

Dear Moira, Emma and friends,

On behalf of many, many colleagues from our society I would like to honor Martin Plant.

Martin died 16 march 2010. His loss is unrelenting sad and very difficult to bear. We miss Martin greatly.

Martin was a enthusiastic member of the KBS for several decades. I met Martin and Moira for the first time in 1982, at the KBS conference in Padova, in Italy. For almost 30 years Martin, Moira and Emma have been very close friends to me and my family.

Martin was a much respected **scientist**, and in that respect he was one of our most valued and esteemed colleagues.

Much of his professional career Martin had been spent in Edinburgh where he worked since 1973. From 2002 onwards Martin was Professor of Addiction Studies at the University of West of England, together with Moira, also professor at this university. Among many other things Martin was the UK director of the European Schools Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (the ESPAD study) and he was the UK Co-director of the Gender, Alcohol and Culture International Study (the Genacis study).

As Bruce Ritson, a good friend of Martin, has pointed out very rightly: Martin was a "hands-on" sociologist. He was a tireless advocate of measures, which would reduce the levels of alcohol related problems and he was fearless in challenging those who sought to obstruct such measures.

Martin published and edited over 20 influential books. 15 Hours for his death he sent off his final work entitled "Drug nation" to the publishers. Next to that Martin published over 220 international articles. Martin has published in all major journals of our field of study. Not many of us can match that..

Martin was a respected scientist and a **world citizen**. He had great interest in what happened all over the world. Also in his work he really operated internationally. I estimate that he has published together with over 100 other scientists, from over 20 countries all over the world, even from the Netherlands.. Martin was always willing to share his skills with newcomers in the field, like I was in 1982.

Martin was a driving force in encouraging and helping researchers in less well-funded countries.

He organized for more than 30 years conferences all over the world, also far away, such as a meeting in India. The annual conferences he organized in Pitlochry and Kendall were well known for the relaxed supportive atmosphere. Martins generosity and kindness helped people coming in the field to feel welcome and supported. The willingness with which international experts took part in Martins conferences was a measure of his popularity and standing in the field.

Martin was a world citizen, and a very warm person, really a **good human being**. He loved the earth, he loved nature and he loved mankind. Martin was a keen mountaineer and a real advocate for preserving the environment. Martin was a vigorous man and dedicated to what he believed in. He was open to everyone, down to earth, not at all arrogant, always prepared to help. Martin, Moira and Emma are known to many for their hospitality; many colleagues have stayed in their home.

Martin was a good human being and a very good **friend**.

I have the warmest memories with regard to our friendship.

We met at least once or twice a year as colleagues at conferences and the like.

But we met often as friends too. We, our families, visited each other regularly.

I remember many common holidays and trips.

I remember trips to Dutch, German, English and Scottish cities.

I remember that we, and our kids, threw snowballs at the top of a mountain near Glen Coe,

I remember Martin tickling my daughter Inge, when she was young of course..

I remember Martin writing the beautiful novel "project Wolf" in which Henk Garretsen was the main character, a computer genius and millionaire.. Nothing is less true..

The scientific community will remember Martin as one of the most highly esteemed colleagues. Many of us will remember Martin as a real friend too.

Martin leaves his wife, our colleague, Moira, and their daughter, Emma. He was terrible proud of them.

I like to end with the message Moira and Emma shared with us at Martins funeral:

"Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened".