

Obituary Hans Lohmann

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(Slightly modified Translation of the speech I gave at his funeral on 4th January 2024)



It was with great dismay that I learned of the sad passing of my doctoral supervisor and esteemed mentor Professor Hans Lohmann on Christmas 2023. I only got to know him late in his career, when I came to Bochum in 2011 to write a doctoral thesis with him on the interrelation of ancient Athenian mining and settlement development. Although I initially lacked some basic knowledge of ancient technology and landscape archaeology (having completed a degree in traditional German Classical Archaeology), he encouraged me to tackle the subject with his typical confidence and supported me in many ways until I completed my doctoral thesis and beyond.

I particularly remember the very first joint research trip to Greece more than 10 years ago. With tireless enthusiasm, Hans Lohmann told me anecdotes and background information from his many years of research in the region at every turn and every landmark, a region which, as I quickly realized, he knew indeed – and I quote from his first email to me – “like the back of his hand”. On this trip, I not only got to know South Attica, but also immersed myself for the first time in the field of research that he stood for: the settlement and landscape archaeology of Ancient Greece.

In the 1970s and 80s, German Classical Archaeology was much more strongly orientated towards Art History than it is now. Thus, Hans Lohmann had started his career as an art historian of South Italian pottery¹ having completed a PhD dissertation with Erika Simon at the University of Würzburg. Although he continued publishing in this field, he quickly reorientated methodologically and turned to field archaeological projects.

After working briefly as an excavation manager in Augst, Switzerland, he received a prestigious travel grant for young researchers from the German Archaeological Institute, which enabled him to travel the countries of the Mediterranean region for a year. He often talked about this trip, which he had fond memories of. Probably not least because it was possible for his wife Ursula to accompany him for the entire period.

After a subsequent period working for the Rhineland's Department for the Preservation of Monuments, he took up a position as *Assistent* in Classical Archaeology in 1981 at Bochum's Ruhr University. It was during this time that he began collaborating with Hans Lauter. This pioneer of Greek settlement archaeology in Germany was to shape Hans Lohmann's future research like no other. Together, they undertook field research on historical and prehistoric Attica in the following years.²

It was during this phase that Hans Lohmann carried out his survey in the ancient Athenian rural community – or *deme* – Atene, placing him in the row of international scholars such as John Bintliff and Robin Osborne who had started to focus on rural life in Classical Antiquity based on methods developed in the wake of New Archaeology. Lohmann published the results in 1993 as a two-volume monograph.³ With this work, he not only anchored the survey method in German Classical Archaeology, but also showed his appreciation for the interdisciplinary approach. This is because he not only dealt with topics in his field, but likewise incorporated prehistoric, technical and above all ancient-historical topics. Interdisciplinary cooperation and breaking out of the narrow boundaries between disciplines were to remain characteristic of his work.

In the following years, he stayed committed to the region of Attica by acquiring a project funded by the German Research Council, that focused on the fortifications in the Attic countryside (the results were published as a monograph recently).⁴ In the 1990s he also took up his research in Asia Minor, where he studied the Milesian peninsula for several years.⁵ In 2000 he was awarded an adjunct professorship by the Faculty of History at the Ruhr University.

Probably his greatest achievement in the following years of his career was the discovery of an Archaic settlement and temple on Çatallar Tepe in Mykale, undisturbed by later building, which he linked to the Panionion mentioned in Herodotus and a city called Melia⁶ – a theory that would be controversially discussed in the following years. His extensive archaeological work in Caria was

¹ Lohmann 1979.

² Lauter, Lohmann and Lauter-Bufe 1989.

³ Lohmann, 1993.

⁴ Lohmann, 2021.

⁵ Lohmann 2004.

⁶ See for example: Lohmann, 2011.

published in several articles and the monograph series *Forschungen in der Mykale (Asia Minor Studien vols. 70, 75 and 77)*.⁷

After completing the excavations in Turkey, he returned to Attica, which is when I got to know him. In the course of my dissertation, the above-mentioned joint trip took place, and in the following years he managed to set up a field research project in cooperation with the Greek Ephorate of East Attica and the German Archaeological Institute at Athens.⁸ I not only have characteristic memories of these travels, but also of a field trip to Attica in 2012, in which he not only took us to the most remote corners of Attica, but also impressed us students with his knowledgeable, yet informal and good-humoured manner.

Since his early research in Attica, he was accompanied by his two close colleagues Gundula Lüdorf and Georg Kalaitzoglou. In 2013 both honoured him with a Festschrift, 'Petastos',⁹ on the occasion of his 65th birthday. He remained active after his retirement; since then several monographs and various articles have been published. He also continued to take a lively part in debates near and far. He was for example a regular guest at our Münster online lecture series 'Epichorios' on Greek archaeology and always enriched the discussion with his knowledge.

I experienced Hans Lohmann as a person and researcher with tireless energy and a thirst for knowledge. Due to his intensive participation in international debates, he was an esteemed colleague not only in German, but also in English, Greek and Turkish Classical studies. His diligent, sometimes Prussian, approach was just as characteristic of him as was his critical and sometimes contentious manner, which could turn a discussion into a tough struggle. With his passing, the discipline has lost one of its great scholars and – to use one of our favourite attributes – a *Nestor* of Greek landscape archaeology. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Ursula, his children, grandchildren and other relatives at this difficult time.

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⁷ See also Lohmann, 2005.

⁸ See Lohmann, 2015/16, 88 f.; see also Hulek, Lohmann, Nomicos and Hauptmann, 2023.

⁹ Kalaitzoglou and Lüdorf, 2013.