

Lieselott Enders 1927–2009

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Dedicated to her 97th birthday on February 13, 2024

Abstract

Obituary by her tight friend and colleague Jan Peters (1932–2011). His original text in German is reproduced in Section 1.¹ Section 2 contains the translation (using DeepL) and numerous additions (headlines, footnotes) by her son, Peter Enders (February 12, 2024).

1 Original text by Jan Peters

Lieselott Enders 1927-2009

Ein tödlicher Unfall am 24.4.2009 nahm uns Dr. Lieselott Enders, Archivarin und Historikerin aus Potsdam. Den Verlust können wir noch nicht ermessen. Denn so wie sich die Feder sträubt, diese Nachricht überhaupt zu vermelden, so schwer fällt es, die Trauer um den Menschen zu benennen oder gar das Feld in Gänze abzustecken, auf dem Sie ihre Furchen gezogen und dauerhafte Spuren hinterlassen hat. Zudem widerstrebt mir jedes würdigende Wort auch deshalb, weil sie solches, auf ihre Person bezogen, nicht mochte. Sie würde es mir allerdings verzeihen, denn sie war nicht nur eine Wissenschaftlerin von Rang, sie kannte auch die Schwächen dieser Welt und wusste damit umzugehen. Prinzipienfest und nachsichtig zugleich, hat Lieselott Enders, diese kleine und scheinbar so zerbrechliche Frau, vielen Menschen, die sie nun vermissen werden, nicht nur wichtige Forschungsansätze vermittelt, sondern auch wertvollste Lebenshilfe geleistet.

Geboren wurde L. Enders in Elbing/Ostpreussen. Ihr Vater, Amtmann hugenottischer Herkunft, ließ sich pensionieren, um Philosophie studieren zu

¹It is a draft sent me for commenting with few additions from the much shorter version published here: Arbeitskreis für Agrargeschichte, AKA-Newsletter 26 (2009) 18–19, <https://www.agrargeschichte.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AKANewsletter26.pdf>.

können, später war er Cheflektor im Verlag der Nation, wo auch ihre Mutter Lektorin war. Dieser bildungskulturelle Hintergrund hat ihren weiteren Weg geprägt: 1946 Abitur, danach Studium der Geschichte, Germanistik und Pädagogik in Halle (ein Jahr auch an der Humboldt-Universität), Staatsexamen 1951, dann postgraduales Studium am Institut für Archivwissenschaft in Potsdam, 1953 Staatsexamen als wissenschaftliche Archivarin und Promotion zum Dr. phil. bei Hans Haußherr in Halle.

Lieselott Enders war von 1951 bis 1972 verheiratet mit Dr. Gerhard[t] Enders, Diplomarchivar wie sie und bis 1970 Abteilungsleiter im Zentralen Staatsarchiv der DDR in Potsdam (1972 verstorben). Ähnlich wie sie selbst, wuchsen ihre beiden Kinder (Tochter und Sohn, Wissenschaftler der Medizin bzw. Physik) in einem anregenden Bildungsmilieu auf.

Lieselott Enders war ein außergewöhnlicher Mensch. Wie nur wenige, vermochte sie ihr Leben zielführend zu organisieren. Es drängte sie zunächst zur historisch-archivalischen Grundlagenforschung, die ihren Niederschlag fand in maßgeblicher Mitwirkung an Erschließungs- und Bewertungsarbeiten im Archivwesen der DDR („Rahmensystematik zur Bewertung der staatlichen Registraturbildner der DDR“, Mitautorin am Taschenbuch und am Lexikon „Archivwesen in der DDR“) und in zahlreichen Beiträgen in den Archivmitteilungen. Vor allem aber verfasste sie, schon mit Blick auf ihre künftigen Forschungsvorhaben, sechs (von 11) der stattlichen Bände des Historischen Ortslexikons (HOL) für Brandenburg (teils unter Mitwirkung von M.Beck und P.Rohrlach), zusammen mit P.Rohrlach auch den Registerband für diese bemerkenswerte Reihe. Der erste Band (Prignitz) entstand noch während ihrer Zeit als Dozentin (zunächst an der Fachschule für Archivwesen, bis 1965 dann am Institut für Archivwissenschaft an der Humboldt-Universität). Den Hauptteil ihres Berufslebens (1953-87) arbeitete sie als Abteilungsleiterin am Brandenburgischen Landeshauptarchiv (Staatsarchiv) Potsdam.

