

**THE WIDER PURPOSE OF MARTEL'S VISITS
ABROAD**

RAZLOGI MARTELOVIH OBISKOV TUJEGA
KRASA

TREVOR R. SHAW

Izvleček

UDK 551.44(091) : Martel E.A.

Shaw, Trevor R.: Razlogi Martelovih obiskov tujega krasa

V članku so podana razmerja inozemskih članov v Société de Spéléologie in njihovih objav v Spelunci, kakor tudi Martelovi obiski in članki v inozemstvu. Zlasti v Sloveniji in Angliji so objave neposredno sledile Martelovim obiskom.

Ključne besede: Martel, speleologija, zgodovina, objave, društva, Francija, Slovenija, Velika Britanija

Abstract

UDC 551.44(091) : Martel E.A.

Shaw, Trevor R.: The wider Purpose of Martel's Visits Abroad

The proportions of foreign members in the Société de Spéléologie and of their writings in Spelunca are presented, together with Martel's visits and publications abroad. In some countries, notably Slovenia and England, such activity followed directly on Martel's visits there.

Keywords: Martel, speleology, history, publications, societies, France, Slovenia, Great Britain

Address - Naslov

Dr. Trevor R. Shaw, O.B.E.

Old Rectory

Shoscombe

Bath BA2 8NB, U.K.

Martel's visits to regions outside France were not made solely for new exploration and to advance his own knowledge of caves and karst. Their purpose was also to inspire and encourage cave work by others throughout the world.

There can be no doubt about the extent of Martel's links with speleology in other countries. Of his 26 annual "campaigns" of exploration, 19 went outside France in what are now 20 countries and in addition he made lecture tours and other visits abroad.

At least 61 of his publications on caves appeared in other countries in his lifetime. Many of these were papers presented to learned societies, and there were also popular articles and the texts of public lectures. In addition, some items were simply translations or reprints of work already published in France, showing the interest with which it was regarded abroad.

FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

The Société de Spéléologie, which Martel founded in Paris in 1895, enjoyed high scientific standing from the outset and it was one of the means by which he contrived the extension of cave study into an international subject. Foreign membership of the Society was remarkably high. 21 % of the founder members lived outside France, indicating the close links already existing before 1895. Between 1895 and 1904 the proportion rose to 29 %; in addition three foreign cave societies were members. Membership for each country is listed in Table I, which excludes those who were probably French citizens living abroad.

Many papers by foreign contributors, most of them members, were published in the Society's journal, *Spelunca*. Table II shows that they comprised between 14 % and 50 % of papers printed in individual years. In the first six years of *Spelunca*'s existence short news reports, "informations", were also printed, some of them summarized from published sources and others contributed by individuals. Of the latter, up to 25 % in any one year were sent in by foreigners.

French authors also wrote in *Spelunca* about caves in other lands. The Society exchanged its publications with foreign journals, and the many long primary bibliographies in *Spelunca* included literature from all over the world.

In some cases, no doubt, foreign authors wrote for *Spelunca* to achieve wider dissemination of their work in a specialist journal. Of these, many will have been inspired by personal contact with Martel. In other cases material was actively solicited by him, as will be seen later in this paper.

It was not only reports that Martel encouraged. In Spain he caused a cave section to be formed within the Associacio d' Excursion Catalana (Martel 1897b, p. 399), and he instigated and set up a group of cave explorers in Mallorca (Casteret 1943, p. 211). He recommended to the minister in Wien and to the management of Postojnska jama that they should support the Anthron caving club at Postojna as much as possible (letters of 9 Nov. 1893 and 26 Jan. 1894) His encouragement of cave study in England is described later.

