



International Organisation of Palaeobotany
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July 2009

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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 (October 2009) the latest by October 15th, 2009.

President: Gar Rothwell (USA)

Vice Presidents: Ruben Cuneo (Argentina), Carole Gee (Germany), Edith Taylor (USA)

Members at Large: David Ferguson (Austria), Lena Golovneva (Russia), Sun Ge (China)

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Conference/Congress Member: Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

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

HONORARY MEMBER - BILL CHALONER THANKS IOP

In Newsletter 88 we reported that Bill Chaloner was elected honorary member by the executive committee. Here is Bill's response to Gar:

Dear Gar - Would you please relay to your Executive Committee my very deep appreciation for the honour and kindness they did me in electing me an honorary member of IOP? It takes me back to the Paris Botanical Congress of 1954, when I still vividly remember Ed Boureau proposing that such an organisation should be formed, and the very lukewarm reception that the idea received. I just wish that he could see the body as it is now, as you, Mike Boulter and others have made it!

Of course the best part of Honorary Membership is not having to try to recall whether I did or didn't pay the sub for last year, this year or next year! (Only kidding - I really do appreciate it beyond words!) Hope we will meet up some time soon on the palaeobotanical circuit.

*Best wishes to you and Ruth,
Bill*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

11th Joint Meeting of the Regional Committees of Northern Paleogene (RCNPS) and Neogene (RCNNS) Stratigraphy (Geosciences Department of the University Fribourg, Switzerland, August 26-29, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

Present and future of palaeobotany in Southwest Europe in honour of Robert H. Wagner
16th International Meeting of the OFP (Organization of French-speaking Palaeobotanists)

(Aguilar de Campóo, Province Palencia, NW Spain, September 9-11, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

The only change is that the deadline for submission of abstracts is delayed to June 30.

<http://www.paleoserver.com/ofp/>

10th Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Symposium (Teruel, Spain; September 14-21, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

<http://www.meetandforum.net/MTE2009>

16th meeting of the Group of European Charophyte Specialists (GEC) (Ohrid, Macedonia, Sept 12-16, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

42nd Annual Meeting of the AASP (Meadowview Convention Center, Kingsport TN; Sept 27-30, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

www.palynology.org/meetings.html

How to Know Pollen and Spores A Symposium Honoring Dr. Ronald O. Kapp, PhD

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

www.palynology.org/

Paleontological Association – annual meeting (Bonn, Germany, October 4-9, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

www.palges2009.uni-bonn.de/

Paleobotany of the John Day fossil beds, central Oregon (Portland, USA, October 22-24, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

rdillhoff@evolvingearth.org

1st Session of the Azerbaijan Paleontological Society – The organic world and geohistory of sedimentary paleobasins
(Geology Institute of ANAS, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ1143; November 2-3, 2009)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

www.gia.az

www.azerkasumzadeh.narod.ru

www.paleoazerbaijan.narod.ru

27th annual Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (MPC)

(Frostburg State University (FSU), Frostburg, western Maryland, USA; weekend May 28-30, 2010)

The colloquium will be hosted by Hongqi Li. Registration begins on Friday afternoon, paper presentations on Saturday, and a field trip on Sunday. The conference will focus on new research and discoveries about fossil plants found around the world, and the atmosphere will be comfortable for all paleobotanists, educators, students, and fossil lovers to participate. Located among the beautiful Appalachian Mountains, Frostburg welcomes you to enjoy the very pleasant season in late May.

Please visit <http://www.frostburg.edu/27thMPC/> for new updates or contact Hongqi Li at hli@frostburg.edu for further information on the conference.

Third International Palaeontological Congress IPC 3 2010
(Imperial College and Natural History Museum, London, UK, June 28 - July 3, 2010)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

<http://palass.org>

8th European Palaeobotany – Palynology Conference (EPPC)
(Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary, July 6-10, 2010)

We would like to inform you that our website is already alive (<http://eppc2010.org>) and you may find preliminary information on the conference.

Deadlines for registration, abstract submission and information on registration fees, detailed programme of fieldtrips will be available in September on our website.

The Hungarian Natural History Museum will serve as the venue of the conference which enables us to keep the conference costs reasonably low.

Pre- (one-day excursion) and post-conference fieldtrips visiting diverse, Mesozoic and Cenozoic deposits of Hungary will be offered. These include the famous Liassic deposits of the Mecsek Mts, Paleogene and Neogene localities of North Hungary and Transdanubian Quaternary and late Neogene deposits and sites. All excursions will be combined with a pinch of modern botany to give a taste of the modern flora of Hungary.

Pre-conference fieldtrip and registration are scheduled for 6th of July followed by the welcome party. The scientific program starts on 7th of July with opening ceremony and plenary session. For the afternoon of July 8th an optional sight-seeing tour in Budapest and an evening program in the Lázár Equestrian Park will be offered to those interested in culture. An optional conference dinner combined with a boat trip on the Danube will be scheduled for the evening of July 9th.

We are inviting proposals by members of the palaeobotany community to organize symposia and workshops and we encourage all of you to contribute new ideas, concepts to enhance the scientific quality of the conference and attract more participants. Deadline for symposium proposals is 15th of November, 2009. Please visit our website www.eppc2010.org for more information or contact Boglárka Erdei via email (paleobot@bot.nhmus.hu).

(Please see also Newsletter 87, Oct 2008.)

Carpathian Balkan Geological Association (CBGA) XIX International Congress 2010 (HELEXPO “Nikolaos Germanos” International Congress Centre, Thessaloniki, Northern Greece, September 23-26, 2010)

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.
www.cbga2010.org

Invitation to the IPC/IOPC 2012 in Tokyo

Please see for details Harufumi Nishida's contribution in Newsletter 87, Oct 2008.
<http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/ipc13japan/IPC-IOPC/index.html>

REPORTS FROM PAST MEETINGS

Honorary colloquium to Harald Walther's 80th birthday

The honorary public colloquium dedicated to Harald Walther was held at the Museum of Mineralogy and Geology of the Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden, Germany on May 19, 2009. Two days before Harald Walther celebrated his 80th birthday. Harald Walther is one of the leading specialists in palaeobotany of the Paleogene and Neogene of Europe expressed by more than 260 publications.

About 150 colleagues and friends of him came to Dresden taking part in this colloquium, e. g. Margaret Collinson, Johanna Eder, Dave Ferguson, Dieter Mai, Volker Mosbrugger, Zlatko Kvacek, and Ewa Zastawniak. Ulf Linnemann (director of the museum) gave the laudatio. The plenary lecture on “Evolution and natural sciences” was given by Volker Mosbrugger.

Harald Walther was awarded as Honorary scientist of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung in Frankfurt am Main by Senckenberg's director Volker Mosbrugger and he was made freeman of the city of Seifhennersdorf by the mayor Mrs. Karin Berndt.

Harald Walther started his carrier as palaeobotanist in Seifhennersdorf. Later, he was the curator of palaeontology at the Museum of Mineralogy and Geology in Dresden, Saxony. He retired in 1994. Harald Walther is still active studying floras from the Oligocene and Miocene as well as teaching at the University in Dresden.

Lutz Kunzmann, Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

A Petrified trunk on exhibit in Sangli, Maharashtra state of India



We, the palaeobotanists of Shivaji University, Kolhapur area, are happy to inform the fellow palaeobotanists of India and abroad that recently a petrified trunk of dicot wood was erected in a corporation garden of Sangli in Maharashtra state.

This wood was collected by Professor A. R. Kulkarni Ex. Head of Life Science, Department of Mumbai University, Mumbai (India). The trunk fragment and other angiosperm plant fossils derive from the locality Nawargaon, in Wardha district of Maharashtra. The sequence there is of early Cretaceous age. The intention is to increase the interest in plant fossils among young students and research workers by exhibiting an attractive petrified wood in a public garden so that students and the public can admire the plant fossil.

This was achieved by the cooperation of Head of the Botany Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and Dr. B. A. Vagyani in charge of the Palaeobotany Division. A local organisation, ‘NISARG PRATISHTAN’ and its member V. P. Prathamshetty supported this project.

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Download site for paleobotanical monographs

A website called “Internet Archive” (www.archive.org) now includes some classic paleobotanical monographs. Some difficult-to-obtain pioneering monographs, most dealing with North America, Europe, and Australia, are now available for free download. The volumes were scanned in high quality both for text and images, and are text-searchable.

This is a welcome new archive, especially considering that many of the books printed with acid paper during the early 20th century have become very brittle and difficult to use. In addition, the facility to conduct electronic word searches of these documents makes it easier to locate critical information.

We are grateful to the New York Botanical Garden, University of Michigan, University of Toronto Google, and others who have made these volumes freely available in pdf format. The relevant search page, from which any of the following monographs listed below may be recovered, is:

<http://www.archive.org/details/biodiversity>.

The following list indicates the volumes currently available online as of May 2009:

Baumberger, Ernst, **1914**. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Tertiärflora aus dem Gebiete des Vierwaldstätter Sees.

Berry, E. W. **1903**. Flora of the Matawan formation (Crosswick's clays). [Cretaceous; New Jersey]; **1911**. The flora of the Raritan formation. [New Jersey; Cretaceous]; **1914**. The affinities and distribution of the lower Eocene flora of southeastern North America; **1916**. The physical conditions and age indicated by the flora of the

Alum Bluff formation. [Miocene, Florida]; **1916**. The physical conditions indicated by the flora of the Calvert formation - [Miocene; Washington (D.C.); Virginia]; **1922**. The flora of the Cheyenne sandstone of Kansas. [Cretaceous; Kansas]; **1922**. Additions to the flora of the Wilcox group. [Eocene].

Brongniart, A. **1822**. Sur la classification et la distribution des végétaux fossiles; **1828**. Prodrôme d'une histoire des végétaux fossiles.

Caspary, R. **1906**. Die Flora des Bernsteins und anderer fossiler Harze des ostpreussischen Tertiärs. [Germany Prussia; Tertiary]

Chaney, R. W. **1919**. The ecological significance of the Eagle Creek flora of the Columbia River gorge. [Oregon; Washington (State)]

Dawson, J. W., Sir, **1883**. On the Cretaceous and Tertiary floras of British Columbia and the North-West Territory. [Cretaceous; Tertiary; Canada]; **1900**. Canadian Pleistocene flora and fauna: report of the committee consisting of Sir J.W. Dawson [et al.] - On the Pleistocene near Toronto by A.P. Coleman -- Pleistocene flora of the Don Valley by D.P. Penhallow. [Pleistocene; Ontario Toronto Region].

Dorf, E. **1938**. Upper Cretaceous floras of the Rocky Mountain region (Volumes 1, 2).

Engelhardt, H. **1898**. Die Tertiärflora von Berand im Böhmischem Mittelgebirge. Ein neuer Beitrag zur Kenntniss der fossilen Pflanzen Böhmens; **1922**. Die alttertiäre Flora von Messel bei Darmstadt. [Hesse (Grand Duchy)]; Hesse (Grand Duchy); Tertiary.

Engelhardt, H., and Kinkelin, F. **1908**. I. Oberpliocäne Flora und Fauna des Untermainales, insbesondere des Frankfurter Klärbeckens. II. Unterdiluviale Flora von Hainstadt a. M [Pliocene; Mainz River Valley].

Erdtman, G. **1957**. Pollen and spore morphology/plant taxonomy; gymnospermae, pteridophyta, bryophyta.

- Ettingshausen, C.F. von, **1854**. Die Eocene Flora des Monte Promina. [Croatia Dalmatia]; **1888**. Die fossile Flora von Leoben in Steiermark [Austria (Styria)]; **1858**. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der fossilen Flora von Sotzka in Untersteiermark. [Tertiary; Plants, Fossil; Styria]; **1862**. Über die Entdeckung des neuholländischen Charakters der Eocenflora Europa's und über die Anwendung des Naturselbstdruckes zur Förderung der Botanik und Paläontologie, als Entgegnung auf die Schrift des Herrn Prof. Dr. F. Unger: "Neuholland in Europa." [Europe, Eocene; Plants, Australia]; **1875**. Die genetische Gliederung der Flora Australiens; **1890**. Die fossile Flora von Schoenegg bei Wies in Steiermark [Tertiary; Austria]; **1895**. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Kreideflora Australiens [Tertiary; Australia]
- Felix, J. P. **1883**. Die fossilen Hölzer Westindiens.
- Feistmantel, O. **1871**. Steinkohlenflora von Kralup in Böhmen.
- Florin, R. **1922**. Zur alttertiären Flora der südlichen Mandschurei.
- Fontaine, William Morris, **1880**. The Permian or Upper Carboniferous flora of West Virginia and S.W. Pennsylvania.
- Goldenberg, F. **1854**. Die Selagineen der Vorwelt: ein Beitrag zur näheren Kenntnis der Flora der Steinkohlenperiode.
- Goeppert, H. R. **1883**. Über Wärmeentwicklung in der lebenden Pflanze.
- Goeppert, H. R. and Menge, A. **1883**. Die Flora des Bernsteins und ihre Beziehungen zur Flora der Tertiärformation und der Gegenwart.
- Hartz, N. **1909**. Bidrag til Danmarks tertiaere og diluviale flora. [Denmark; Tertiary; Quaternary].
- Heer, O. **1876**. Beiträge zur fossilen Flora Spitzbergens: gegründet auf die Sammlungen der schwedischen Expedition vom Jahre 1872 auf 1873. [Norway Spitsbergen Island; Svalbard]; **1878**. Beiträge zur miocenen Flora von Sachalin. [Miocene; Russia (Federation) Sakhalin (Sakhalinskaia oblast)]; **1869** Flora fossilis Alaskana. **1871**. Fossile Flora der Bären Insel [Norway Bear Island].
- Hollick, C. A., **1906**. The Cretaceous flora of southern New York, and New England.
- Kidston, R. **1901**. The flora of the Carboniferous period; **1888**. On *Neuropteris plicata* Sternberg and *Neuropteris rectineruis* Kidston n. sp. On the fossil flora of the Staffordshire coal fields - [Carboniferous; England; Neuropteris].
- Kimball, J. P. **1857**. Flora from the Apalachian coal-field.
- Kirchner, W.C.G. **1898**. Contribution to the fossil flora of Florissant, Colorado.
- Knowlton, F. H. **1899**. Fossil flora of the Yellowstone National Park [Eocene leaves and woods]; **1902**. Fossil flora of the John Day basin, Oregon [Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene leaves]; **1914**. The Jurassic flora of Cape Lisburne, Alaska; **1916**. Contributions to the geology and paleontology of San Juan County, New Mexico; **1922**. The Laramie flora of the Denver basin. With a review of the Laramie problem.
- Kurr, J. G. von, **1845**. Beiträge zur fossilen Flora der Juraformation Württembergs. [Germany Württemberg; Jurassic Cretaceous flora].
- Lesquereux., L. **1874**. VI. Contributions to the fossil flora of the western territories. pt. I. The Cretaceous flora. **1878**. VII. Contributions to the fossil flora of the western territories. pt. II. The Tertiary flora; **1883**. VIII. Contributions to the fossil flora of the western territories. pt. III. The Cretaceous and Tertiary floras.
- Massalongo, A. B. **1858**. Synopsis florae fossilis senogalliensis.
- Nathorst, A. G. **1894**. Zur paläozoischen Flora der arktischen Zone, enthaltend die auf Spitzbergen, auf der Bären-Insel und auf Novaja Zemblja von den schwedischen Expeditionen entdeckten paläozoischen Pflanzen; **1897**. Zur mesozoischen Flora Spitzbergens, gegründet auf die Sammlungen der schwedischen Expeditionen [Spitsbergen

Island]; **1902**. Zur oberdevonischen Flora der Bären-Insel.

Penhallow, D. P. **1907**. Contribution to the Pleistocene flora of Canada.

Schindehütte, G. **1907**. Die Tertiärflora des Basalttuffes vom Eichelskopf bei Homberg (Bez. Kassel). [Germany Hessen; Tertiary]

Schulze, Erwin **1888**. Über die Flora der subhercynischen Kreide - Thesis (doctoral), Vereinigte Friedrichs-Universität Halle-Wittenberg. [Cretaceous; Germany (East)].

Seward, A. C. **1903**. Fossil floras of Cape Colony. [Cape of Good Hope, South Africa].

Sterzel, J. T. **1886**. Die Flora des Rothliegenden im nordwestlichen Sachsen. [Saxony]

Walkom, A. B. **1915**. The flora of the Ipswich and Walloon series (Volume 3).

Ward, L. F., **1886**. Synopsis of the flora of the Laramie group; 1905 Status of the Mesozoic floras of the United States (Volume pt. 1). [Cretaceous, Paleocene]

Wieland, G. R. **1906**. American fossil cycads, vols. I, 2. [Bennettitales: Cycadeoidea]

White, D. **1900**. The stratigraphic succession of the fossil floras of the Pottsville formation in the southern anthracite coal field, Pennsylvania. [Pennsylvania; Carboniferous]

Windisch, P. **1886**. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Tertiärflora von Island - Thesis (doctoral), Universität Leipzig, [Iceland]

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BOOK REVIEW

Atlas of the Pleistocene vascular plant macrofossils of central and eastern Europe. Part 2 - Herbaceous dicotyledons

by Feliks Yu. Velichkevich and Ewa Zastawniak.
Published by W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow.
Hardbound, 379 pages, 40 Euro.

This book includes 126 high-quality halftone plates documenting the external morphology of Pleistocene fruits and seeds in sharp detail, generally at magnifications suitable to show cellular surface patterns. Accompanying text describes the morphology of each species, gives its known stratigraphic range, lists the fossil occurrences known from Central and Eastern Europe, and summarizes the ecology and geographic distribution of the extant relatives.

This atlas follows an earlier volume (2006) in which the same authors described macroremains of Pteridophytes and Monocots. Sadly, the first author died before the work could be completed and it is fortunate indeed that Ewa Zastawniak coordinated the tasks of finishing this important work. The opening chapter, "Main stages of the development of the Pleistocene flora of Central and Eastern Europe, based on palaeocarpological data," brings to English an updated version of an important summary article published in Polish by Velichkevich in 1982.

Most of the remains are assigned to recent species. Because of the excellent three-dimensional preservation of the fossils, and the frequent application of extant species names, it was not immediately clear to me whether the images represented modern specimens for comparison, or actual fossils! Nevertheless, all of the specimens are clearly indicated as being from sedimentary deposits. Additional contributing author, Jan J. Wójcicki, introduces new species of *Trapa*, along with his review of previously recognized species of the genus. Except in the case of *Trapa*, the numerous specimens figured are not assigned

catalog numbers, which may make it difficult to locate and re-examine the same specimens in the future, but the localities for each specimen are indicated. A map is provided showing the geographic positions of the localities in Poland, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, and Russia.

The book is well indexed, and provides a useful bibliography of related literature. Ninety-four genera are treated, many with multiple species. The families treated include Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Balsaminaceae, Boraginaceae, Brassicaceae, Callitricaceae, Cannabinaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Ceratophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Droseraceae, Elatinaceae, Empetraceae, Ericaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fabaceae, Haloragaceae, Hippuridaceae, Hypericaceae, Lamiaceae, Linaceae, Menyanthaceae, Nymphaeaceae, Onagraceae, Oxalidaceae, Papaveraceae, Plumbaginaceae, Polygonaceae, Primulaceae, Ranunculaceae, Rosaceae, Salicaceae, Santalaceae, Solanaceae, Trapaceae, Urticaceae, Valerianaceae, and Violaceae.

This volume is an excellent guidebook that will be handy as an aid for identifying seeds that might occur in archaeological deposits as well as in undisturbed glacial and interglacial deposits. It is also useful as resource book for botanists interested to learn some of the distinctive kinds of fruit and seed morphology found among the families listed above.

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OBITUARIES

NICOLAE TICLEANU (1943-2009)

With great regret we have to announce that Prof. Nicolae Ticleanu passed away early on March 27th, 2009 at the age of 66 after a courageous fight against cancer. He was an active member of several committees concerned with the International Geological Correlation Program, NECLIME (Neogene Climate Evolution in Eurasia), Biodiversity, International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP), Geological Society of Romania, Biological Society of Romania, Paleontologists Society from Romania, etc.

He was born in Bucharest, Romania, on March 17th, 1943, and he often related that his studies of natural sciences started as a young child when his father, a constructing engineer, was working all over the country. He graduated high school in Bicz (Bacau District, north of Romania) in 1961 and between 1961 and 1966, as a student, followed the courses of the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geography. He worked as a field geologist for the geological company „Prospectiuni SA” from September 1966 to September 1973 writing 14 internal geological reports and 6 scientific papers.

In 1973, Nicolae Ticleanu became a scientific researcher of the Geological Institute of Romania, until January 1995. During this period he organized the Laboratory for Coal Geology, the first of its kind, and wrote 89 internal geological reports and 55 scientific papers (22 on coal geology). In the following years, his interest was focused on coal genesis, coal facies, coal petrography and mining activities of the most important sedimentary basins with coal accumulations in Romania. He accomplished the reconstruction of the history of floras from coal basins of Romania and suggested their palaeogeographical differentiation during the Cenophytic. Nicolae Ticleanu's palaeobotanical interests were very wide - palaeofloristics, palaeoecology, phytotaphonomy, palaeo-vegetation, palaeoclimatology.

In 1993, he defended his PhD thesis, in the field „Mineral fuels and salt occurrences“, entitled „The

genesis of the main Neogene coal occurrences of Romania based on characteristic palaeophytocoenoses, special view on the Pliocene Basin of Oltenia county“. This was a fundamental generalisation of the geological and palaeobotanical studies over the Neogene coal basins in Romania.

In 1995 he was appointed Professor of Coal Geology and Coal Petrology, at the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, University of Bucharest. In this time, he prepared 6 unpublished scientific reports and more than 30 scientific works. A series of studies was devoted to morphological and taxonomical problems of fossil leaves, fruits, and seeds, changes in the palaeovegetation and palaeoclimatological signals inferred from plants. He published the first attempt to reconstitute the evolution of the mean annual temperature in the Neogene of Romania, based on plant macro remains, in 1995. He also published on stratigraphy, prehistoric culture and believes, mountain guides, botanical notes, environmental protection, etc.

In October 2000 he initiated and led the research centre for the Coal Deposits Geology and Environmental Protection. Under his management, the centre was implied in more than 10 great research contracts with government agencies or the European Union. He was co-author for two awarded inventions: Silver medal at EUREKA - Bruxelles and BBC - London (2000) and Golden medal at EUREKA – Bruxelles (2004). These awards are related to his laborious work on anthropogenic soils used in naturalized coal exploitations and new destinations for xylitic rich brown coals in the industry.

Nicolae Ticleanu was a natural skill professor and influenced generations of students with his kind and humorous way of thinking. He spent a lot of time to instruct many of his students in field trips and sustained a lot without travel possibilities. This friendly approach made him loved and respected by most of his colleagues.

He remained extremely active and was usually working at home since the beginning of year 2009, despite his illness, giving pertinent advices to his students or colleagues for some research projects.

Nicolae Ticleanu will be never forgotten by his friends, colleagues or students because he changed something around him, with his open-hearted way of being.

He will always be remembered as one of the great pioneers of modern coal petrology and petrography in Romania and as a good specialist in Neogene palaeobotanical analysis and palaeoecology.

Valentin Paraschiv, National Museum of Geology, Romanian Institute of Geology, Bucharest.

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Herbert Straka: 14th July 1920 to 23rd May 2009

Herbert Straka has been one of the most important German pollen analysts and vegetation scientists. Born in Brünn (today Brno, Czech Republic) on July 14th, 1920, he already published his first botanical papers as a schoolboy but could not continue until the end of World War II which led him as a soldier to France (Paris and Montpellier) where he learned the language and got into contact with the Mediterranean flora, both of great influence for his later scientific career.

He studied then in Innsbruck, Bonn and Stockholm and was awarded his doctoral degree in 1951 at the University of Bonn (“summa cum laude”) with investigations on the late Quaternary vegetation history of the Eifel volcanic region. Still in 1951, he followed his teacher Fritz Overbeck to the University of Kiel where he within only three years wrote and finished his habilitation with investigations on flowers and fruits of the Aizoaceae including “living stones” (*Lithops*).

Thus his broad range of scientific work reached from vegetation history and biogeography to the ecology of flowers and fruit dispersal, but his focus was always clearly on palynology and its relation to taxonomy.

His first expedition led him in 1957 to Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands, where he collected thousands of samples, the start of his studies on the vegetation history of these islands. The results were

published in the following decades in a series edited by him (*Palynologia Madagassica et Mascarenica*). Focussed on his beloved scientific work, he rejected honorary appointments to professorships at the Universities of Berlin and Innsbruck.

Now professor since 1960 in Kiel he took part in a large project funded by the German research foundation (DFG) in Mexico, investigating the vegetation history of the Mexican highland from 1968 and onwards. Further expeditions led him to South Africa, southwest Africa, the Canary Islands and Madeira, to Scandinavia, Russia, Siberia and another two times to Madagascar.

Until his retirement he worked as director of the Botanical Institute of the Christian-Albrechts University of Kiel. Due to his excellent reputation he was assigned as a member of many national and international scientific associations (for example, corresponding member of the Swedish plant geographical society at Uppsala, foreign corresponding member of the Academia Malgache Antananarivo, member of the Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer, 4^o section - Sciences physiques, naturelles, biologiques et leurs applications). He was awarded Dr. h.c. of the University of Rennes (France) and honoured in 1987 as "Chevalier de l'ordre national malgache".

Beside botany, he was interested in astronomy and classical music.

He died on May 23rd, 2009, shortly before his 89th birthday, in Bad Honnef, Rhineland, Germany. We will keep him in good commemoration.

Some important publications

H. Straka (1951) Zur spätquartären Vegetationsgeschichte der Vulkaneifel, Bonn 1951.

H. Straka (1957) Pollenanalyse und Vegetationsgeschichte, 2nd edn. 1970, Verlag Ziemsen, 3rd edn. (unchanged) 2005, Westarp Wissenschaften.

H. Walther, H. Straka (1970) Arealkunde. Floristisch-historische Geobotanik, 2nd edn., Ulmer, Stuttgart.

H. Straka (1975) Pollen- und Sporenkunde. Fischer, Stuttgart; 2nd edn. 1997, Urban & Fischer, Munich.

H. Straka (ed.) (1981-1989) *Palynologia Madagassica et Mascarenica*. Academy of Science and Literature, Mainz. Steiner, Stuttgart.

H. Straka, H. Haeupler, G.L. Llorens, J. Orell (1987) Führer zur Flora Mallorcas. Stuttgart (in different languages).

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Since April 2009, Anita Roth-Nebelsick holds the position of the Curator for Palaeobotany at the State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (SMNS). She will be responsible for the palaeobotanical collection and contribute to the research activities of the SMNS. Her main research will focus on palaeoclimate studies, preferentially for the Cenozoic, and on the interrelationship between anatomical/morphological traits and palaeoecophysiology.

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

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