Schritt um Schritt hatte sie ihren Archivarberuf um den des Historikers erweitert. Ihren fundierten regionalgeschichtlichen Ansatz („flächendeckend“, dicht an den Quellen bleibend, vornehmlich auf die Frühneuzeit gerichtet), den ihr so schnell keiner nachmachen konnte, verband sie mit dem Blick auf die Gesamtheit der Gesellschaft in ihren sozialen, politischen, ökonomischen und kulturellen Lebensäußerungen.

Seit den 80er Jahren konnte sie endlich, wie sie wohl empfunden hat– ihren Archivarberuf um den des Historikers erweitern. „Wie ein Schwamm“ hatte sie die neuere Forschungsliteratur, etwa durch zahlreiche Rezensionen im Jahrbuch für Regionalgeschichte, aufgenommen. Mithin über wertvolle Vorarbeiten verfügend, konnte sie sich jetzt mit hoher Intensität der landesgeschichtlichen Forschung zuwenden, dabei auf den Schultern ihrer Vorgänger stehend, wie sie nicht müde wurde zu betonen.

Auf dieser Ebene entdeckten wir in den 80er Jahren viele gemeinsame Forschungsinteressen, die von der modernen Wende zur Sozial- und Kulturgeschichte wie auch zur Historischen Anthropologie geprägt waren und die auch Bauern, Handwerker und die Landarmut in Gesellschaftsgeschichten im eigentlichen Wortsinn einbanden.

In die Erklärung für Veränderungen und Spannungen in den märkischen regionalen Gesellschaften hat Enders zunehmend auch Bauern, Handwerker und die Landarmut eingebunden, deren Rolle von Historikern bis dahin eher nur verbal erwähnt als in ihren konkreten Lebenswelten nachgewiesen worden war. Dergestalt verband sie eine in großer Dichte rekonstruierte Regionalgeschichte mit der Analyse aller ihrer historischen Teilhaber zu Gesellschaftsgeschichten im eigentlichen Wortsinn.

In ihren voluminösen monographischen Werken, von denen eins nach dem anderen erschien, lieferte sie entsprechend fundierte Nachweise in einem für ihren Arbeitsstil typischen analytischen Ansatz, der als selbstverständlich Geltendes eigensinnig in Frage stellte und größere Untersuchungsräume mit beispielhafter Tiefe für die konkrete Alltagswirklichkeit des kleinräumigen Lebens verband (Uckermark, Prignitz, Altmark). Sie ist so zu einer Landeshistorikerin von Rang geworden. Mit der Geschichte der Altmark krönte die „neue Altmeisterin“ der märkischen Landesgeschichte ihr Lebenswerk.

Sie begann mit der Uckermark, einer Landschaft, die sie besonders liebte und über die sie zuvor das „dazugehörige“ Ortslexikon vorgelegt hatte (1986 bzw. 1992). Ähnlich ihr Verfahren mit der Prignitz (HOL in zweiter Auflage 1997, Monographie 2000). Ein Sonderfall blieb die der Prignitz benachbarte Altmark, für die noch kein Band des HOL vorlag, für die die inzwischen als „neue Altmeisterin“ der märkischen Landesgeschichte bekannte Lieselott Enders dennoch ein erstrangiges Werk von über 1.500 Seiten im Jahre 2008 vorlegen konnte. Mit diesem Buch ... begründete [sie] zugleich (in definitiver Absage an die dualistische Sichtweise auf die deutschen Agrarverfassungssysteme) den in der Altmark besonders gut fassbaren Basisbegriff „Grundherrschaft“, in dem sich das Feudaleigentum weithin „in Ost und West“ in zahlreichen, oft nebeneinander bestehenden Mischformen (vorwiegend über Grundrente oder Eigenwirtschaft) realisierte.

Sie begründete damit zugleich (in definitiver Absage an die dualistische Sichtweise auf die deutschen Agrarverfassungssysteme) den in der Altmark besonders gut fassbaren Basisbegriff „Grundherrschaft“. Die Gutsherrschaft ließ sich in dieser neuen Sichtweise nicht mehr allein dem „Osten“ zuordnen.