FOREIGN VISITS, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATION

In Table III the various aspects of foreign relationship (Martel's visits and publication abroad, foreign membership of the Société de Spéléologie and foreign contributions to Spelunca) are listed region by region. The visits include those listed by Casteret (1943, p. 230) and some additional ones. His publications abroad include those given by Chabert and

Table 1 - Foreign individual membership of the Société de Spéléologie, excluding French nationals living abroad (derived from Anon., 1895a, 1904, 1909b)

	<i>Founder members (before 1 Jan 1895)</i>	<i>1 May 1895</i>	<i>1 Sept. 1904</i>	<i>1 Oct. 1909</i>
Algeria	-	-	1	1
Austria*	4	6	4	3
Belgium	2	2	6	6
Bohemia	-	-	1	1
Bosnia	-	-	1	1
Bulgaria	-	-	1	-
Croatia	-	-	1	1
England	1	3	7	4
Germany	3	3	5	4
Greece	1	1	1	1
Hungary	-	1	1	1
Ireland	-	1	1	1
Italy (except Trieste)	-	1	4	2
Mallorca	1	1	-	-
Moravia	-	-	1	1
Serbia	1	1	1	-
Slovenia	1	1	2	2
Trieste	5	5	6	4
Spain	2	2	2	2
Switzerland	3	3	-	-
U.S.A.	-	-	5	3
Venezuela	-	-	-	2
total foreign membership	24	31	51	40
total membership	116	140	174	138
% membership foreign	21	22	29	29

* The present day boundaries of Austria are used in this table

† Slovenia and Trieste are shown together as members explored in the same region

Courval (1971) plus others. Foreign membership again excludes those who were probably French nationals living abroad. The year columns include the years for which Spelunca fascicules were issued, which were not necessarily the same as the years of publication. Trieste, which was then in Austria, is shown separately and next to Slovenia where most of its members' exploration was being done.

Perhaps it may be possible to find out more about Martel's direct influence on these international relationships by examining the pattern and sequence of events. Did the memberships and publications follow some identifiable activity of Martel such as a visit?

In some cases this was clearly not so. There were no known visits to Algeria, Bulgaria, Laos and Serbia. Although he travelled to Portugal, Sardinia, Slovakia and Turkey, no Society memberships or publications followed. In USA, where there were several members and much publication, Martel's only known visit took place some 20 years after the relationship began. It is, of course, always possible that earlier, undetected, visits had occurred in some countries.

Belgium received so many visits and is so close to Paris that it is not possible to relate cause and effect. In contrast, the area of present-day Austria was the subject of no major "campaigns" at all. Perhaps this is not so surprising after all, for cave study had been well established there since the time of Schmidl in the 1850s, leaving less opportunity for new exploration and less for encouragement.

In Bosnia, Croatia and Greece visits were indeed followed quite soon by membership and sometimes authorship, but the single member in each case, however distinguished, cannot form a pattern.

In contrast to the lack of clear pattern seen in any of the above cases, Martel's visits to Slovenia in 1893 and to England and Ireland in 1895 do seem to have been followed by very significant and continuing association by membership, publication and further visits.

Whether the reasons for this were the same in the two cases is doubtful. Cave studies in

Table II - Papers and notes contributed to Spelunca by foreigners

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Foreign papers	3	5	10	5	6	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	1
Foreign contributed notes	3	1	5	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign contributions (papers & contributed notes)	6	6	15	12	9	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	1
Total papers	13	24	25	22	15	14				9			4	4	11		3		4
Total contributed notes	22	26	34	34	19	12				0			0	0	1		0		0
Total papers & contributed notes	35	50	59	56	34	26				9			4	4	12		3		4
Foreign papers as %	23	21	40	23	40	14				33			25	50	27		33		25
Foreign contributed notes as %	14	4	15	20	16	25													
Foreign contributions (papers and contributed notes) as %	17	12	25	21	26	19				33			25	50	25		33		25

Slovenia had already taken place for more than 200 years; technically difficult explorations had been in progress for at least ten years, undertaken by organized cave societies that published their results; and geographers and professional engineers such as Kraus and Putick were associated with karst work. In Great Britain, on the other hand, although occasional cave descents had been made before 1892 and more frequently since the foundation of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club in that year, it was all rather amateur and localized and there was scope for Martel's stimulation and encouragement.

