

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY

SUBSECTION FOR PALAEOBOTANY, INTERNATIONAL UNION BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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### "EDITOR'S" NOTE

Dear Friends:

I have written several statements intended to preface this issue of the Newsletter. For one reason or another all have become obsolete before the Newsletter was completed. I hope this is the last attempt. It seems to mark the end of a chapter.

Our Secretary, Dr. Hans Tralau, who was ill with cancer for several months, with intermittent remissions, passed away at 8:30 a.m., on March 14, 1977. Until about a month before, there had been hope that his productive life could be extended. It is such an exceedingly sad event when death takes a young scientist with so promising a future. The International Organization of Paleobotany owes much to Hans Tralau, and to his loyal assistant, Mr. Wilhelm von Eckermann, for starting compilation and circulation of the IOP Newsletter. I am most appreciative to Mr. von Eckermann for continuing to forward IOP mail during the past months, and for information about Hans' condition. I extend our utmost sympathy to the family of Hans Tralau and others who mourn for him.

It now becomes necessary to appoint a new Secretary to fill the unexpired term, according to provisions in the New Statutes and By-Laws. After ascertaining that he would be willing to undertake the duties and responsibilities, approval from the Executive Committee has been obtained for naming Dr. Michael C. Boulter, N.E. London Polytechnic, London E15, 4LZ, England as Secretary of IOP. He will assume office immediately and respond to collection of dues, assembly of IOP Newsletter 4, and other duties as prescribed by the Statutes.

I also wish to express appreciation to Mr. William H. Gillespie, Paleobotanist, W.A.E., of the U.S. Geological Survey, and Administrative Assistant, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Charleston, West Virginia, for effective assistance in preparation of Newsletter 3. He is expert in assembling such materials and it is now clear to me that I am a novice. Any excellence in layout and composition of this Newsletter is a result of his expertise.

James M. Schopf, "Editor"

### Organizational news

#### NOTES ON THE RESPONSE TO THE NEW STATUTES AND QUESTIONNAIRE

The new Statutes and By-Laws were prepared by a committee familiar with the history and problems of the International Organization of Paleobotany. Accordingly, it is not surprising that the Draft as circulated received general approval. Only 8 out of 52 replies suggested any changes. Most of these improved the document and have been incorporated in the revision that is now presented (current Newsletter). Unless general disapproval is expressed, either to the Secretary (or to the President) within four (4) months of this circulation, the Statutes and By-Laws will be considered ADOPTED. In view of the previous response, objection seems unlikely. If it still appears that some details should be changed, I suggest we try out the mechanism for amendment and see how it works.

JMS



#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY NEW STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

##### Article I. NAME

1. The name of the organization is INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY (IOP)

##### Article II. AFFILIATION

1. The IOP shall be affiliated to the International Union of Biological Sciences.

##### Article III. AIM

1. The aim of IOP 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 IOP as corporate members (See Art. IV. 4) at the cost of a single membership.

d. Cooperation with other international organizations having interests allied to paleobotany, such as International Palaeontological Association, International Association for Plant Taxonomy, Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque.

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.

##### 2. Officers

a. The officers of IOP shall be: President; Three Vice-Presidents and 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 for that office; a Vice-President may serve no more than two terms in that office.

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. 3a) by advertising in the Newsletter.

3. Nominations may be made in writing, by any member of IOP.

4. Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than six months before the Congress.

5. All candidates must be current paid-up members of IOP.

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 in the form of a ballot.

7. Members who wish to vote by mail may send their ballots to the Secretary, to be received before 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.

#### Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. IOP 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.

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.

c. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with the customary Rules of Order (Encyclopaedia 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.

### 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 and 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 IUBS, 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 to the Secretary on January 1st each year.

## Article VII. AMENDMENTS

1. The statutes of IOP 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 IOP will be those of IUBS.

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.

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. If requested, members of the Executive Committee are empowered to appoint Regional Collectors in any country to aid the Secretary in the collection of dues.

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.

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.