Weitere Monographien zur märkischen Geschichte hatte Enders nicht geplant. Wozu auch? Die Wege waren gewiesen und geebnet, über 150 Artikel und kleinere Beiträge aus ihrer Feder hatten der landesgeschichtlichen Forschung zusätzliche Türen geöffnet und in zahlreichen Vorträgen machte sie

ihre Werke jeweils „vor Ort“ bekannt. Und immer wieder neue Ideen. Weit verstreut fanden sie ihren Niederschlag, zunächst natürlich in den „Archivmitteilungen“, zunehmend dann in den bekannten Jahrbüchern (etwa im Jahrbuch für Brandenburgische Landesgeschichte) oder in bekannten Zeitschriften (hauptsächlich in der Zeitschrift für Agrargeschichte und Agrarsoziologie).

Welch ein Lebenswerk und dazu noch –welch eine integre Persönlichkeit! Den „aufrechten Gang“ hat sie wiederholt angemahnt und vorgelebt. Schöpferisch, eigenwillig, sehr menschlich und charakterfest, so wird sie uns bleiben.

Und wie recht hatte sie mit dem müden Lächeln, das sie erkennen ließ, wenn sie die Behauptung hörte, die DDR habe wissenschaftlich erst zu taugen begonnen, als sie Teil der Bundesrepublik wurde. Sie selbst verkörperte die Fragwürdigkeit dieser Sichtweise.

Viele Kollegen und jüngere Wissenschaftler wissen ihre Hilfsbereitschaft und Selbstlosigkeit zu bestätigen, wenn sie sich fragend an die inzwischen weithin bekannte „Rentnerin“ (wie unpassend die mit diesem Begriff verbundene Vorstellung!) wandten. Ich selbst blieb bis zuletzt ihr dankbarer Partner im Austausch von Ideen und Manuskripten. Vielleicht wäre Lieselott Enders uns noch ein schöpferisches Jahrzehnt erhalten geblieben, wenn nicht ein Unfall ihr Leben so plötzlich beendet hätte.

Jan Peters

2 Commented translation by Peter Enders

I’m convinced that the author would have authorized the digressions and additional material, and excused their stylistic quality.²

²See also, (i), Jan Peters, “Das Enders-Prinzip des schöpferischen Eigensinns. Lieselott Enders’ Umgang mit forschungsleitenden Ansätzen und habituellen Normen” [The Enders principle of creative stubbornness. Lieselott Enders’ approach to research-guiding approaches and habitual norms], *Jb. Gesch. Mittel- und Ostdeutschl.* 57 (2011) 277–284; Klaus Neitmann (*1954), “Lieselott Enders in memoriam. Das archiv- und geschichtswissenschaftliche Werk im Rückblick und im Ausblick” [Lieselott Enders in memoriam. The archival and historical work in retrospect and in outlook], *ibid.*, pp. 221ff., and further talks of the 2011 Commemorative colloquium for Lieselott Enders in this issue; Friedrich Beck (*1927) & Klaus Neitmann (eds.), “Brandenburgische Landesgeschichte und Archivwissenschaft. Festschrift für Lieselott Enders zum 70. Geburtstag” [Brandenburg regional history and archival science. Commemorative publication for Lieselott Enders on her 70th birthday], Weimar 1997, content: <https://origin-rh.web.fordham.edu/mvst/magazinestacks/fs/enders.html> (©: Stuart Jenks (*1948)); (ii), the obituaries in https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieselott_Enders; (iii), P. Enders, “*Veni – Vidi – Cassavi*. Methodologische Gespräche zwischen Historikerin und Physiker” [I came – I saw – I annulled. Methodological talks between a historian and a physicist],

2.1 Introduction

A fatal accident on April 24, 2009 took Dr. Lieselott Enders, archivist and historian from Potsdam, from us. We cannot yet measure the loss. For just as the pen is reluctant to report this news at all, it is just as difficult to name the grief for the person or even to mark out the field in its entirety where she left her furrows and lasting traces. I am also reluctant to use any words of appreciation because she did not like them in relation to herself.³ She would forgive me, however, because she was not only a scientist of distinction, she also knew the weaknesses of this world and knew how to deal with them. Principled and forgiving at the same time, Lieselott Enders, this small and seemingly fragile woman, not only imparted important research approaches to many people who will now miss her, but also provided valuable life support.

