

# **IOP NEWSLETTER 69**

November 2000

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The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP.

President: Else Marie Friis (Sweden)  
Vice Presidents: Muriel Fairon-Demaret (Belgium), Zlatko Kavzek (Czech Republic), Sun Ge (China)  
Secretary: Gar Rothwell (USA)

## NEWS OF IOPC-VI

The sixth conference of the International Organization of Paleobotany (IOPC-VI) was held in Qunhuangdo, China July 30 – August 3, 2000. Nearly two hundred participants enjoyed the three and a half day scientific program, and the great wall tour to Laolongtou and Jiaoshan. The program included eleven symposia, eight contributed oral presentation sessions, and two poster sessions. Plenary lectures were delivered by Bill Chaloner (UK), Tom Taylor (USA), and Zhang Miman (China). IOPC-VI was rounded out by three conference field trips, two workshops, and a Beijing suburbs tour. Reports of the various field trips and the Beijing Suburbs Tour will appear in a later Newsletter. We congratulate Li Xingxue and the Chinese Organizing Committee for hosting this fine conference.

### 2000 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

At IOPC-VI, the evening of August 1, 2000 was devoted to the IOP General Council Meeting. Election of new officers and selection of a host for the next IOPC were the two main items of business. Counting and tabulation of votes took more than an hour, providing ample time for thorough discussions of policies for choosing meeting dates and locations, and evaluations of proposals to host the next IOPC. There was considerable discussion about the practice of scheduling IOPCs in conjunction with Palynological Congresses. There was general agreement that this practice was desirable, but that more coordination was needed to allow the IOP to participate in decisions about dates and places for future meetings. No vote was taken, and there was considerable sentiment for leaving the decision open.

For the forthcoming IOPC, interest was expressed in several options, providing an opportunity to hold our next meeting in such diverse locations as Argentina, Spain and Wales. Discussions of the alternatives focused on several topics. These

included rotation of meetings among geographical regions, ease of attendance for large numbers of participants from different geographical regions, costs for participants from different geographical regions, availability and ease of transportation, availability of housing facilities, opportunities for field trips, adequacy of meetings facilities, funding opportunities, and staffing assets. Although there was considerable enthusiasm about the exciting alternatives, the membership was unable to reach a consensus about which invitation to accept because none included enough detail to satisfy concerns in several areas of discussion. In the end, the membership decided to defer a decision. The incoming Secretary was instructed to request specific details from each of the perspective hosts, and the incoming Executive was charged with the responsibilities of devising a mechanism for deciding among invitations and accepting the most appropriate bid. Additional information about this process is included later in this newsletter.

The elections committee completed tabulation of the votes for new officers, and the following were elected:

#### **President:**

Else Marie Friis, Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet,  
Sweden

#### **Vice Presidents:**

Muriel Fairon-Demaret, Universite of Liege at Sart  
Tilman, Belgium

Zlatko Kvacek, Karlovy University, Czech  
Republic

Ge Sun, Nanjing Institute of Geology and  
Palaeontology, China

#### **Secretary:**

Gar Rothwell, Ohio University, USA

#### **Members at Large:**

Margaret Collinson, University of London, UK  
Andrew Drinnan, University of Melbourne,  
Australia

Steven Manchester, University of Florida, USA

## **CALL FOR MORE DETAILED PROPOSALS TO HOST IOPC- VII**

Due to a lack of specific details submitted with earlier proposals the membership was unable to decide on the location of the next IOPC meeting (see report of the 2000 General Council Meeting). Therefore, we are renewing the call for invitations to host IOPC-VII in 2004. Those who have previously submitted invitations to host the next IOPC are particularly encouraged to provide more detailed proposals.

Guidelines for materials to be submitted are available from the Secretary upon request. Proposals may be submitted as e-mail attachments and/or mailed to Secretary – IOP, C/O Dr. Ruth Stockey, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton , Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada <[rothwell@ualberta.ca](mailto:rothwell@ualberta.ca)>.

If more than one detailed proposal is submitted, the executive will confer to choose the next host by majority vote. Applications will be due on or before January 15, 2001. The successful proposal will be chosen, and the applicants will be notified before the end of January, 2001. The sight of the 2004 IOPC will be announced on the IOPC web site, and in the next IOP Newsletter

### **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The world has become a smaller place, bringing palaeobotanists from all corners of the globe closer together. As we enter the new millennium and the age of advanced information technology, we are presented with new opportunities that are likely to influence research priorities and research infrastructures substantially. Collaboration and exchange of ideas with colleagues across the world is now sometimes simpler than collaboration with the colleague across the hall. As the world has shrunk, palaeobotany has grown. Perspectives are expanding and we have recently seen a wide

array of new interdisciplinary approaches that have brought important new developments. That we are entering a new era was also clear at the past IOP conference in Qinhuangdao. Colleagues from developing and from developed countries were on equal terms and important advances in palaeobotanical research were reported from all parts of the world.

It is an exciting period for the newly elected executive committee to take part in the future development of IOP, and it is also a challenge for us to find new ways that can further facilitate communication and the flow of information between IOP and all palaeobotanists. We plan to discuss IOP organisation in detail to continue developing a structure that can best meet the needs of individual members and perhaps lead to new opportunities and developments in our research field. Ensuring that the voice of all members can be heard is of high priority, and we hope that you will help us find new ways.

Another area of priority is continuation of the work on the Fossil Record Database in which our previous secretary Mike Boulter and many other colleagues have already investigated a great deal of time and energy. We believe that this database offers a useful tool in many palaeobotanical disciplines, and we consider it important to continue expanding and improving the database. It is our hope that you will help us develop other priorities for the future work of IOP. Our new secretary is energetic and eager to take up new challenges so please bombard him with good ideas and suggestions. I look forward to the four years service as president of IOP and hope that together we can make a difference.

Else Marie Friis, President

### **A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY**

As I begin to become acquainted with duties of IOP secretary, it is comforting to know we have a solid organization and an active membership. It is

humbling to recognize that the current strength of IOP is due to immense efforts of our extremely capable predecessors. Continuing in the same vein will be a challenge for the new officers. The first of these challenges are to finalize the location for the next IOPC, and to continue to keep the membership well informed of paleobotanical activities and opportunities. Under the capable leadership of our new president, Else-Marie Friis, I am confident that the vigor of IOP will continue to strengthen.

From the earliest newsletters founded by Hans Traulau and continued by Jim Schopf, IOP secretaries have kept the membership informed, interconnected and interactive. For the past 26 years this responsibility has been shouldered by Mike Boulter, who has promoted activity and provided continuity. Mike will be a hard act to follow, so I am requesting assistance from each of you provide the information to keep us connected. Please provide notices of forthcoming activities, opinions about important Paleobotanical issues, reports of meetings, notifications of job and funding opportunities, notices about new members and, about changes in the status of current members.

In addition to the current IOP Newsletter circulation and postings, all newsletters (beginning with the current issue) will be posted on the web as PDF files for immediate access. The URL is: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~rothwell/IOP-Newsletters/index.htm> We will keep you informed of new issues of the Newsletter by e-mail, if you have a current e-mail address registered in the IOP Membership Database.

We are concerned that we may not be reaching as many members as possible by this means. Please check to be sure that you are listed among the membership, and that your contact information is correct and complete. This can be done over the internet by contacting the IOP Membership Database at: <http://ibs.uel.ac.uk/ibs/palaeo/iop/iopmem/> If you are not already registered with IOP or if your contact information has changed, please either 1) inform your regional representative, 2) send the

corrected information directly from the website, or 3) send the information to the Secretary at [<rothwell@ualberta.ca>](mailto:rothwell@ualberta.ca) A list of regional representatives will be included in the next newsletter. Best wishes and Happy Holidays.

