



International Organisation of Palaeobotany

IOP NEWSLETTER 102

November 2013

CONTENTS

FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER
REGIONAL NEWS
IPC XIV/IOPC X 2016
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OBITUARY
ADDITIONAL SAD NEWS
COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS SAD NEWS
KUDOS and HONORS for PALAEOBOTANISTS
MEETING REPORTS
BOOK REVIEW
UPCOMING MEETINGS
CALL FOR NEWS and NOTES

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

Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (March 2014) by February 28th, 2014.

President: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)
Vice Presidents: Bob Spicer (Great Britain), Harufumi Nishida (Japan), Mihai Popa (Romania)
Members at Large: Jun Wang (China), Hans Kerp (Germany), Alexej Herman (Russia)
Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor: Mike Dunn (USA)
Conference/Congress Member: To be determined

IOP Logo: The evolution of plant architecture (© by A. R. Hemsley)

FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dear International Organisation of
Palaeobotany Members,

It is once again time to renew your membership in IOP. Please use the PayPal link if you can, although I am aware that not all of us have access. In that case please contact your regional representative, and follow the procedures that they have in place.

We are still having communication issues, particularly with keeping the mailing list up to date. I apologize for that, and assure you that we are working on it. But do please communicate among yourselves, and let me know when anyone who is not getting these newsletters is identified. Newsletters go out in November (although this one is a week late) March and July, and I don't know who is missed unless I get feedback. But please know that once I know of a missed member, I will fix the problem.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or any information you would like passed on to the Membership.

I can be reached at:

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REGIONAL NEWS

Please send any Palaeobotanically related news or information to your Regional Representative who will pass those data on to me. News from each region may translate to success stories for other regions and we all appreciate hearing about what's going on.

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IPC XIV/IOPC X 2016

The 2016 joint meeting of the International Palynological Congress and the International Organization of Palaeobotanists will be held in Salvador, Brazil.

At this time we can only say that the meeting will be during the fall, hopefully early in October, or late in September.

I will send additional details as they are worked out, but please do keep this date in mind. 2016 will be here before we know it, and it is never too early to start thinking about symposia etc.

I am also excited to announce that the Organizing Committee of the XIII IPC/ IX IOPC Tokyo, reported that they closed their books in a very healthy condition, and have donated a considerable amount to future International Conferences. The XIII IPC/ IX IOPC 2012 Tokyo Commemorative Fund will support young scientist and student participation. Ruth Stockey is chairing the Committee that will formalize this new fund, and I will hopefully report on the status of the fund in a newsletter in the near future.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Once again it's time again to renew your membership in IOP for 2014 and up to five additional years if you wish. It's very easy to do that online at <http://www.palaeobotany.org/members/> by entering your user name (your e-mail address) and password. If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the "forgotten your password?" button, and a new password will be supplied.

Paypal is a very simple and secure method of renewing your membership. However, I do understand that not all of our members are able to access Paypal. In that case please continue working with your regional representative.

Membership is only \$10.00 US per year, and gives voting rights, the privilege of holding

office in the Organisation, online access to the most recent issues of the newsletter, reduced registration fee for the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conferences (IOPC), financial assistance and reduced IOPC costs for student members.

OBITUARY

In Memoriam Harald Walther* **(17 May 1929 – 2 July 2013)**



Professor, Dr. Harald Walther in the opencast mine
Profen

Prof. Dr. Harald Walther passed away on the 2nd of July 2013 after a brief illness as the result of an accident. He was a Corresponding Member and Honorary Scientist of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung in Frankfurt on the Main, Germany and Honorary Member of the German Palaeontological Society. With his passing we have lost an internationally honoured and esteemed palaeobotanist, who scientifically researched and published as well as taught palaeobotany as honorary professor at the Technische Universität Dresden until recently.

A Passionate Tertiary Palaeobotanist

Harald Walther was one of the most famous and distinguished German palaeobotanists for decades, a representative of the “classical” Tertiary palaeobotany in good tradition with Goeppert, Menzel, Engelhardt and Kräusel. As curator for palaeontology at the Staatliches Museum für Mineralogie und Geologie Dresden (today merged with Senckenberg) he established the topic Tertiary palaeobotany and developed it to a worldwide respected and accredited research unit. Everyone who worked with cuticles of fossil leaves came to Harald Walther’s lab someday. As basis for all knowledge, he considered collections as something permanently in contrast to interpretations and determinations which may change over time. And so he tripled the collection’s inventory of Tertiary fossils under his aegis, which were especially excavated in the lignite open-cast mines in central Germany. In addition to this, the collection includes 15000 cuticle preparations of fossil and recent leaves – a scientific treasure for highly topical applied questions such as palaeoclimate reconstructions, which cannot be overestimated. Although he investigated particular taxa such as Fagaceae and Theaceae intensively, his central issue was monographic studies of fossil floras. Based on this he developed together with the internationally esteemed palaeo-carpologist Dieter Hans Mai (1943-2013) the concept of megafloreal complexes (“Florenkomplexe”), a biostratigraphic method for terrestrial areas. This can be regarded as the most

sustainable outcome of his comprehensive research results. Furthermore it nicely illustrates that his most significant publications were always results of teamwork. Long-time co-authors such as Zlatko Kvaček and Dieter Mai were not only scientific collaborators but also friends, i. e. the basement for excellent scientific productivity.

Biographies

His scientific career and life paths had been often documented by his friends and colleagues. Our obituary should not repeat these facts, but should encourage reading one of these publications to get to know how he went from a biology teacher at the gymnasium Großschönau (Saxony) to a palaeobotanist and curator at the museum of Dresden, what his remaining scientific achievements are, why he first started his university career after he was retired and which awards he received for his great work. Those who knew Harald Walther well could understand why he described his scientific career at the museum of Dresden in a autobiographical note.

He overcomes the Iron Curtain from East to West...

Harald Walther was Senckenberger, long before the museum of Dresden became part of the Senckenberg research institution in 2009. Everything started with personal contacts, since 1977 particularly to Friedemann Schaarschmidt (1934-2005), the former leader of the section palaeobotany in

Frankfurt, with whom he was connected by a personal friendship. Establishing contacts to (West-) German colleagues and even maintaining them were one of the toughest things for a scientist in the former GDR (East Germany) – constructional cooperation between both institutes were nearly unthinkable. True to the motto “nothing is impossible” he was able to get a permission to join the International Messel-Symposium in Frankfurt 1986, followed by participation of the 17th Annual Meeting of the former West-German working group (Arbeitskreis) of palaeobotany and palynology. One year later he visited Frankfurt/M. again to give a talk at the Goethe-University. For some time past, there was the vision that Senckenberg could directly cooperate with the museum in Dresden to make joint research projects practical. During a stay in 1988 he and Schaarschmidt were rewarded: the Staatliches Museum für Mineralogie und Geologie Dresden (at that time East Germany) and the Senckenberg Research Institute and Museum Frankfurt/M (at that time West-Germany) concluded a cooperation agreement, which should ensure an administrative basis for a close collaboration, especially for the palaeobotanists of both institutions. The political change in 1989 opened even more possibilities, e.g. joint projects founded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), which were thematically located in the terrestrial Palaeogene of central Germany. In 1990 on the occasion of the 3rd International Senckenberg-Konferenz (“Kräusel-Gedächtnissymposium”) in

Frankfurt/M, Harald Walther was appointed as a corresponding member of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung for his contributions to initiate institutional cooperation between Senckenberg and the museum in Dresden. A honour that he shares with several famous natural scientists including Alexander von Humboldt and Charles Darwin.

...and experienced the fusion with
Senckenberg

In those days it was not foreseeable that 15 years later a fusion with Senckenberg was the only option to preserve the Natural History Collections Dresden including the Museum für Mineralogie und Geologie as a research museum. After the successful fusion it was clear that the SGN appointed Harald Walther, as former curator, to be an honorary member. He was delighted that he could still take part in scientific daily routine and did not have to give up his passion palaeobotany although he was at an advanced age. Stopping research, teaching or other projects was never a question for him. Even in 2012 he increased his list of publications, which includes already more than 250 items, by adding three papers, two of them are indexed in ISI journals.

Academic supervisor of many successful
scientists

A few weeks before he passed away he was standing in front of his students teaching palaeobotany, although it became increasingly difficult to find the necessary

physical strength in the last years. However, education of young people and promotion of enthusiasm for his scientific field had been his elixir of life. It must have been a great personal satisfaction to see how his alumni became successful palaeobotanists at research institutes and museums. There is a long list of people who he supervised for their diplomas, dissertations or habilitation theses.

This story had come to an end. We will miss him very much.

Acknowledgments: Thanks are due to Mr. Lena Kemperer, MSc. (Stuttgart) for providing the English version of the text.

Volker Mosbrugger (Frankfurt), Lutz Kunzmann and Ulf Linnemann (Dresden)

*Original German version has been published in 2013 in the Senckenberg science journal Natur, Forschung, Museum vol. 143 (9/10), pp. 314-315).

ADDITIONAL SAD NEWS

From Ralph Taggart:

Aureal T. Cross, passed away peacefully on the morning of 1 Dec 2013 at the age of 97. He had suffered a major stroke a few days previously and never regained consciousness. Aureal was a paleobotanist, a pioneer in the area of palynology, and a coal geologist who retired from Michigan State University in 1986. As professor

Emeritus in Geological Sciences and Plant Biology, he remained active in the profession in varying degrees for another two decades. There will be a memorial service in Michigan sometime in the Spring, but the details are not set at this point in time.



Aureal Cross receiving the Paleobotanical Section Award, July 2009

COMMENTS ON SAD NEWS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Professor, Dr. Dieter Hans Mai passed away (1934 - 2013)

Professor Mai was a palaeobotanist, palaeocarpologist, Professor Emeritus at the Museum of Natural History Berlin, Germany, author of the textbook "Tertiäre Vegetationsgeschichte Europas" (1995), as well as Editor-in-Chief of *Palaeontographica* Abt. B (1992-2011)

An obituary will be published soon in *Palaeontographica* Abt. B.

Submitted by Lutz Kunzman

Dear IOP Members,

I would like to share some thoughts I have after learning of the passing of Professor Dieter Mai.

We knew each other for more than a half century. But unfortunately we have not been able to meet often in recent years. We met for the first time in the middle of the last century in St. Petersburg and subsequently, periodically at conferences or meetings, such as in 1995 during the field excursion to the Cis-Aralian-Turgai region where we discussed how this locality represented the cradle of warm temperate Central Asian Mid-Tertiary floras. And unfortunately for the last time in Prague or Bonn 2006-2008 (although my memory fails me on the exact time and place).

His textbook "Tertiäre vegetationsgeschichte Europas" (1995) is undoubtedly the best text-book and reference book on Tertiary Palaeobotany of the last century. Dieter was brilliant specialist for Tertiary palaeocarpology, palynology, and classic palaeobotany. Plus he was the authority, I could always count on regarding paleoclimatology, phytogeography.

Dieter, I and the Palaeobotany Community will remember you always. I would also like to express my heartfelt feelings for his family.

Mikhail Akhmetiev, Dr Sci. Geological
Institute of Russian Acad. Sci.
August 2 2013

KUDOS and HONORS for PALAEOBOTANISTS

**Dr. Sergio Archangelsky has been named
distinguished Emeritus Researcher of the
National Council of Scientific and
Technological Research (CONICET)
from Argentina.**



Dr. Sergio Archangelsky

We are glad to announce that Dr. Sergio Archangelsky has been distinguished Emeritus Researcher of the National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET) from Argentina. Dr.

Archangelsky is an internationally famous Paleobotanist that holds his Researcher position at the Palaeobotanical Division in the Argentine Natural Science Museum “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN) located in Buenos Aires city. He has published more than 150 relevant scientific publications dealing with palaeobotanical and palynological studies from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic of southern South America. Throughout his fructiferous career Dr. Archangelsky has held numerous scientific and academic positions, in Latin-America as well as in the rest of the world. Among these activities, he was our IOP Vice President during 1981-1986. Congratulations Dr. Archangelsky!

Photo: Dr. Archangelsky at the Paleobotanical Collection (BA Pb) in the Argentine Natural Science Museum “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN).

C. Kevin Boyce Awarded MacArthur Fellowship



C. Kevin Boyce

The MacArthur Fellows Program, MacArthur Fellowship, or "Genius Grant" is a prize awarded annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation typically to between 20 and 40 individuals, working in any field, who "show exceptional merit and promise for continued and enhanced creative work". According to the Foundation's website, "the fellowship is not a reward for past accomplishment, but rather an investment in a person's originality, insight, and potential".

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. There are three criteria for selection of Fellows: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.

C. Kevin Boyce is a paleobotanist whose studies of both extinct and living plants across multiple timescales are establishing direct links between ancient remains and present-day ecosystems and advancing our understanding of potential ecological changes as the planet warms. Boyce has emerged as a leader in a new subfield of paleontology that brings patterns of development and physiological processes of extant organisms to bear on the study of

fossils. In collaboration with colleagues in plant physiology, geochemistry, and climate science, Boyce has advanced interpretations of how major plant components have evolved by using such modern technology as X-ray microscopy and spectroscopy to examine plant specimens at the tissue and cellular level. His studies of leaf vein density demonstrated the development and critical importance of angiosperms' (flowering plants) high vein density, which allows them to cycle water at much faster rates than other kinds of plants. By incorporating these findings into climate models, Boyce showed that the evolution of angiosperms' unusual transport capabilities altered and intensified the hydrological cycle of tropical ecosystems, giving birth to the rainfall patterns and lush biodiversity of modern rainforests. With these propositions, Boyce is solving mysteries about the morphology of plants that have puzzled scientists for decades and establishing macroecological perspectives of emergent biodiversity, while also challenging evolutionary scientists to embrace new angles of research to advance knowledge and discovery. C. Kevin Boyce received a B.S. (1995) from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. (2001) from Harvard University. From 2001 to 2003, he held a National Research Council Associateship with the NASA Astrobiology Institute. He was affiliated with the University of Chicago (2003–2013) prior to joining the faculty of Stanford University as an associate professor in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences. His scientific publications have appeared in such

journals as Geophysical Research Letters, Geobiology, PNAS, and Paleobiology.

MEETING REPORTS

2nd International Conference of AGORA PALEOBOTANICA, “A Congress in the Countryside” Ariño (Teruel, Spain) from 9th to 13th July, 2013.

The 2nd Agora Paleobotanica International congress was held at the Interpretation Center of Rupestrial Art “Antonio Beltrán” in Ariño, a typical small mining village of Aragón region, located to the north of Teruel province (Community of Aragón, Spain).



It was an international congress focussing on a wide spectrum of palaeobotanical and palynological topics. The Congress was also planned to be as a communication platform for discussing the most topical issues of the palaeobotany related to the origin and diversification of angiosperms. For this reason, several conferences and fieldtrips were combined along the four days that lasted this congress.

The scientific programme was successfully realized due to the high scientific level of the presented communications by thirty-seven specialists from Europe (Belgium, France, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Western Russia, United Kingdom), America (Mexico, United States) and Asia (China, Turkey).

The fieldtrips included the visits to diverse Cretaceous and Tertiary outcrops. Numerous remains of diverse Albian macrofloral and microfloral assemblages with primitive angiosperms were visited. The first day we visited the plant fossil site nearby of Plou village, where the holotype of the aquatic angiosperm *Ploufolia cerciforme* was described. The second day, there was a tour to some Albian outcrops near Ariño and the interpretation center of the Fossil Wood site of Castellote village. During the morning of the last day we visited the Miocene macroflora site in Rubielos de Mora village which is a Konservat-Lagerstätten and in the afternoon the Dinópolis museum with a large number of palaeontological specimens including dinosaurs.

Welcome remarks were made by José Bienvenido Diez, Chair of the congress and the institutional representatives who supported this event from the Diputación de Aragón, Parque Cultural del Río Martín/Centro de Arte Rupestre “Antonio Beltrán” (José Royo), Dinopolis Foundation (Luis Alcalá), University of Zaragoza, and Ariño Council Hall (Joaquín Noé Serrano).

The Inaugural Conference was open to both conference delegates and the general public. Uxue Villanueva Amadoz from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM, Mexico) and Luis Miguel Sender Palomar from the University of Zaragoza (Spain) gave an opening speech about the Albian floras of the Teruel Province and its palaeogeographic and palaeoclimatic significance.

Fourty oral and fifteen poster communications were presented with a number of topics, ranging from Palaeozoic to Quaternary, including biostratigraphy, palaeogeography, palaeoecology, palaeoclimatology and new techniques in palaeobotany. One keynote was given by James A. Doyle focused on recognizing angiosperm clades in the Early Cretaceous fossil record, previous to the following roundtable about the origin and early evolution of angiosperms.