Gedenkcolloquium für Lieselott Enders 2011 [Commemorative colloquium for Lieselott Enders, 2011], in: Brandenburgische Archive 29 (2012) 43–46, https://blha.brandenburg.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Brandenburgische_Archive_29_2012.pdf; “Interdisciplinarity using the example of history–physics. In memory of Lieselott Enders (1927–2009),” talk delivered at the Kazakh National Al-Farabi University, Almaty, 2011, <https://vixra.org/abs/2312.0035>. — Although taking place 24 years after her retirement, many former colleagues attended the commemorative colloquium mentioned above, from Mrs. Stumpe, a long-year coworker in the archive magazine, over Barbara (Babs) Merker (?), who cared for her children during common official trips with her husband, till the former director, Friedrich Beck, and the current director, Klaus Neitmann, and even more people. For she worked with all of them at equal footing. When documents were collected somewhere, she, the department head, stood within the bucket brigade to bring them from the building to the truck.

³In 1988, she received the prestigious René Kuczynski Prize, the only prize and honor she accepted but honorary membership in historic commissions without any obligations. — This prize, donated by the Kuczynski family of academics in Berlin, is named after the German economist Robert René Kuczynski (1876–1947) and awarded for outstanding publications in the field of international social and economic history. Perhaps, it was the only independent prize in GDR for social sciences. It is due to Jürgen Kuczynski (1904–1997) and his wife Marguerite (née Steinfeld, 1904–1998), cf. <https://www.ith.or.at/en/awards/rene-kuczynski-prize>. — Being the director of the Institute for Economic History of the East-German Academy of science, their son Thomas Kuczynski (1944–2023) supported Gorbachev’s ‘perestroika’. In an about 1987 talk on development, he has disproved Karl Marx’s (1818–1883) thesis that development proceeds from currently most developed structures. For the industrial development begun in Italy with the mechanization of processing sheep wool on the country-side, while the cities seemed to be developed already much further-on. Iirc, Marx has formulated his thesis before the theories by Charles Robert Darwin (1809–1882) and others have been established. — This is to testimony the broadness of interests and discussions in our family as indicated above and described in more detail in my articles cited in fns. 2 and 6.

2.2 Family and early life

L. Enders was born in Elbing/East Prussia. Her father, a bailiff of Huguenot origin, retired so that he could study philosophy. He was later chief editor at the Nation publishing house, where her mother was also an editor.⁴ This educational and cultural background shaped her future career: she graduated from high school in 1946, then studied history, German studies and education in Halle (one year also at Humboldt University), state examination in 1951, then postgraduate studies at the Institute for Archival Science in Potsdam, state examination as a scientific archivist in 1953 and doctorate as Dr. phil. with Hans Haußherr (1898–1960) in Halle.⁵

2.3 Her family with Gerhart Enders

From 1951 to 1972, Lieselott Enders was married to Dr. Gerhart Enders, a qualified archivist like herself and head of department at the Central State Archives of the GDR in Potsdam until 1970.⁶ Like herself, her two children

⁴Paul Olivier (1888–1966) was a civil servant at a fire insurance company and retired early to study philosophy; PhD in Halle with the work “Zum Willensproblem bei Kant und Reinhold” [On the problem of will in Kant and Reinhold], Berlin: Ebering 1941 (he was not called up for military service for health reasons). Her mother, Käthe Olivier, neé Taureck, was a teacher at a lyceum. Her brother, Kurt Olivier (1923–2012), was a leading journalist of the Eastern-Germany press agency ‘Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst’ and, after the end of Eastern Germany, activist at ‘Amnesty International’. His and his wife’s (Hildegard Olivier, 1922–2022) book “New York, NewYork ist nicht Amerika” [New York, New York is not the US], Berlin: Verlag der Nation 1989, was within one year sold out, see Gerda Jelenski in: Neue Hochschule 33 (1990) 6, 8, https://zs.thulb.uni-jena.de/rsc/viewer/jportal_derivate_00244830/nh_33_1990_06_0001.tif?logicalDiv=jportal_jparticle_00194097. (IMHO, her contribution is more than merely the photographs as the subtitle suggests.) – The statement in the title is largely correct.

⁵In view of the difficulties to change the university in the 1970s, she once recalled this: She went to the student’s office in Berlin and said that, next semester, she wants to continue her studies in Halle. The officer replied, fine, we will send your data to the university there. The rector 1946/47 of the Humboldt University Berlin, the renowned philologist Johannes Stroux (1886–1954), came once a week, on Wednesday morning, with his small dog to the university for looking on the ongoing issues and doing the necessary signs. – In the doctorate examination, she was highly pregnant, so that Hans Haußherr first asked she about her state and to sit down.

