest. Hanna also co-edited the proceedings volume of the conference, which was published as the rather thick “Supplement-Band 110” to the high-ranking international professional journal she founded in 1973, the *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie*. (She filled the position of Chief Editor at the journal until 1992.) After the meeting in Veszprém she made some friendly gestures towards the Hungarian hosts: invited a Hungarian geomorphologist among the editors of her favourite journal and offered part of her rich collection of books to the library of the Geographical Research Institute of the Academy in Budapest.

In the last decades of her life she was seldom seen at big conferences, but preferred to spend most of her time at home in Wilhelmsfeld, reading or sorting her collection of slides, books and maps, regularly socializing and daytripping in female circles. For the very last years the Soroptimist Club in Weinheim, in the pleasant environs of the Bergstrasse of Hesse, became her residence. She kept contact with geomorphologist friends through circular letters sent out before Christmas.

She passed away on 20 January, 2012. Hanna BREMER will be remembered not only for her publications, the well-written textbooks and handbooks on the tropics (*Die Tropen*), weathering and soil formation in tropical environments (*Zur Morphogenese in den Feuchten Tropen, Relief und Boden*), the origin of inselbergs and other exotic topics, but even more for her personal traits, her boundless helpfulness and enthusiasm and the warmth of her original personality.

Dénes LÓCZY