With that brief contrast between the state of speleological development in the two areas where Martel's visits were followed by closer association with France, little more will be said here about Slovenia which is being examined in detail in this two-day meeting. Within seven years of Martel's visit there in 1893, Slovenia (together with the neighbouring city of Trieste from which so many of its cave workers came at that time) produced nine members of the Society and published eight papers and eight notes in Spelunca.

Table III - Martel's visits and publications abroad, foreign membership of the Société de Spéologie, and foreign publication in Spelunca

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
ALGERIA	*	*																									
AUSTRIA										■	□																
BELGIUM		*				**			**	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
BOHEMIA & MORAVIA																											
BOSNIA																											
BULGARIA																											
CORSICA																											
CROATIA						***			**	*		*	■				□	*				*					
ENGLAND																											
GERMANY																											
GREECE																											
HUNGARY																											
IRELAND																											
ITALY except Trieste																											
LAOS																											
MALLORCA																											
MONTENEGRO																											
NORWAY																											
PORTUGAL																											
RUSSIA																											
SARDINIA																											
SERBIA																											
SLOVAKIA																											
SLOVENIA																											
TRIESTE								●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○
SPAIN		*																									
SWITZERLAND																											
TURKEY																											
U. S. A.						***	*		**																		
VENEZUELA																											

- Martel visit
- * Martel publication
- † member joined
- paper by member
- paper by other
- note by member
- note by other

The case of England and Ireland will be studied in some detail because it does demonstrate the way in which Martel deliberately developed cave study into an international subject. Great Britain was suitable ground for such efforts at that time for it already had some interest in the subject but was in need of the wider outlook and experience that Martel brought - in short it needed the "professional" approach already existing in France, Austria and Slovenia.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND, 1895

Martel visited Great Britain in July and August, 1895. In addition to his celebrated first descent of the 100 m deep shaft of Gaping Gill (Anon, 1895b), he visited several well-known caves in Derbyshire to study any regional characteristics they might possess, and also some less easy caves in Ireland (Martel 1896a-g, 1897a-c). In the course of the visit he also delivered a lecture on caves at the International Geographical Congress in London (Martel, 1896h).

As the translators of the Derbyshire section (Martel, 1914) of his *Irlande et caverns anglaises* (1897a) pointed out 17 years later, "It is perhaps difficult to realise that the only comprehensive work on English and Irish caves has not been written in the English tongue". He had "obtained from the French Government... a scientific mission in the name of the Minister of Public Instruction to make a comparison between the grottoes and subterranean waters of Great Britain and those which I had already examined in France, Belgium, Austria [i.e. Slovenia] and Greece" (Martel, 1897c, p. 500).

Ever seeking to arouse and encourage cave research wherever he went, he wrote (1897c, p. 500): "The principal aim... was to attract the attention of English scientific men and tourists to all that still remains to be done and to be found in the natural caves of Great Britain." Also "I wish that cave-hunting may be now energetically resumed there by English investigators, to the great benefit of human knowledge and curiosity." (Martel, 1897c).

Table III shows the ensuing group of new members joining the Société de Spéléologie, with a few British papers and notes in *Spelunca* and Martel's continuing use of British publications for his own writing. Baker (1904) acknowledged Martel's success in stimulating cave interest among the British: "Since 1895 cave-exploring has become a more popular pursuit, thanks largely to the example and enthusiasm of M. Martel. Clubs and societies have taken up the work, and both the scientific and the sporting attractions of cave-exploring have received general acknowledgement."

ENGLAND, 1904

In 1904 he visited the caves of the Mendip area for a few days (Martel, 1904, 1905; Shaw, 1988). H. E. Balch, E. A. Baker and others took him into the tourist caves at Cheddar and Wookey Hole on June 15th, and showed him the entrances of Eastwater Swallet and

Swildon's Hole, then being explored. There were only two days of cave visiting and he apparently did not remain in England afterwards.