⁶(Hans Wolfgang) Gerhart Enders (1924–1972) led the Department I (former Reich Archive) and also was the deputy director of that archive. His textbook “Archivverwaltungslehre” [Archive management theory] is legendary, see the 2004 reprint of the 3rd ed. 1968, with appreciations by the editors Eckart Henning (*1940, 1984–2006 director of the Max Planck Archive) & Gerald Wiemers (1941–2021, 1992–2006 director of the archive of the University at Leipzig, a student of him), and a preface by L. Enders. In 1990, she received a letter by the Archive Administration of GDR with an apology for the mobbing

(daughter and son, scientists in medicine and physics, respectively⁷) grew up in a stimulating educational environment.⁸

2.4 Archival work

Lieselott Enders was an extraordinary person. Like few others, she was able to organize her life purposefully.⁹ Initially, she was driven to conduct basic historical-archival research, which was reflected in her significant involvement in indexing and evaluation work in the archives of the GDR (Framework system for the evaluation of the state registries of the GDR, co-author of the pocket book and encyclopedia “Archivwesen in der DDR”–Archive system in the GDR and in numerous contributions in ‘Archivmitteilungen’).¹⁰ Above all, however, with a view to her future research projects [cf. fn. 15], she wrote six (of 11) of the impressive volumes of “Historisches Ortslexikon für

against him in the 1960s. His estate is stored at the Federal Archive in Koblenz, see <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/nachlassdatenbank/viewresult.php?sid=12a7952965bebd9084e8a>. For more details, see also P. Enders, “Gerhart Enders als Wissenschaftler” [Gerhart Enders as a scientist], Brandenburgische Archive 32 (2015) 77–79, <https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-s1bp/files/8026/Brandenburgische+Archive+32.pdf>, https://www.academia.edu/17239410/Gerhart_Enders_als_Wissenschaftler; extended English transl.: “Gerhart Enders as a Scientist,” <https://vixra.org/abs/2304.0170>. — In 1949, he moved from Jena to Halle because it was usual to study the various periods of history at that university, where one of the most renowned professors were teaching (here, Hans Haußher, again). L. Enders recalled that she went to a seminar, saw him, and immediately fall in love to him. At an evening, she and he accompanied each another to their flats, hence and forth – the rest is history. Her story telling remembers Arnold Bronnen’s (1895–1959) recalling of his first meeting with Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) in which he saw the glow of the future in Brecht’s eyes.

⁷Dr. sc. med. Karin Rathgen, neé Enders (*1952), and Prof. h. c. Dr. sc. nat. (habil.) Peter Enders (*1953)

⁸She and myself have been talking for countless many days and nights. Of course, we didn’t always agree, and very few issues were taboo. Most important is this: After my sister and myself were mature enough, she advised and then gave us the freedom to decide for ourselves. For more details, see my contributions cited in fns. 2 and 6.

⁹Kurt Metschies (*1936), a coworker of her husband, once said, “Mrs. Enders’ achievements could not be measured by human standards.” As a matter of fact, after the common family dinner with extended conversations, she more than once sat with my sister or myself on the lower steps of the staircase to the upper floor and listened to our love-sickness and the like, and thereafter continued to work. Moreover, she became for her husband that what Wolfgang Pauli (1900–1958), ‘the conscience of physics’, was for Werner Heisenberg (1901–1976): She has studied and discussed all of his texts before being submitted for publication. – From about 1976 on, she lived in Potsdam–Am Stern and walked through the close forest every day.

¹⁰In the 1970s, she developed a thesaurus from scratch for recording and indexing files from medical institutions.

Brandenburg” [Historical local dictionary for Brandenburg]; partly with the collaboration of M. Beck and P. Rohrlach¹¹, together with P. Rohrlach also the index volume for this remarkable series. The first volume (Prignitz) was written during her time as a lecturer (first at the Fachschule für Archivwesen [Technical school for archives], then until 1965 at the Institut für Archivwissenschaft [Institute for Archival Science] at the Humboldt University).^{12,13} For most of her professional life (1953–87) she worked as head of department at the Brandenburg State Main Archive in Potsdam.¹⁴

¹¹Margot Beck, neé Großmann (1925–2008), the wife of the long-year (1956–1993) archive director Friedrich (Fritz) Beck worked next to her but never showed up to be the wife of the director. Their son, Lorenz Friedrich Beck (1969–2013), was a most gifted historian and archivist, see also the numerous obituaries in the internet. Unfortunately, he committed suicide in view of an affair of his wife. His predecessor as a director of the Max Planck Archive, Eckart Henning (see fn. 6), mourned on that like then Hermann von Helmholtz (1821–1894) about the also much too early death of Heinrich Hertz in 1894 at age 36. — Peter Paul Rohrlach (1933–2023) was a renowned archivist and historian.