Gar Rothwell, Secretary

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

David L. Bruton is seeking a qualified female paleobotanist capable of curating and working on plant collections derived from the Devonian of Norway, Svalbard and South Africa, from the Permian and Carboniferous of the Oslo Region and central and South Africa, and from the Tertiary of Spitsbergen. Interest in pollen analysis is also desirable. Qualified persons who wish a position in Norway are encouraged to contact Dr. Bruton by early January.

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<http://www.nhm.uio.no/palmus/schmidt/index.html>  
<http://www.nhm.uio.no/palmus/english.htm>

## **NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP**

Our congratulations go out to Henry N. Andrews, Jr., who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday June 15, 2000. His children held a party at his farm in Sanbornton, N.H, where he has been living since retirement from the University of Connecticut in 1975. Several long-time friends from Connecticut and New Hampshire, some former students and research collaborators, and colleagues from the University of Connecticut attended. Exploits from field seasons past were recalled by Bill Forbes and Andy Kasper. Henry is doing fairly well, and continued with his tradition of planting and harvesting a garden during the summer. However, he is experiencing increasing difficulty in living on his own, so in

October, he entered the Peabody Home, hopefully staying only for the winter. Henry has macular degeneration and his vision is limited. He can read large print however, and would welcome hearing from friends and colleagues. His address and telephone number are as follows: Henry N. Andrews, Jr., c/o The Peabody Home, 24 Peabody Place, Franklin, New Hampshire 03235. Tel. #: 603-934-6656.

After 55 years of activity in the field, Dr. R. Givulescu from Cluj-Napoca, Romania has retired from paleobotanical research at age 80. Best wishes to Dr. Givulescu for a long and happy retirement.

In January 2001, Jason Hilton (presently at Cardiff University) will be commencing a new position at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh. At first Jason will be continuing his work on seed plant evolution and phylogeny funded by NERC, subsequently to take up a permanent appointment in the Department of Geology and Zoology at the NMS, working on collections, exhibits and research. Jason is looking forward to meeting palaeobotanical visitors in Edinburgh, and hopes to renew Scottish palaeobotanical collecting and research.

Gar Rothwell is currently on sabbatical leave at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E9, Canada. Those wishing to have quick responses to e-mails and letters about IOP matters are encouraged to contact Gar at the U of A <rothwell@ualberta> until next June.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Mid-continent Paleobotanical Colloquium for 2001 is scheduled for 1-3 June, 2001. The organising committee of Pat Herenden, Judy Skog, Scott Wing and Bill DiMichele will be bringing this year's meeting to Washington DC. The meeting will consist of the usual schedule of an informal dinner and mixer on Friday evening, followed by talks on Saturday. Saturday evening will consist of

dinner and an evening speaker. Several options for local excursions for Sunday are being explored and the next MPC Circular will provide details on this and other aspects of the meeting.

As in past years the goal of this meeting is to provide an informal atmosphere that is conducive to a free exchange of ideas. The emphasis is on student participation, with contributions by more senior paleobotanists scheduled as time permits.

Inexpensive housing will be available through the university dormitories (self-contained rooms). A list of local hotels will also be available.

An early indication of interest would be helpful to determine how many dorm rooms to reserve. Additional information about the MPC can be found at: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~rothwell/MPC-2000/index.htm> Please email Pat Herenden ([herenden@gwu.edu](mailto:herenden@gwu.edu)) to express interest or preferences for the meeting agenda.

### RECENT DEATHS

Over the past year paleobotany has suffered the loss of several of our oldest and dearest colleagues. During IOPC-VI we observed a moment of silence to remember Daniel Axelrod (USA), Harlan Banks (USA), Edward Boureau (France), Jane Gray (USA), D.D. Nautiyal (India), Maria Reymanowa (Poland), Gerhard Roselt (Germany), V.A. Samylnina (Russia). Members are invited to submit obituaries to be printed in forthcoming IOP Newsletters.