It is clear that he did not set out to make any new explorations in the Mendip area; indeed he did very little exploring at all. What then did he aim to do and what did he achieve? There seem to have been two objectives: (a) to broaden his own experience; (b) to create and encourage another international link in the cave world.

It was Martel's practice not only to explore caves but to study them and their associated karst hydrology. Just as in 1895 he had visited tourist caves in Derbyshire, so in 1904 he studied the characteristics of the Mendip karst. He was particularly interested in the effect of the soluble Dolomitic Conglomerate (which in places covers the limestone) on the major risings.

Although Balch, the dominant Mendip cave explorer of the time, never became a member of the Société de Spéléologie, he did write a paper "On the caves and underground watercourses of the Mendip Hills... (explorations 1901 - 1904)" which appeared in French (Balch, 1904b). It was not published in English at the time but formed the basis of a chapter in a book a few years later (Baker and Balch, 1907). Among the photographs illustrating this book are several taken by Martel.

Supply of photographs to and from France seems to have been quite common. A postcard written in English by Martel to Balch on 30 October 1904, and formerly in Wells Museum, makes arrangements for the return of half-tone blocks borrowed from Balch, no doubt those for the seven photographs by Bamforth already used in the Climbers' Club Journal (Balch, 1904a). The postcard also asks for the loan of some diapositives, for lecture purposes in France.

Long before Martel's first visit to England he had lent diapositives and provided information to Mark Stirrup (1890) for a lecture to the Manchester Geographical Society. A few years later Stirrup (1896), by now a member of the Société de Spéléologie, was talking to the Manchester Geological Society and "On the table were laid numerous plans and sections of English and Irish caves visited by M. Martel in July last, and drawn up by him".

In 1898 he wrote to an unidentified person in Ireland (Martel, 1987) thanking him for cave photographs. At the same time he pointed out the exploration and water tracing that were necessary so that "a nice and special paper" could be published with the photographs in Spelunca. His prompting was evidently unsuccessful for the paper never appeared.

Besides inducing foreigners to join the Société de Spéléologie, Martel himself was given honorary membership of cave societies abroad. Such events are difficult to trace, usually being reported only in membership lists and formal notices of proceedings. It is known that he was made an honorary member of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club in 1905 (Anon, 1909a, p. 325) when he came to England again to give a lecture in Leeds. He also became an honorary member of the Mendip Nature Research Committee when it was founded in 1906.

CONCLUSION

It is often said that Martel was the father of speleology. Certainly there were uncles also, Kraus among them, and Schmidl was undoubtedly the grandfather of the subject (Shaw, 1980), with Valvasor as a distinguished and influential ancestor. But it is from Martel that there seems to have been a continuous tradition in many parts of the world; direct influence and personal contact can be traced back to him like an apostolic succession. Not only did Martel explore immense numbers of caves and publish many scholarly books and papers, he was also a traveller and publicist whose enthusiasm was spread by widespread personal visits and semi-popular writings as well as by his scientific papers. The Society that he founded had influence as a sound base for research and a place of publication for cave studies world-wide.

This paper had demonstrated the international links that he created by his own visits and publications abroad, and by attracting a high proportion of foreign members into the Société de Spéléologie with consequent papers by them printed in Spelunca. It has been shown how he aroused interest, inspired and encouraged activity, and helped in various ways afterwards.

Martel's importance was recognized by his contemporaries outside France as well as within, and not only by subsequent historians. Some of the remarks quoted here confirm this and it was in Italy that the first study of his overall achievements was published (Musoni, 1912).