## REPORTS & NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

The **Paleobotanical Section, Botanical Society of America**, conducted meetings at Tulane University in New Orleans in June, 1976. Five sessions, including over 50 papers, were presented. The Section participated in a Symposium on the Taxonomic and Morphologic Relations of the Psilotaceae, and sponsored a post-conference field excursion in eastern Texas. The 1975 Bibliography of American Paleobotany was distributed to members in August, 1976. Non-members may obtain copies from Dr. David Dilcher, Section Secretary, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and some copies of the Catalog of Lesquereux' Coal Flora Specimens are also still available. Price each, \$4.00. The Section will serve as cosponsor for the North American Paleontological Convention, August 8-10, 1977, at Lawrence Kansas. Paleobotany will be represented on several topical symposia. The Annual Meeting of the Section will be at Michigan State University, East Lansing, August 21-26, 1977. Prof. Aureal T. Cross, Chairman. A symposium on Reproductive Biology of Fossil Plants is planned, as well as a post-meeting field excursion to southeastern Ohio.



According to a recent AASP Newsletter, the **Stratigraphic Palynologists** had a most interesting meeting, jointly sponsored by Cimp, at Halifax, N.S., in October, 1976. Acritarchs, dinophytes, floral provincialism, continental margins, correlation and field trips received attention of 125 persons, including many from overseas. The 1977 meeting will be in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Proceedings of the 1975 and subsequent AASP meetings are to appear annually in a new journal "Palynology." Address inquiries to Vaughn M. Bryant, AASP Editor, Palynology Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 77843.

In addition to news of the Halifax meeting with AASP, the December 1976 Newsletter of Cimp (Comm. Internat. de Microflore (Microfossiles Organiques) de Paleozoique; M. Streel, Sec.-Gen) reports their XII General Assembly will be held in Leon, Spain, September 5-10, 1977. Local Secretary for this meeting is Dr. F.H. Cramer of the Instituto de Investigaciones Palinológicas, apartado 224, Leon, Spain.



From Argentina, Prof. Sergio Archangelsky reports that, while on leave from his University post at La Plata, his paleobotanical studies are continuing at a new Institute for Paleobotany and Palynology at the Centro de Investigaciones en Recursos Geológicos (CIRGEO) in Buenos Aires. His recent work for the Argentine National Oil Company has included establishing a new Palynological Laboratory under auspices of the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas.



Dr. Henry N. Andrews of Laconia, New Hampshire (formerly Head of the Botany Department, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut) served as Visiting Professor at the Geology Institute, Aarhus University, Denmark, for the fall term of 1976. An active program of research is being conducted there on fossils from brown coal.



The **International Palaeontological Association (IPA)** hopes to increase paleobotanical as well as paleozoological membership. Subscribing members receive a discount subscription rate for Lethaia (=US \$15.00) and discount for purchase of past issues. Address: Universitetsforlaget, P.O. Box 307, Blindern Oslo, 3, Norway. A new 300 page directory of "Paleontologists of the World" is **gratis** to new members while the supply lasts.



Professor Edouard Boureau writes that Mrs. A. Nicol-Lejal of his laboratory is preparing a new regional World Report in the french language. It is progressing nicely and will soon be ready.

## PALEOBOTANICAL REPRESENTATION AT GEOLOGIC CONGRESSES

Various members have been concerned about paleobotanical sessions at geological as well as botanical congresses. The IOP has a relation to botanical congresses through the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), and it also has a logical relationship to geology. The International Paleontological Association (IPA) which enrolls many paleobotanists also is affiliated, through IUBS, with zoological congresses and has established a relation with geological congresses. Last summer an IPA business meeting was held in Sydney during the 25th International Geological Congress. Nevertheless it does not seem that paleontology (including paleobotany) is being programmed more at geological than at recent botanical or zoological congresses. Of course, at all scientific congresses there probably is provision for volunteer contributions.