¹²From 1950, the Institute for Archival Science in Potsdam (‘IfA’) was the central training center for academic archivists GDR. It was initially affiliated to the German Central Archive in Potsdam. In 1958, the Ordinance on the Reorganization of Higher and Technical Education in the GDR instructed that the Institute for Archival Studies should be affiliated to the Humboldt University at Berlin. The training of academic archivists took place after the reorganization and new formation of the Archival Studies Department within the History Section at the Humboldt University in Berlin, which was established with the 3rd university reform. The end of the GDR also heralded the end of university archivist training and in 1992 the enrollment stop for new graduates was imposed and finally, in 1996, the Department of Archival Sciences under the professorship of Botho Brachmann (*1930) was completely wound up. The resulting gap in the academic training of archivists can still not be closed in the same form and scope throughout Germany today. (after [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institut_f%C3%BCr_Archivwissenschaft_\(Potsdam\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institut_f%C3%BCr_Archivwissenschaft_(Potsdam))) – Gerhart Enders taught there, too, and wrote teaching notes from which eventually his famous textbook highlighted in fn. 6 emerged. — Her teaching of Old French brought she to convince me to choose French rather than English as a second foreign language, arguing, “English you will learn anyhow, anyway, while French definitively not.” As a matter of fact, she was a great pedagogue. For instance, in her last years, she has brought forward a huge step the son of a neighbor.

¹³Iirc, Botho Brachmann was working at ‘Deutsches Zentralarchiv’, too. See also <https://www.archivportal-d.de/item/TP34K6KMBFKKXS7K2CRCLAWWPZZKXFSV?query=Botho+Brachmann> and the commemorative publication <https://archivalia.hypotheses.org/25033>.

¹⁴*De facto*, she was the deputy director, too, as the director regularly handed over to her his keys, including that for the seal, during his absence. From 1990, she was Head of the Research Center for Brandenburg History at that archive.

2.5 History

Step by step, she expanded her archival profession to include that of historian.¹⁵ Her well-founded approach to regional history (“comprehensive”, staying close to the sources, focusing primarily on the early modern period), which no one could imitate so quickly, was combined with a view of the entirety of society in its social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions. Society as a whole in its social, political, economic and cultural expressions of life. She had absorbed the more recent research literature “like a sponge”, for example through numerous reviews in the *Jahrbuch für Regionalgeschichte* [Yearbook for regional history]. With valuable preliminary work at her disposal, she was now able to devote herself to researching regional history with great intensity, standing on the shoulders of her predecessors, as she never tired of emphasizing.

At this level, we discovered many common research interests in the 1980s, which were characterized by the modern turn towards social and cultural history as well as historical anthropology. In explaining changes and tensions in the regional societies of the Mark Brandenburg, Enders increasingly included peasants, craftsmen and the rural poor, whose role had previously only been mentioned verbally by historians rather than demonstrated in their concrete life-worlds. In this way, she combined a densely reconstructed regional history with the analysis of all its historical participants to create social histories in the true sense of the word.¹⁶

In voluminous mono-graphic works, of which one appeared after the other, Lieselott Enders provided well-founded evidence in an analytical approach typical of her working style, which stubbornly questioned what was taken for granted and combined larger areas of investigation with exemplary depth for the concrete everyday reality of small-scale life (Uckermark, Prignitz,

¹⁵Iirc, she tended to history from the very beginning and became an archivist solely by love to her husband. — In the beginning of the 1990s, it took my brother-in-law and myself two years to convince her to buy – at the age of 65 (!) – a laptop. (As a department head, she had a secretary who, after her retirement, privately typewrote for her.) After some months, she said that she cannot longer imagine to work without a computer. Thanks to this, her newer manuscripts are an electronic part of her estate, which is on loan to the Brandenburg State Archives.