REFERENCES

- Anon. 1895a. Liste des membres... au 1er mai 1895. *Spelunca*, 1, 15-19.
- Anon. 1895b. Gaping Ghyll Hole fathomed. A subterranean cave. *Triumph of a Frenchman*. *Bradford Observer*, 3 August, 5.
- Anon. 1904. Liste des membres au 1er septembre 1904. *Spelunca*, 5 (37), 193-200.
- Anon. [1909a]. Club proceedings, 1905-1906. *Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Jour.*, 2 (8) for 1907-08, 315-326.
- Anon. 1909b. Liste des membres au 1er octobre 1909. *Spelunca*, 7 (57), 305-311.
- B[aker], E. A. 1904. M. Martel in the Mendip caverns. *Manchester Guardian*, 11 July.
- Baker, E. A. and Balch, H. E. 1907. The netherworld of Mendip. Clifton, Baker etc.
- Balch, H. E. 1904a. Cave work in Somerset. *Climbers' Club Jour.*, 7 (25), 9-20.
- Balch, H. E. 1904b. Les cavernes et les cours d'eau souterrains des Mendip-Hills (Somerset, Angleterre) (explorations de 1901-1904). *Spelunca*, 5 (39), 343-37
- Casteret, N. 1943. E.-A. Martel explorateur du monde souterrain. Paris, Gallimard.
- Chabert, C. and Courval, M. de. 1971. E.-A. Martel 1859-1938 bibliographie. Autun, Marcelin (Travaux scientifiques du Spéléo-Club de Paris).
- Martel, E. A. 1896a. *Sous terre* (huitième campagne, 1895)
- Marble Arch, Irlande, et Gaping Ghyll, Angleterre. *Annu. Club Alpin Fr.*, 22 for 1895, 171-209.

- Martel, E. A. 1896b. Sur le Gouffre de Gaping-Ghyll (Angleterre). C. R. Acad. Sci., Paris, 122, 51-53.
- Martel, E. A. 1896c. Descente du Gouffre de Gaping Ghyll (Angleterre). Nature, Paris, 24 (1182), 118-123.
- Martel, E. A. 1896d. Les tomeens (Irlande). Nature, Paris, 24 (1187), 199-200.
- Martel, E. A. 1896e. Mitchelstown Cave. Irish. Nat. 5, 101-105.
- Martel, E. A. 1896f. Les puffing holes ou trous souffleurs. Nature, Paris, 24 (1196), 340-341.
- Martel, E. A. 1896g. The descent of Gaping Ghyll (Yorkshire). A story of mountaineering reversed. Alpine Jour., 18 (132), 120-125.
- Martel, E. A. 1896h. Speleology. Rept. 6th Int. Geogr. Congr. London 1895, 717-722
- Martel, E. A. 1897a. Irlande et cavernes anglaises. Paris, Delagrave. Parts were translated into English as follows: Chapter 11 (on Mitchelstown Cave) as Martel 1896e above, and a different translation in Br. Caver, 19, 1949, 48-52; Chapters 18-22 (on Derbyshire) as Martel 1914 below; Chapters 23-26 (on Yorkshire) in Cave Sci., 2 (15) 1951, 312-325; 2 (16) 1951, 349-360
- Martel, E. A. 1897b. Sous terre (neuvième campagne, 1896)... Annu. Club Alpin Fr. 23 for 1896, 368-413.
- Martel, E. A. 1897c. British caves and speleology. Geogr. Jour. 10 (5), 500-511.
- Martel, E. A. 1904. Sur la résurgence de Wells (Angleterre) et la chronométrie de l'érosion souterraine. C. R. Acad. Sci., Paris, 139 (24), 1051-1052.
- Martel, E. A. 1905. La désobstruction des abimes. Les cavernes des Mendip-Hills (Angleterre). Nature, Paris, 34 (1698), 23-26.
- Martel, E. A. 1914. The caverns of Derbyshire, being an extract from "Irlande et cavernes anglaises". trans. F. A. Winder and S. C. Phillips. Sheffield, Seed.
- Martel, E. A. 1987. Transcript of a letter from E.-A. Martel to a gentleman in the west (dated) Paris le 11.2.1898. Irish Speleology, 4 (1), (4).
- Musoni, F. 1912. L'opera di E. A. Martel e la geografia sotterranea. Mondo Sotterraneo, 8 (1), 14-19; 8 (2), 40-46.
- Shaw, T. R. (1980). Adolf Schmidl (1802-1863) the father of modern speleology? Int. Jour. Speleol., 10 (3-4) for 1978, 253-267.
- Shaw, T. R. 1988. Martel's visit to Mendip in 1904 part of his international strategy? Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc., 18 (2), 278-291.
- Stirrup, M. 189. "Unknown France." The hydrology of the Causses of Languedoc... Jour. Manchester Geogr. Soc.
- Stirrup, M. 1896. The work of subterranean waters: recent explorations of swallow-holes, caverns, and watercourses of the limestone districts of France [abstract]. Trans. Manchester Geol. Soc. 24 (3) for 1895-96, (53)-54.