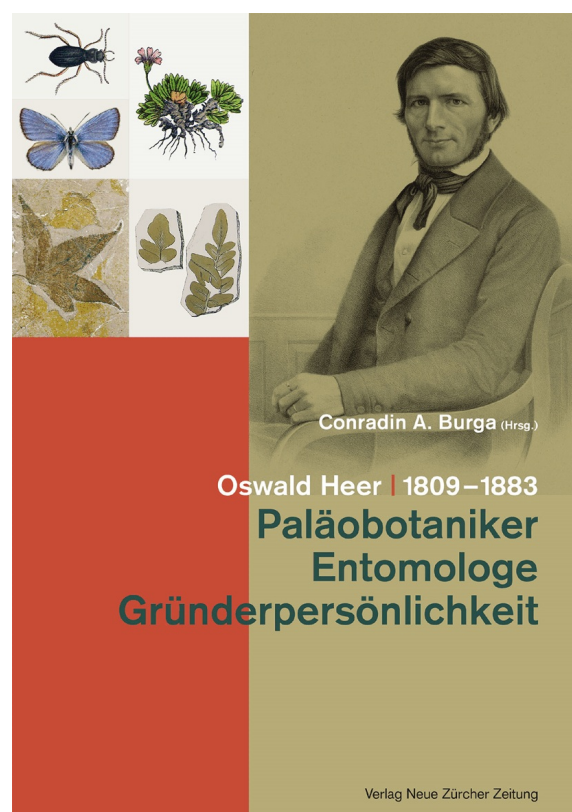
The communications of this congress will be published at the beginning of 2014 in a special volume in the journal Historical Biology.

The meeting recognised the importance of palaeobotanical remains of Teruel Province and it has been a discussion forum of hot topics in Palaeobotany, specially related to the origin and diversification of angiosperms. Moreover, this congress has contributed to the exchange of ideas and collaboration between participants in the future.

NOTE: More information about the congress and the abstract volume will be available on the following website:

<http://www.grupopaleobotanicaiberica.es/ev-entos/congresos/arino2013.html>

BOOK REVIEW



**Oswald Heer 1809–1883 Paläobotaniker
Entomologe Gründerpersönlichkeit.**

Conradin A. Burga 2013

Verlag Neue Zürcher Zeitung pages 511

Obtainable via www.nzz-libro.ch

Cost price Swiss Francs 58.

One does not need to be Swiss or be able to read German to enjoy this book about the amazing 19th Century pioneer Swiss palaeobotanist Oswald Heer. The 511 page book is so well laid out that passages of special interest can easily be tracked down and translated by Google. The many illustrations provide a glimpse of Heer's life from school days at Matt (near the town of Glarus, eastern Alps) and his long life as a prominent international scientist who corresponded with all of the great names of the era e.g. Humboldt, Hooker and Darwin.

Oswald was the talented son born to a remarkable father Jacob Heer (1784–1864) who was the Protestant priest at Matt for many years (1817–1842). During this time he was also the sole teacher for his nine children and other gifted students and was instrumental in creating 20 new schools in the district and being the school inspector. In 1836 Jacob Heer published a math textbook and late in life revised the third edition. From 1842–1853 he administered his own school in which the curriculum included Greek, Latin, Mathematics etc.

Jacob's first son Oswald flourished under his father's tutelage and mastered the classics as well as having to do his daily chores with the farm animals. He was up at 4 am and had a fixed timetable till 7 pm in the evening. The only time he found to pursue his love for botany and entomology were snatches at lunch time and in the long summer evenings. He made contact with and

was encouraged by the entomologists J.P. de Clairville and J.J. Bremi and the botanist J. Hegetschweiler. For the latter he made careful plant collections with notes on plant variation etc.

The only holiday he had was a nine-day Alpine Tour with his father and two siblings where they hiked with rucksacks over mountain passes from about 4 am till late each evening. At the town of Chur they studied the mineral collection at the high school – of this and other happenings, Oswald kept records in two detailed note books (still available for study in the Heer archives).

A successful matriculation exam led to Oswald Heer's acceptance at Halle University (Germany). The month long journey from his home in Switzerland to Halle is described in a detailed letter written to his father in which he described the long walk, places of note and the natural history collections he saw along the way. At Halle he studied theology (29.9.1828–12.3.1831). Despite the full program of prescribed theology lectures he found time to gain knowledge from the local professors of botany and entomology and attend their lectures when possible. To ease the long hours of study he fortunately had the company of his cousin Christoph Heer as a co-lodger and fellow student. In their rented room they also kept a snake, a tortoise and potted alpine orchid plants!

Returning to Switzerland he passed the state exam for priesthood at St Gallen (22.4.1831). Fortunately for palaeobotany he decided not to take on the secure job as a priest but with some hesitation was employed as a curator by Heinrich Escher. This job, as it transpired, was ideal for Heer. Escher was a rich business man in Zurich whose passion from boyhood was collecting insects and in later years was able to buy some excellent private collections. One of Heer's duties was to classify the difficult and large collection of beetles. In 1858 this Insect collection consisting of 22,000 species and 66,300 samples was donated by Escher to the State. Heer was treated as a son and as tutor to Heinrich Escher's two children and became their life long friend and mentor. Later Heer wrote "I came as a theologian and departed as a scientist" (1832–1838). In 1834 he was appointed as the first director of the newly established Botanic Gardens where he remained until his resignation in 1882. He also became Professor of Botany and Entomology at the University in Zurich. The main focus of Heer's research was palaeobotany but he also kept detailed weather records, collected a herbarium, studied the effects of altitude on plants, plant geography, biodiversity, studied living and fossil insects, geology, agriculture etc. Hence he is a father figure to many modern disciplines.

As in most biographies this book is multifaceted. I recommend a careful perusal of the contents pages which gives a guide to

the breadth and depth of Heer's scientific endeavors and the milestones of his life and participation in the local university life of his day. Just as the city of Zurich grew in Heer's days (see inside front and back pages of city views from about 1847 to about 1880) so has the city and the scientific disciplines grown exponentially since Heer's days.

A greater part of the book includes reviews by specialists on Heer's scientific works. His most extensive publications were in palaeobotany and his important research on the fossil floras of Switzerland and the Arctic are included in the books "Die Urwelt der Schweiz, Flora tertiaria Helvetiae, Flora fossilis Helvetiae, Flora fossilis Arctica (published in seven volumes 1868–1883)". These are discussed by René Hantke (53 pages) and will be of special interest to members of IOP. A chapter on Heer's fossil collections by Stefan Ungricht, Milena Pika-Biolzi and René Hantke discusses the transition from curiosity cabinets to modern scientific collections. Heer's role in botanical archaeology is by Stefanie Jacomet and Angela Kreuz while the entomological collection is reviewed by Franziska Schmid. The long role of Heer as Director of the Botanic Gardens from 1834 to 1882 is discussed by Rolf Rutishauser. Following Heer's death a memorial was erected (25.10.1887) and still stands in what has since become the garden of the Ethnology Museum, Zurich.

In addition to his daily work and writing articles for publication, Heer had an extensive correspondence with all the major researchers of his day and many others (in total some 650 persons). In researching this book the author Burga refers to some 4000 letters in the various Heer archives. Heer was a contemporary of Darwin (1809–1982), being born in the same year. Heer's reaction to the "Origin of Species" and his critical remarks are discussed in this book. Darwin wrote the following in praise of Heer "Many as have been the wonderful discoveries in Geology during the last half century, I think none have exceeded in interest your results with respect to the plants which formerly existed in the Arctic regions".

This fine book will be of interest not only to palaeobotanists but to those in various related disciplines and also to students interested in the history of science who may then wish to delve deeper into the wealth of information preserved in the Heer archives. In closing I add a quote by Heer (given in German on page 104) written to his close friend Alfred Escher (letter 12.1.1882) referring to his research life "Every new discovery has filled me with inner happiness and I had the luck to partly expand the horizon of human knowledge."

I have enjoyed reading this book and recommend it to all with an interest in palaeobotany.

Heidi Anderson (maiden name Schwyzer and now married to Keith Holmes).

Hon. Palaeobotanist, Evolutionary Studies Institute (BPI Palaeontology), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

4th International Palaeontological Congress

The 4th International Palaeontological Congress will be held in Mendoza, Argentina, September 28 - October 3, 2014. the Congress website is already up and running at:

www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar.

Register early and save up to 20%.

From: Roger Thomas, Secretary-General of IPA

Dear Colleagues,

You have probably received notices via Paleonet or other means, sent directly by our colleagues in Argentina, advertising the exciting program that they have developed for the Fourth International Palaeontological Congress. This will be held in Mendoza, September 28 to October 3, 2014.