Last summer I asked Dr. Jack Douglass of Melbourne to attend the IPA business meeting as an IOP representative, to see whether a better means could be suggested for paleobotanical representation at geological congresses. The results are indecisive. Apparently the best approach will be by specific application to the Organizing Committee of each Geological Congress. The four year period of geological congresses differs from the others and, if meetings do not conflict and if it can be determined that the Geological Congress Organizing Committee would provide space for it, I would welcome a proposal from some IOP member able and willing to organize a paleobotanical program at a geological congress. A first time may be most important in establishing continuing relationship.

James M. Schopf

## PALEOBOTANY IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST

### A CONDENSED REPORT OF ACTIVITY IN 1976

Valentina Burago, Geological Survey (GS), has described what she considers the progenitors of Mesozoic plants (*Marattiopsis*, *Sphenozamites*, etc.) in the Permian of South Primorye. Dr. S.A. Shorochova (GS) has completed her work on the Late Triassic flora. Her doctorate thesis is available on request. S.I. Nevolena discovered a Maestrichtian flora which makes an important contribution to the succession of Sikhote-Alin Cretaceous assemblages. She also studied *Quereuxia*, a Cretaceous angiosperm with a peculiar type of floating leaves. Rima Klimova (GS) has started her doctorate thesis on the Tertiary flora of South Primorye (about 20 localities), with emphasis on the stratigraphic succession of conifers, Betulaceae, etc. Ilya Schmit (Geological Institute) is studying taxa of Aceraceae from the same localities, and Olga Sychova (Sakhalin Complex Institute) is working on Paleogene plants from South Sakhalin.

In my laboratory (Institute of Biology and Pedology), Dr. M.D. Bolotnikova has studied the palynology of successive freshwater and marine Tertiary rocks of Western Kamchatka. Nadia Blochina has added Sakhalin material to her collection of Tertiary fossil wood from various parts of the Soviet Far East. She published a paper on the Pliocene woods from Iceland in the (Soviet) Botanical Journal. T.M. Alexenko and I have collected Tertiary plants in North Sakhalin. I am busy with some Araucarian remains from bore-holes in equatorial Africa and also am studying Caytonian plants from the Tyрма River in comparison with several Yorkshire specimens. My book "Tsagajan Flora of the Amur Province" has been published by "Nauka," Moscow. It is on the *Trochodendroides* flora of Danian age and the history of mixed deciduous forests.

Most contributions listed above are to be published by the end of this year in "Paleobotany in the Far East," which is a continuation of "Fossil Flora and Phytostratigraphy of the Far East" published in 1973, and "Fossil Flora of the Far East," published in 1975.

The publication of Oswald Heer's "Beitrag zur Jura-Flora Ostsiberiens und des Amurlandes," in 1876, marked a centennial of paleobotany in Vladivostok. In addition, in 1876-1878, Heer described the fossil floras of the Upper Bureja (Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous), Tsagajan, Sakhalin (Late Cretaceous and Miocene) and of Chanka Lake in Primorye (Miocene). I reported on the present state of knowledge of these floras in readings in commemoration of V.L. Komarov.

DR. V.A. KRASSILOV

Visits from overseas palaeobotanists and a successful PB section at the 2nd Australian Geological Convention of February 1977 have helped maintain an upsurge of interest in the discipline in Australia.

Francis Hueber from Washington, D.C. (USA) spent a month in Melbourne working on Lower Devonian fructifications and consulted with Jacquelin Tims, currently completing her *Baragwanathia* Ph.D. Sid Ash (Utah) and Ruth Stockey (Ohio) attended the Convention. Later Sid went collecting with Rod Gould (Armdale, New South Wales), Jack Douglas and Paul Bolger (Geological Survey, Melbourne). Any wild stories about Sid being forced to climb enormous mountains to the point of exhaustion should be ignored!

The Palaeobotany Section at the Convention was a triumph for the convener, Rod Gould, who may have abstracts if anyone is interested.

The main topic was Angiosperm evolution.

