

**American Meteorological Society
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TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEW PROJECT

Interview with Marian Haurwitz

26 October 1993

Interviewer: Julius London

London: This is an interview with Marian Haurwitz. It's Tuesday afternoon, October 26, and we want to talk about Bernhard Haurwitz and a little bit of his professional life and what he did in the last twenty-five or thirty years or so, before he died in 1986. We'll just go on with the story starting from the beginning.

Marian, let's get some things down now, just factual things. First of all, when did you first meet Bernhard?

Haurwitz: I met Bernhard in 1960 at a party given by the Matsushitas. We were invited there independently, we were both friends of the Matsushitas although we hadn't met.

London: This was when Mat was working at HAO.

Haurwitz: I guess, yes. It was very interesting. I remember Bernhard sitting on my left side and Dr. Mat sitting on my right side, and they passed around a plate of Japanese goodies. The goodies came to Bernhard first and he made an impolite noise and handed them to me. I remember smiling in a very superior kind of way, [to suggest] that "some of us know our manners." And I took one of these goodies, which turned out to be fried grasshoppers. So I started eating them. Then I passed them to Dr. Mat and he said, "Oh, no, I never touch the things." So Bernhard started laughing at me, and that's how we got to meet each other.

London: I guess he pretty soon got over the idea of laughing at you--

Haurwitz: Oh, no.

London: --but laughing with you.

Haurwitz: Yes, he invited me to join in the general merriment as I chewed away on the grasshopper.

London: At that time, you were working here in Boulder.

Haurwitz: Yes.

London: You were working at, was it then NBS [National Bureau of Standards]?

Haurwitz: I think it was NOAA. I'm not sure when the lab changed over at the Boulder labs--

London: What was your title or duties?

Haurwitz: We were interested in studying the effects of solar activity on the earth's magnetic field.

London: This was research work that you were doing.

Haurwitz: Yes, trying to predict geomagnetic storms as a consequence of solar activity.

London: You met Bernhard in 1960 and you were married in 1961. When?

Haurwitz: January 14, 1961.

London: After that, you took a trip during that summer...?

Haurwitz: Yes, that summer Bernhard and I went to Munich for three months where Bernhard worked with Fritz Möller at the Geophysical Institute in Munich.

London: You also went to Switzerland, didn't you, for the meeting in Arosa?

Haurwitz: I've forgotten which years we did what, but we did go to the meeting in Arosa.

London: As a matter of fact, we were there together. As I remember from Arosa, we went to Vienna and we went by train, the four of us. Then, after that, you came back home to Boulder after the meeting in Vienna. And you continued working in Boulder. Bernhard was working at the University then.

Haurwitz: He was working at the University then.

London: He worked at the University until 1964, I believe.

Haurwitz: I guess. You remember that better than I do.

London: In addition to that trip to Zurich, did you go back to Arosa for any other length of time?

Haurwitz: I don't remember Arosa, but we were in Zurich and we also went to, I think,

Lucerne. Wherever the international--

London: IUGG meeting?

Haurwitz: No, this had nothing to do with professional, so I probably shouldn't bother with it.

London: No, what--?

Haurwitz: No, it was where the world--all the different people from different countries came-- it wasn't meteorological.

London: To do what?

Haurwitz: They were diplomats. And we went to a fancy restaurant there. Bernhard was wearing a new plastic suit and smoking his pipe, and the cinders from his pipe burnt out the whole front of his pants. So we made a hurried single-file exit with him close behind.

London: Did he buy a new pair of pants?

Haurwitz: Yes, he certainly did. That had nothing to do with--

London: As a matter of fact, it has to do with Bernhard and smoking pipes. He continued to smoke a pipe for quite some time before he gave it up.

Haurwitz: Yes. Much after he gave up cigarettes, he continued to do that.

London: You spent how long a period of time in Munich?

Haurwitz: We were there three months, I think. Bernhard was a visiting professor at the Geophysical Institute under Fritz Möller. Fritz Möller was a very close friend of Bernhard's. They had known each other for many years.

London: Fritz Möller actually visited Bernhard when he was still at NYU. That was in the mid-fifties, I believe. And then visited here in Boulder.

Haurwitz: We were away in Alaska the summer that the Möllers came to spend the summer in Boulder, so they stayed at our apartment.

London: I remember that. That was a very pleasant time for us, also, to see him and his wife.

Were there any other visits to Europe that you remember that you made together?

Haurwitz: I don't remember just what years or what parts were combined together, but we did visit Bernhard's old professors that he had gotten a degree under and ?Provadozent. Professor Ludwig Weickmann--

London: That was in Leipzig?

Haurwitz: I don't remember. It was in some sort of retirement area, "bad" something or other.

London: Weickmann had been retired by then.

Haurwitz: Oh, yes. And I remember very well that we walked up and Bernhard rang the bell on Professor Weickmann's door and the professor opened the door himself, and Bernhard clicked his heels and bowed, which was very unusual behavior for Bernhard, but he respected Professor Weickmann so much and appreciated what he had done for him--

London: I think that respect was very mutual. Weickmann obviously liked Bernhard a good deal.

Haurwitz: He took him on and--of course, we knew Helmut here in Boulder.

London: Ludwig Weickmann was the father of Helmut Weickmann, who worked here in Boulder for a long time. Were there any other trips?

Haurwitz: Yes. We went to visit Wolfgang Gleisberg. This was a very old friend of Bernhard's, going back to early teen years when they were both interested in astronomy. They both had telescopes, and they were both very proud that their observations of sunspots were used in the Zurich Sunspot Number. So they kept a journal that they called a scientific journal that was all written out by hand.

They stayed friends over many, many decades. We met the Gleisbergs on one of our visits; I've forgotten which one.

London: This is the Gleisberg of the so-called "Gleisberg cycle," the 80-some-odd year of the sunspot cycle.

Haurwitz: I believe so.

London: Now, at that time, as I understand Bernhard and Gleisberg would send the results of some of their sunspot observations to Zurich.

Haurwitz: Where they made the Zurich Sunspot Number. Whenever places would be clouded in, they would accept volunteers' observations.

London: I'm trying to think of who it was in Zurich who was in charge at that time. I'll look that up.

Haurwitz: Bernhard was very interested in astronomy. This was his real passion as a boy. He taught himself spherical trigonometry because he said it was very useful in studying astronomy which he worked on on his own.

London: Were there any other European scientists whom you can think of who Bernhard knew and worked with and liked in those earlier years before you had met him?

Haurwitz: I'm sure there were and I just don't know and I'm very much afraid I'll leave people out who were close to him.

London: You visited in Göttingen, didn't you?

Haurwitz: Yes. Oh, Siebert. Manfred Siebert invited Bernhard over as a Gauss Professor for a summer in Göttingen.

London: Of course, both Bernhard and Siebert were quite interested in the problem of tides. They worked closely in discussing this problem a great deal. Did you know that Siebert visited at NYU for one year, in the mid-fifties? Siebert visited us at Bernhard's invitation and then the people at Göttingen--

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