

IOP NEWSLETTER

2 1976

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY

PRESIDENT JAMES M SCHOPF COLUMBUS OHIO USA VICE PRESIDENT E DOUREAU PARIS FRANCE
EDITOR HANS TRALAU THE SWEDISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 194 05 STOCKHOLM SWEDEN

Material offered

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ANTARCTIC PALAEOBOTANY

The British Antarctic Survey holds extensive collections of fossil floras from the Antarctic Peninsula area, ranging in age from Jurassic to (?) Miocene. Many of these have not been studied and they offer excellent opportunities for original research. All the floras consist of both leaf impressions and fossilized woods. Attempts to isolate spores have generally proved unsuccessful, especially in the case of the older floras, and few leaves are accompanied by cuticular remains. They are therefore best suited to gross morphological studies with a view to systematic description and assessing their stratigraphical and climatological significance.

Anyone wishing to have access to these floras on a purely research basis is invited to contact:

Dr. M. R. A. THOMSON, British Antarctic Survey, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, Great Britain.

Bibliographies

CHALONER, W. G. & A. J. HILL 1976. British Report on Palaeobotany and Palynology (1972 - 1975). Birkbeck College, University of London, pp. 1-33, price US dollar 2.00.

This useful little booklet gives a complete coverage of British palaeobotanical and palynological literature published during the period 1972 - 1975. It is a direct descendant of the reports edited by K. I. M. Chesters, J. Walton and F. M. Wonnacott, which ceased years ago. The present publication covers all literature on subjects ranging from the Precambrian to the Quaternary. It gives a list of Current Research and Papers in Press as well as a list of addresses of palaeobotanists and palynologists working in Great Britain. The editors suggest, that "If this report proves useful to palaeobotanists in Britain and elsewhere we will hope to publish it at intervals of perhaps one or two years". Let us hope there will be reason to do so. Therefore, order your copy at once before the supply is exhausted and send your cheque to Professor William G. Chaloner, Botany Department, Birkbeck College, University of London, 86 Gower Street, London WC1E 3BU, Great Britain.

STURM, M. 1976. Paläobotanik und Palynologie 1975, Cour. Forsch. Inst. Senckenberg, 17, Frankfurt on Main, pp. 3-28, price unknown.

This is an established palaeobotanical and palynological bibliography with mainly European coverage. A few non-European items are included. The present bibliography does not only cover the year 1975, as one is led to believe from the title but also publications from earlier years. To obtain a copy, please write to: Dr. F. Schaarschmidt, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, Frankfurt on Main, Western Germany.

SCHWEINGRUBER, F. H. 1976. Veröffentlichungen über Untersuchungen prähistorischer Hölzer und Holzkohlen, Cour. Forsch. Inst. Senckenberg, 17, Frankfurt on Main, pp. 29-58, price unknown.

This is a bibliography of prehistoric wood and charcoal. The coverage is world-wide though not complete. The items are arranged in geographic order, which makes this useful list easily accessible. Obtainable from either Dr. Fritz H. Schweingruber, Birmensdorf, Switzerland or from Dr. Schaarschmidt, address as above.

Personalialia

The Organization regrets to announce the deaths of its members Univer.-Prof. Dr. phil. Helmut Gams of Innsbruck, Austria and Prof. RNDR Frantisek Nemejc of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

William G. Chaloner has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

James M. Schopf has been awarded the Mary Clark Thompson Medal at the April 1976 meeting of the National Academy of Sciences (US). This is a "Gold medal... awarded for most important services to geology and paleontology. Established through the Mary Clark Thompson Fund, this award is generally not to be given more often than every three to five years".

Hans Tralau has been elected Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

Organizational news

The IOP takes the opportunity to publish the proposed new Statutes and By-Laws. The proposal has been drafted by a committee of Past-Officers who are most familiar with the reorientation of IOP. This proposal has been approved for consideration by the Executive Committee in addition to a Drafting Committee and sent simultaneously to I. U. B. S. for approval at the Bangalore I. U. B. S. meeting.

Some explanatory footnotes have been added to the proposed Statutes and By-Laws by Professor Harlan P. Banks. These explanatory footnotes are not part of the Statutes and By-Laws. They only indicate the intentions of the Drafting Committee forwarded by Professor Banks.