John Rigby	Pre-Cretaceous evidence
Jack Douglas	Mesozoic beginnings
Mary Dettman	Cretaceous palynological story
Helene Martin	Tertiary palynological story
Dirk Hos	Tertiary Palm Pollens
Dave Christophel & Dave Blackburn	South Australian Eocene flora

Peter Kershaw North Eastern Australian Quaternary vegetation.

Mike Garratt also contributed on the topic of the age of the oldest *Baragwanathia* beds and there was further discussion during a post-session dinner.

"Geological" palaeobotanists were informed of the forthcoming 1981 IBC at Sydney and aid was sought for excursions and programming.

Jack Douglas

W.G. Chaloner, Birbeck College, London, England, sent in the following report on the Meeting of European Palaeobotanists—Bonn & Wuppertal, 5-10, April, 1976.

A group of some seventy palaeobotanists from eleven European countries met in Bonn and Wuppertal from 5-10 April 1976, under the joint aegis of the Linnean Society of London and the German Arbeitskreis für Paläobotanik und Palynologie. The meeting was conducted in German and English. The first day was spent in the Poppelsdorfer Schloss in Bonn, with a series of twenty-minute papers. On the second day we visited an exposure of the Upper Miocene Fischbachton where we were able to collect leaf compressions from one of the richest late Tertiary floras in Europe. The leaf-bearing clay had been specially excavated by arrangement with the mine owners and we were able to collect abundant specimens of *Taxodium*, *Acer*, *Liquidambar*, *Cercidiphyllum* and many other genera. We were also taken to the rich collection held in the information centre of the Reinischen Braunkohlenwerke in the Schloss Paffendorf.

Our second day of papers was in the Fuhlrott Museum in Wuppertal. Following this, we had a two day tour of the Rhineland Lower and Middle Devonian, through the classic sites of Krausel and Weyland's work in the Wahnachtal, Jabachtal and finally the Mosel Valley. Here the excursions and meeting ended in that uniquely German conviviality of a winetasting session. Our German hosts had, in addition, offered us generous hospitality with two receptions in Bonn and one in Wuppertal.

The twenty-eight papers presented ranged in topic from Silurian algae to late Tertiary angiosperms, from palynology to coal-balls, and (in latitude) from Spitzbergen to Natal. Abstracts have been published in the *Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg*, 17 (published 1.6.1976).

(Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should contact: Dr. F. Schaarschmidt, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, 17 Frankfurt am Main).

All participants were greatly indebted to our German hosts for a most enjoyable and extremely well-organized meeting. It is hoped to hold a "return" meeting in Britain within the next two or three years.

The Congress of the All-Union Botanical Society of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., Section of Palaeobotany will meet in September, 1978, at Kishinev, Moldavian S.S.R.

Please send news  
for this column



## RECENT SOVIET PUBLICATIONS

Takhtajan, A., (Editor), 1974, **Magnoliophyta Fossilia URSS**, Vol. 1, Magnoliaceae — Eucommiaceae, "Nauka," Leningrad Branch (actually published February, 1975).

Chochieva, K.I., 1975, **Fossil Coniferous Forest of Khvarbet**, "Metsniereba," Tbilisi.

**Fossil Floras of the Far East**, 1975, Proceedings of the Institute of Biology and Pedology, Far Eastern Scientific Center of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., New Series, Vol. 27 (130), Vladivostok.

Samylina, V.A., 1976, **The Cretaceous Flora of Omsukchan [Magadan District]**, "Nauka," Leningrad Branch.

Stanislavski, F.A., 1976, **Middle Keuper Flora of the Donets Basin**, "Naukova Dumka," Kiev.

Timofeev, B.V., T.N. German, N.S. Mikhailova, 1976, **Microphytofossils of the Precambrian, Cambrian and Ordovician**, "Nauka," Leningrad Branch.

Baranova, Ju, P., I.A. Iljinskaya, V.P. Nikitin, C.P. Pneva, A.F. Fradkina, N. Ja. Schvareva, 1976, **The Miocene of the Mamontova Gora** (stratigraphy and paleoflora), Transactions of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Siberian Branch, U.S.S.R., Vol. 233, "Nauka," Moscow.

