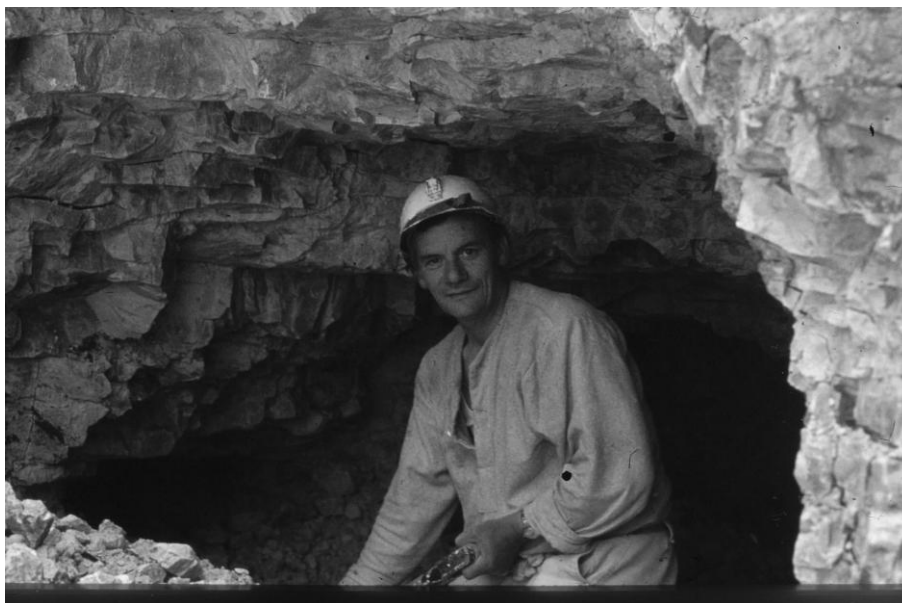


SJEUF FELDER



Sjeuf Felder and his late brother Werner were pioneering members of the Limburg branch of the Netherlands Geological Association as well as protagonists in its Prehistoric Flint mines Working Group. The group comprised ex-professional miners and mining engineers: “ex” because of the pit closures which threw a great many miners out of work. Sjeuf and Werner were closely involved with work at the Neolithic flint mining site at Rijckholt and Sjeuf worked for many years as a curator in the Maastricht Museum of Natural History.

It is to Sjeuf and his group (including four other Felders) that we owe an immense debt of gratitude for his work with the British Museum team at Grimes Graves between 1972 and 1976. His insight and experience threw light on the methods and behaviours of his Neolithic predecessors. The frighteningly accurate recording of the re-excavated mines, notably the Greenwell and Pit 11 complexes, forms a lasting tribute to Sjeuf and his team.

Sjeuf was actively involved in the series of International Flint Symposia; my last sight of him was at the Warsaw symposium in 1995 where he was voted “Father of the Conference”.

Sjeuf was involved in many things — not least, in the development of quarry sites in Limburg as wildlife refuges where anybody could go to enjoy the flora and fauna, the peace and quiet. He regularly led school groups around these; I suspect that his enthusiasm was infectious.

Sjeuf’s war years were spent in forced labour. He used the spare time he had in teaching himself English from books, because, he said, he wanted to welcome the liberators when they came. They did come, but the GIs from the deep south spoke with an accent incomprehensible to Sjeuf and he had to start all over again.

Sjeuf died in his home town of Cadeer en Keer aged 81 on 15th May 2009.

Gill Varndell