Along with this Newsletter a questionnaire has been sent out to all paid-up members of the Organization and to a great number of persons who have submitted their application but not yet paid.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALEOBOTANY

PROPOSED NEW STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

These PROPOSED STATUTES AND BY-LAWS have been reviewed favorably by the Executive Committee of I. O. P.

Article I. NAME

1. The name of the organization is INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALEOBOTANY (I. O. P.)

Article II. AFFILIATION

1. The I. O. P. shall be affiliated to the International Union of Biological Sciences.

Article III. AIM

1. The aim of I. O. P. is to promote international cooperation in the study of paleobotany including paleopalynology. This includes:
 - a. Publication of an informative newsletter that will announce all paleobotanical meetings, report on their proceedings, describe regional bibliographies and how to obtain them, as well as other pertinent information of wide interest.
 - b. Collaboration with officers responsible for programs of international botanical congresses to ensure the inclusion of items of paleobotanical interest in the program.
 - c. The encouragement of the work of regional groups of paleobotanists and of groups of specialists within the broader field of paleobotany. These groups are encouraged to affiliate with I. O. P. as corporate members (See Art. IV. 3) at the cost of a single membership.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
 - d. Cooperation with other international organizations having interests allied to paleobotany, such as International Paleontological Association, International Association of Plant Taxonomy, International Commission for Palynology.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
 - e. Any other activities considered appropriate by the Executive Committee or warranted by interest shown by the membership. When financial support is available, publications such as a World Bibliography of paleobotany and paleopalynology should be encouraged.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. I. O. P. accepts as members any paleobotanist or group that subscribes to its aim.
2. Individual membership takes effect immediately upon payment of dues.
3. Individual membership includes voting rights, the privilege of holding office, and receipt of the newsletter.

4. Corporate membership is open to regional groups and specialty groups. Each such group can elect one delegate, with voting rights, to the General Assembly and receive one copy of the newsletter which it is free to duplicate for its membership.
5. Annual dues for all classes of members shall be laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee and incorporated in the By-Laws.
6. Membership may be terminated for non-payment of dues extending over two years.

Article V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The General Assembly

- a. The General Assembly consists of all Individual Members and of the delegates of Corporate Members.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
- b. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be held at each meeting of the International Botanical Congress and at such other International Congresses of appropriate fields as may be designated, with adequate prior notice, by the Executive Committee.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
- c. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with the customary Rules of Order (Encyclopedia Britannica 19: 721, 1970).
- d. All members of the General Assembly are entitled to vote.
- e. Any member not attending a given Congress is entitled to vote by mail by sending his ballot to the Secretary.
- f. The agenda of a General Assembly shall be determined by the Secretary and Executive Committee and published in a newsletter in advance of the meeting.

2. Officers

- a. The officers of I. O. P. shall be:
President
Three Vice-Presidents
Secretary
- b. Officers elected at one General Assembly shall serve from the end of that Assembly to the end of the next assembly.
- c. If the Office of President becomes vacant, one of the Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Executive Committee to succeed to the office for the remainder of the term.
- d. If any other office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee is empowered to select a replacement.
- e. A President can not be re-elected; a Vice-President may serve no more than two terms.
- f. A Secretary may be re-elected.

g. Elections

1. The Executive Committee shall serve as the nominating committee.
2. It shall seek nominations for eight of its places (see Art. V, 3, a) by advertising in the Newsletter.
3. Nominations may be made in writing, by any member of I. O. P.
4. Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than six months before the Congress.
5. All candidates must be from current paid-up members of I. O. P.
6. The Executive Committee shall determine the status of the nominees, ascertain that they are prepared to stand for election, and shall circulate a list to all members at least one month before the start of the Congress.
7. Members who wish to vote by mail may send their ballots to the Secretary right up to the time of the meeting of the General Assembly at the Congress; members who plan to attend the Congress may prefer to vote in person at the General Assembly.
8. Election of the President and of the Secretary shall be declared for the respective candidates who receive a simple majority of the votes cast.
9. Election of Vice-Presidents and of the three members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be awarded to the candidates in each category who receive the largest number of votes.

3. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than nine members as follows:
The President, the three Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, three members-at-large elected from the general membership (Art. IV, 2 and 3), and one member, whose selection may be delayed, to be selected by the President, to coordinate the paleobotanical program at the next International Botanical Congress.
- b. The three members-at-large must be from different countries; they may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- c. The Executive Committee undertakes such business as may be delegated to it by the By-Laws or by decisions of the General Assembly, or requests by the President or Secretary.
- d. The Executive Committee may select a successor to any office or position on the Executive Committee that becomes vacant between sessions of the General Assembly (see Art. V, 2 c, d).
- e. The Executive Committee should meet at least once at each International Botanical Congress, prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. Otherwise, much of its business will be conducted by mail.
- f. The Secretary is the driving force behind the Organization. He shall transmit suggestions from the membership to the President and Executive Committee, maintain contact with regional groups of paleobotanists

and with topical groups of paleobotanists, maintain contact with I. U. B. S., transmit decisions of the Executive Committee and President to the membership. The Newsletter shall be his chief medium of communication. (See also By-Laws 1.).

Article VI. FINANCES

1. Membership fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee and laid down in the By-Laws. Dues are payable on January 1st each year.

Article VII. AMENDMENTS

1. The statutes of I. O. P. can be amended only at a meeting of the General Assembly.
2. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or may be submitted to that committee by any member.
3. The Secretary will cause the proposed amendments to be published in the Newsletter at least six months before the next General Assembly together with any comments the Executive Committee offers.
4. Amendments shall be effective if ratified by a two-thirds majority of members present at a meeting of the General Assembly.

Article VIII. LANGUAGE

1. The Official Languages of I. O. P. will be those of I. U. B. S.
2. The use of English is advocated.

Article IX. INTERPRETATION OF STATUTES

The English text of these Statutes will be authoritative.

BY-LAWS

1. The Newsletter will be the responsibility of the Secretary who is empowered to select, invite, and appoint as many and as diverse regional correspondents as are required to ensure effective coverage of world paleobotany. These correspondents may well include the persons who are responsible for such regional or topical newsletters or bibliographies as currently exist or that are initiated in the future. Correspondents will serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
2. Membership dues - Dues for individual and corporate members are dollar 4.00 (U.S.), or equivalent, per year, payable on 1 January.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
3. Dues are payable to the Secretary, who will use them in the production of the Newsletter and for the business of the Organization.
4. The Executive Committee is empowered to appoint Regional Collectors in any country to aid the Secretary in the collection of dues.
(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)
5. Members in countries with nonconvertible currencies may wish to organize

a Regional Branch, elect a Regional Collector, and use their dues for the duplication, and subsequent mailing, of a copy of the newsletter when it is provided to them by the Secretary.

(Please see NOTES AND COMMENTS below.)

6. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee provided that the proposed amendments have been circulated to the Committee at least six months before a vote is taken.

DRAFT submitted by: Committee on Statutes and By-Laws

Henry N. Andrews, Jr.

March 1976

William G. Chaloner

Modified July 1976 following study

Harlan P. Banks, Chairman

by Executive Committee

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Art. III, 1, c. It is hoped that the President and Secretary will play an active role in urging such groups to affiliate with I.O.P.

Art. III, 1, d. This too requires interest and activity on the part of the President, Secretary and Executive Committee.

Art. V, 2, a. The rationale for electing 3 Vice-Presidents is the hope that (at least) one of the four persons, President or Vice-President, will be present at each Congress to preside over the General Assembly.

Art. V, 2, b. The timing here is designed to permit officers who have been active over a five-year period to have an opportunity to act on their experiences before retiring.

By-Laws 2. The amount \$4.00 is that which was voted by the General Assembly in Leningrad in 1975.

By-Laws 4. Regional Collectors are used by several international societies like I.O.P. They save considerable money in banking fees by sending the Secretary one check covering the dues of numerous members.

By-Laws 5. This is an attempt to hold the active allegiance of colleagues who are permitted to export money for any foreign organization. Perhaps experience will work out a better technique, but it is important that we make some kind of a start on the problem.

Art. V, 3, a., Art. VI, and By-Laws 2. The proposed Statutes and By-Laws, if ratified, should not affect the composition of the Executive Committee as set up in Leningrad. Rather, they provide the mechanisms for the election of a new group of officers at the next Congress and for the transaction of any business that may come before the Assembly at that meeting. Further, they authorize such new departures as the Newsletter and the dues structure, both of which were voted into effect in Leningrad, 1975.