

Chapter 51
1958 – 1961
Bannockburn / Summer Vacation – 1959

The eighth morning of our trip started with a visit to Cologne Cathedral and thence to the waterfront to see if our dwindling finances would rise to our planned boat-trip up to the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle at Koblenz.

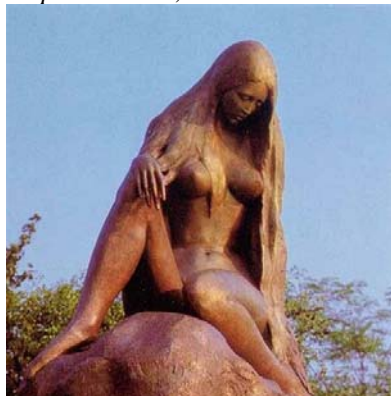


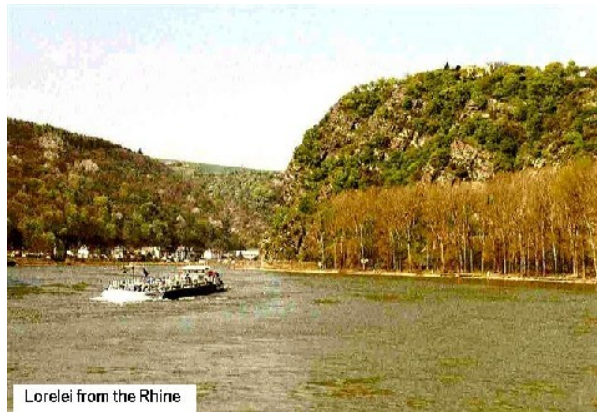
The price was reasonable so we duly embarked on what for me was one of the highlights of our adventure. The weather was fine; the scenery en route absolutely magnificent. The following photographs give a flavour of that sail.



Rhineland View from the Lorelei

We learned that the mighty slate rock Lorelei in the Rhine Valley rises up almost vertically to 145 yards above the water-level. Downstream the river is squeezed into its narrowest and deepest (24 yards) point there and was very difficult to navigate. Even by the 19th century, reefs and rapids still made it extremely dangerous for ships to pass this point. Legend tells that a siren called "Lorelei" would bewitch the hearts of sailors and that when they looked up to the rock, their boats would crash and sink.





Our first view of Koblenz when looking upstream was of the point where the Rhine is joined by the Moselle,



and then, high up to our left, the Ehrenbreitstein, and its cable-car which we knew would take us up to the youth hostel on its southern tip – a splendid vantage point over the city and beyond.