There are several things you can do to help ensure the success of the Congress.

- Plan to attend and participate in IPC4 !!!
- Encourage your colleagues and students to attend and participate in IPC4.
- Register early and encourage others to do likewise. The organizers have announced two levels of substantial discounts on the registration fees, for payments made by July 30 (deadline extended from June 16 date previously announced) and December 30, 2013. You can register now at <http://www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar/registration/>
- Do everything you can to encourage professional organizations of which you are a member to make funds available to subsidize participation by students in IPC4.
- Encourage these same organizations to sponsor and financially support symposia, keynote presentations (see IPC4 website) or other events occurring at IPC4. Please note the opportunity to have an organization's logo shown, signifying it as a contributor to or supporter of IPC4, at <http://www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar/contributors/> and <http://www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar/supporters/>

For further information on these matters, please contact the organizers at: secretary@ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar

Warm regards! Roger

--

Roger D. K. Thomas

John Williamson Nevin Professor of
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9th EPPC 2014

(August 26-31, 2014, University of Padua)



The online registration to the 9th European Palaeobotany - Palynology Conference (EPPC) is now open, and a convenient "Early Bird" fee will be available until 1st January 2014. Italian palaeobotanists and palynologists are enthusiastically taking care

of the organization and warmly invite all the European and non-European colleagues to this conference.

Padova is a charming historical city, located about 40 km west of Venice, in Northern Italy. It has a dense network of arcaded streets, large “piazze” (squares) and many bridges crossing the various branches of the Bacchiglione river. The almost 800 years old University of Padova is famous for having had Galileo Galilei among its lecturers as well as important 19th century palaeobotanists such as Abramo Massalongo and Barone Achille de Zigno.

The present-day problems of climatic and floristic changes, ecosystem and landscape transformations caused by human activities, force the palaeobotanical and palynological world to get a better knowledge on the events of the past, and to reinforce the bridge between past and present. A strong interest in these themes has been demonstrated by the submission of 34 symposium proposals, with a very broad coverage of various topics.

All scientific sessions will be held at the new Department of Geosciences. However, also the historical Palazzo del Bò, the Botanical Garden (UNESCO world heritage) and the Museum of Palaeontology will be involved in this conference. Field-trips are planned in the fascinating landscapes of the Dolomites, Sardinia, Emilia-Romagna, Latium, Tuscany and Umbria. A mid-conference trip to the famous Eocene fossil site of Monte Bolca will also be organized.

In order to favor the attendance of young scientists, the student fees have been kept as low as possible and low-cost University residences are also available. Travel grants are funded by the PalAss and IFPS for students and PhD-students.

Hoping to see you all in Padova,
The EPPC 2014 organizing group

Secretary and contact-person: Evelyn Kustatscher (congress@naturmuseum.it)

More information is available at the homepage of the congress:

<http://www.geoscienze.unipd.it/eppc2014/index.html>

[://www.geoscienze.unipd.it/9th-european-palaeobotany-palynology-conference](http://www.geoscienze.unipd.it/9th-european-palaeobotany-palynology-conference)

The 10th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC)
February 15 - 18, 2014

We are pleased to announce that the 10th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) will be held in Gainesville, Florida, in February 2014. The meeting will be hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History (University of Florida) from February 15th through 18th (Saturday through Tuesday).

Pre-conference and post-conference field trips are tentatively planned for February 13th - 14th and 19th - 20th, respectively.

The North American Paleontological Convention is a major international paleontological event administered by the Paleontological Society under the auspices of the Association of North American Paleontological Societies. Initiated in 1969, NAPC meets every 4-5 years. The convention includes active participation from all fields of paleontology. Over 500 participants from 26 countries attended the most recent NAPC in Cincinnati (2009).

A more detailed 1st circular, including a formal solicitation for symposium/theme session proposals, student support information, important deadlines, and a preliminary website will be forthcoming shortly.

We extend our warmest invitation to all who are interested in paleontology and hope to see you in Florida in February 2014.

On behalf of the organizing committee of the 2014 NAPC:

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CALL FOR NEWS AND NOTICES

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to be assured of inclusion in the next newsletter, all information must be received by 28 February 2014.