DR. S.G. ZHILIN

## NECROLOGY

Dr. Carlos Alberto Menéndez, of the Argentine Natural Sciences Museum, Buenos Aires, Argentina, worked and published in several areas of paleobotany, including palynology. Two of his general works "The Fossil Flora of South America" and "A Bibliography of South American Paleobotany" are well known and used.

Dr. Louis Gramblast, Chairman of the Laboratory for Paleobotany and Plant Evolution, Scientific and Technical University, Montpellier, France, was a dedicated and well-known specialist in fossil charophytes.

Dr. Hans Tralau (See Editor's Note)

Paleobotanists all over the world will mourn the loss of these most able and respected colleagues.

## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Dear Friends:

The IOP is a needed and constructive organization. We will continue! With your additional aid, understanding and cooperation in communication, things will improve. With this to his advantage, our new Secretary will be able to do an outstanding job.

First of all it is my duty to suggest that it is again time to pay your dues to IOP. Unless you have already remitted, please send a bank draft or a cheque for the equivalent of \$4.00 American, to Dr. Michael C. Boulter, Secretary of IOP, London, E15, 3EA, England. It is possible Mike may wish to institute a different system of dues collection later (regional dues collectors might be used), but **do not wait**. To continue to send Newsletters as we plan, we need some money now.

Other matters of general concern for paleobotanists have also come to my attention. The U.S.G.S. Compendium Index of Paleobotany has recently lost its bibliographer through retirement, and, under present arrangements, is not to be replaced. Some additional help certainly is needed to maintain this important reference aid. Concern has been expressed for maintenance of the Paleobotanical Laboratory of the Languedoc Scientific and Technical University at Montpellier, France, to carry on the plan of research formerly superintended by the late Prof. Louis Gramblast. The continuance of the Index Holmensis, and the Bibliography and Index to Paleobotany and Palynology initiated by our Dr. Hans Tralau, now deceased, is much to be desired. I hope a later Newsletter will carry a more favorable word about these endangered projects. I believe all are fundamentally important and deserve general support of paleobotanists. I am not at all sure how to bring a constructive influence to bear. All of us have a basic interest in the continuance of these long-term projects. Perhaps these are topics at least for more general discussion. Any appropriate means of influencing a favorable decision would be welcome.

Announcement of the North American Paleontological Convention II, on August 8-10 in Lawrence, Kansas, appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. Preregistration information can be had from Bill Chestnut, Continuing Education Bldg., University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 66045. According to a supplement attached to the Journal of Paleontology, a paleobotanical symposium is on "Biostratigraphy of Fossil Plants."

The Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America will meet August 21-25 at Michigan State University, East Lansing. A symposium on "Plant Reproduction and the Fossil Record" is scheduled. A field trip to plant localities in Ohio is planned following the meeting. Contact Prof. A.T. Cross, Michigan State University, for the field trip details.

Dr. Dilcher, Dept. Botany, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 47401, informs me that the Bibliography of American Paleobotany, 1975, is available from him for \$4.00 per copy. Some earlier issues also are available.

I understand a Devonian Symposium is being planned to be in Bristol, England, in 1978. The IX International Congress for Carboniferous Stratigraphy also will be convened in the summer of 1978, in Washington, D.C., with scientific sessions in Urbana, Illinois, and a field excursion to the stratotype section in between. More details will be available in a later Newsletter.

Unquestionably, I have forgotten to include other items that should have been included. I regret the oversight. Obviously a much more systematic approach is needed to cover additional literature sources as they appear, and possibly some book reviews. I do hope those who have reason to believe their organization or field of interest has been "short-changed" this time, will write to the Secretary about it. Probably the complaints offer the best opportunity for further constructive comment. But the main thing the Newsletter should foster is a more general communication. This will improve the later issues of the Newsletter.

Most sincerely,  
James M. Schopf,  
President, IOP



Dues are payable  
January 1.