¹⁶From a broader perspective, this was promoted in particular by Jürgen Kuczynski. He, too, was proud to do drudgery, see his “Vorbemerkung” [Preliminary remark] in his “Studien zu einer Geschichte der Gesellschaftswissenschaften, Bd. 6, Gelehrtenbiographien” [Studies for a History of the Social Sciences, vol. 6, Biographies of Scholars], Berlin: Akademie-Verlag 1977, pp. 7–9, in particular, p. 8. Concerning her unique methods and views on history and historiography, see also Klaus Neitmann, “Vorwort” [Preface], in: L. Enders, “Die Altmark,” Berlin: BWV ²2008, 21–24, https://medien.bwv-verlag.de/9783830529965_p.pdf.

Altmark).¹⁷ She has thus become a regional historian of distinction. With the history of the Altmark, the ‘new old master’ of Brandenburg’s regional history crowned her life’s work.

She began with the Uckermark, a landscape that she particularly loved and about which she had previously published the ‘associated’ Ortslexikon (HOL, 1986 and 1992).¹⁸ Her approach to the Prignitz was similar (HOL in second edition 1997, monograph 2000). The Altmark, neighboring the Prignitz, remained a special case, for which no volume of the HOL was yet available, but for which Lieselott Enders, now known as the ‘new old master’ of Mark Brandenburg regional history, was nevertheless able to present a first-class work of over 1,500 pages in 2008.¹⁹ At once, with this book she... established (in a definitive rejection of the dualistic view of the German agrarian constitutional systems) the basic concept of ‘manorial lordship’, which is particularly easy to grasp in the Altmark, in which feudal ownership was widely realized ‘in East and West’ in numerous, often coexisting mixed forms (predominantly via land rent or private farming). In this new view, landlordism could no longer be assigned to the ‘East’ alone.²⁰

Enders had not planned any further monographs on Mark Brandenburg history. And why should she? The way was clear and paved, over 150 articles and smaller contributions from her pen had opened additional doors for research into regional history and she made her works known locally in numerous lectures.²¹ And always new ideas. They were scattered far and wide, initially of course in the ‘Archivmitteilungen’, then increasingly in the well-known yearbooks (such as the Brandenburgische Landesgeschichte) or in well-known journals (mainly in the Zeitschrift für Agrargeschichte und

¹⁷Many successors of aristocratic families were shocked by her descriptions of the behavior of ancestors. However, not any of them went to court for complaining, since she meticulously documented all cases. — She and her husband have taught their democratic attitude to their children, too. Once, my classmate Matthias Platzeck (*1953) said to me, “You are a born democrat!”

¹⁸At the 2008 ‘Brandenburg Day’, I said to the stand manager of the city Schwedt in the Uckermark that a certain book was probably missing here... He said goodbye with the words, “Your mother is a great woman.”

¹⁹A letter lay on her desk from the director of a local museum. I called him to tell him that there would be no answer. He replied spontaneously that her death “was the end of Brandenburg historiography.” (Of course and luckily, it was not.)

²⁰Once, a friend tried to convince me that we are living in a ‘meudalism’, i.e. ‘modern feudalism’. I disagreed and explained him that the decisive social relations were the property relations, and, in feudalism, that was the landlordship, as I had learned it from her.

²¹The page http://opac.regesta-imperii.de/lang_en/autoren.php?name=Enders%2C+Lieselott lists a selection of 75 titles of her work; see also Wolfgang Leesch (1913–2006), “Internationale Archivbibliographie,” München: Saur 1993.

Agrarsoziologie).

What a life's work and what a personality of integrity! She repeatedly urged and exemplified the 'upright walk'.²²

And how right she was with the weary smile she gave when she heard the claim that the GDR had only begun to be good scientifically when it became part of the Federal Republic. She herself embodied the dubiousness of this view.

2.6 She will remain with us

Many colleagues and younger scientists can confirm her helpfulness and selflessness when they approached the now widely known 'pensioner' (how inappropriate the idea associated with this term!) with questions. I myself remained her grateful partner in the exchange of ideas and manuscripts until the end. Perhaps Lieselott Enders would have remained with us for another creative decade if an accident had not ended her life so suddenly. And yet: she will remain with us.

Jan Peters

²²Bettina(-Helene) Wegner's (*1947) 1976 song "Childs – are so small hands" could have been created on her, in particular the end line: "Leute ohne Rückgrat gibt es schon genug!" [There are already enough people without backbone!], see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcdkwdzfzOGA>.