L'OBJET LE PLUS LARGE DES VOYAGES DE MARTEL A L'ETRANGER

Résumé

C'est de M. Martel qu'il y a une tradition continue aux régions nombreux, en France et dans les pays étrangers; l'influence directe mène à lui comme une succession des apôtres. Exprès, il a encouragé l'intérêt aux grottes à l'étranger. Martel n'a pas seulement exploré des grottes très nombreuses et écrit quelques cents des études scientifiques; aussi il était voyageur et publiciste qui a propagé son enthousiasme par des voyages répandues et des écrits populaires en plus des études scientifiques. La Société établie par Martel a faite des recherches sur les grottes et a editée des études universelles.

Cette étude indique les liasons internationales crée par ses propres voyages et ses écrits à l'étranger, et aussi la grande proportion des membres étrangers dans la Société de Spéléologie avec les études résultantes imprimées dans Spelunca. A sa première année, 1895, 22 % des membres de la Société étaient des pays étrangers, et en 1904 cette proportion était 29 %. Aux pays nombreux il a excité l'intérêt, et a stimulé et encouragé l'exploration, et aussi à aidé plus tard. Dans les pays comme l' Autriche et la Slovénie il n'y avait pas le même besoin de tel encouragement.

RAZLOGI MARTELOVIH OBISKOVI TUJEGA KRASA

Povzetek

Martel ni obiskoval tujega krasa le zato, da bi ga raziskoval in si širil svoje znanje o krasu, ampak tudi zato, da bi vzpodbudil tamkajšnje speleološke raziskave. Od Martelovih 26 vsakoletnih raziskovalnih "kampanj" jih je bilo 19 usmerjenih v tujino, to je v 20 različnih današnjih držav. Poleg tega je prirejal "predavateljska" in druga potovanja v tujino.

Često pravimo, da je Martel oče speleologije. Vendar so tudi strici speleologije, med njimi Kraus, Schmidla lahko brez dvoma imenujemo za deda (Shaw 1980), Valvasorja pa štejemo za izjemnega in vplivnega prednika. Kaže pa, da v marsikateri deželi kontinuiteta izhaja prav od Martela. Martel ni le raziskal ogromno število jam in objavil mnogo temeljnih knjig in člankov, bil je tudi popotnik in publicist, katerega navdušenje so širili prav njegovi obiski, poljudnoznanstvene in tudi znanstvene objave. Société de Spéléologie, ki jo je ustanovil, je bila marsikdaj temelj raziskavam in mesto za objavo rezultatov z vsega sveta.

V prispevku so prikazane Martelove zveze v tujini, ki si jih je ustvaril s pomočjo obiskov in objav v tujini, pa tudi z vključevanjem velikega števila tujih članov v francosko speleološko društvo in z objavljanjem njihovih prispevkov v reviji Spelunca. Martelov pomen so priznavali njegovi sodobniki tako v Franciji kot izven nje in ne samo kasnejši zgodovinarji. Tudi navedbe v tem članku potrjujejo, da je bila študija o njegovem delu v celoti prvič objavljena v Italiji (Musoni 1912).