

Newsletter of Micropalaeontology



January 2008

Number 77

Edited by I. J. Slipper



The Micropalaeontological Society

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Pictured above is the newly cast Brady Medal, the highest honour of our Society, awarded for the first time this year to Prof. John Murray at the AGM; full report on page 8 and more on p. 10 including information on a new student prize.

A new occasional series 'Tales from the Archive' begins this issue on p. 38 with a look at the very early history of the Society and its formation as The British Micropalaeontological Group.

Copy deadline for next issue **1st July 2008**

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Society News

Report from the past Chair - Professor David Siveter

Just before Christmas, at a time when I thought that it was safe, as I had undertaken what I thought were my concluding duties for my term of office, a message from *Newsletter* Editor **Ian Slipper** informed me that it was customary for the outgoing senior officer to pen a final report. As new President **Michal Kucera** subsequently confirmed to me, you're never off the hook. So, on reflection.....

Most of the specialist groups of TMS have been very active in holding a string of successful meetings over the last three years. That said, the measures that TMS committee has undertaken over the last three years have been designed to facilitate a more vibrant and efficient organisation and to raise the profile and standing of the Society. Hopefully that is the case. The by-now established 'theme and five speakers' format for the AGM has proved a popular success, as witnessed by the turnout of over 100 people at the AGM in November. TMS officers have tried hard to spread the word of the Society and to increase the membership base. Publicity officer **Mark Williams** has made sure of a TMS presence at various national and international meetings such as the European Ostracod Symposium in Frankfurt and AGU; and I know that the regular E-mail shots from Webmaster **Andy Henderson**, informing members of TMS matters and events, have been particularly appreciated. I think that the quality of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* has been enhanced. The introduction of high quality colour illustrations and a new 'International Board' have helped, and with regard to quality of science, Editor **John Gregory** has noted that it is a good sign that the review process can afford to be more choosy in the papers that are accepted for press. The publication in November of the "Deep-Time perspectives on Climate Change" volume, edited by **Mark Williams**, **Alan Hayward**, **John Gregory** and **Daniela Schmidt**, is a splendid addition to TMS special publication series and a "must-have" entry on your birthday present list. Of the others in the pipeline for publication in 2008 the first will focus on ostracods in British stratigraphy. Two new posts have been added to the list of TMS committee members in the last two years. **Richard Hodgkinson** has made huge progress in archiving the papers and records of the Society, which are re-

tained at the Natural History Museum, and while **Clive Jones** ably administers TMS Membership subscriptions newly elected Treasurer **Jackie Lees** will oversee the strategic and fund raising aspects of the society's finances. At the AGM the change in title of the senior officer of the Society, from Chairman to President, took effect, and the Society had the pleasure of awarding the newly commissioned 'Brady Medal'.

TMS was delighted that Geological Society President Professor **Richard Fortey** could join us at our 2007 AGM, which celebrated the bicentenary of that Society by five engaging talks on 'Micropalaeontological Heroes'. In his address Richard kindly noted that at a time when membership of many learned societies is decreasing TMS should feel pleased that its numbers are increasing. As TMS Secretary **Michal Kucera** reported, most of the recently joined members are of the younger generation, and this is encouraging news indeed, as was the attendance at the AGM of those who had travelled from mainland Europe especially for the meeting. The meeting concluded with the award of the Brady Medal to Professor **John Murray**, a very worthy inaugural recipient for his hugely influential and sustained body of micropalaeontological research, followed by the Charles Downie Award to Dr **Eleanor Maddison** for her paper on the post-glacial diatom record of the Mertz Glacier, Antarctica. Thanks to the speakers, local secretary **Andy Henderson**, **Paul Bown** and UCL colleagues, and the sponsors *PetroStrat Ltd* and the Geological Society for putting on a very entertaining meeting.

I thank again all those who have served on TMS Committee during my watch, and in particular the officers who are stepping down, Treasurer **Steve Packer** and Special Publications (and ex-Journal) Editor **Malcolm Hart**. The health of any learned Society crucially depends on having people prepared to serve on Committee and having buoyant membership numbers. A drive to increase the number of recruits to TMS especially from Europe, where there are a number of established but informal groups of micropalaeontologists, is a potential next step.

Secretary's Report - Dr Michal Kucera

Last November, I mused in this place about the many new initiatives that TMS has been pursuing and how I would love to see the membership numbers scale up to the 400 mark. In keeping with the momentum, the Society has succeeded during the past year to produce its first Medal, whilst membership numbers continued to grow. Not only has the 400 mark been breached, we are now attacking the highest number since 2003, particularly due to a large number of new members joining the Society. The establishment of the Membership Treasurer last year proved extremely useful and whilst **Clive Jones** has been dealing with payments from individual members, **Steve Packer** was able to work on the establishment of an electronic payment system, which we hope will be online for the next year. My activities during the last year concentrated on supporting the Society's committee work and administration of TMS grants and awards schemes, which continue to be well subscribed.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An extraordinary meeting of TMS took place in March 2007 to consider a motion by the Committee to change the name of the Senior Officer of TMS to President. The EGM ruled in support of the motion. The change represents a further step towards the ambitious aim of becoming a leading Society in the discipline worldwide.

SPECIALIST GROUP MEETINGS 2007

The Society continues promoting micropalaeontology through international meetings organised by its specialist groups. A meeting on "Integrated studies of taxonomy, ecology and geochemistry" organized jointly by the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups took place in June 2007 in Angers and was visited by 80 researchers from 13 countries, and the Ostracod group held another successful spring meeting in April in Leicester. The Society is aware of the importance of organizing and supporting specialist meetings and the Committee is considering how to broaden the scope of its activities in this area.

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

Dr **Michal Kucera** has been elected at the 2006 AGM for a second term as the Secretary, Dr **Steve Packer** for a second term as the Treasurer, Dr **John Gregory** for a second term as the Journal Editor and Prof **Malcolm Hart** for a second term as the Special Publications Editor. Dr **Mark Williams** has been elected for the office of the Publicity Officer and Mr **Clive Jones** has been elected as the Membership Treasurer, being the first holder of this new office. The only specialist group representative appointed since the 2006 AGM was Dr **John Whittaker** (Ostracod Group Secretary) who replaces Prof **Alan Lord**. The Society is grateful to all committee members who have volunteered their time and effort.

CHARLES DOWNIE AWARD

The Charles Downie Award is given annually to the member of TMS who, in the opinion of the Committee, has published the most significant paper, in any journal, based upon his or her postgraduate research. The Committee has awarded the 2007 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2006) to **Eleanor Maddison** (Open University, UK) for her publication: Maddison, E. J., Pike, J., Leventer, A., Dunbar, R., Brachfeld, S., Domack, E. W., Manley, P. and McClennen, C. Post-glacial seasonal diatom record of the Mertz Glacier Polynya, East Antarctica. *Marine Micropaleontology* **60**, 66-88 (2006).

GRANTS-IN-AID

Six Grants-in-aid have been awarded in 2007. The awardees are **Jawad Afzal** (PhD student, Leicester) to collect samples in Pakistan, **Clauadia Cetean** (PhD student, Cluj-Napoca) to attending the Mikro 2007 workshop in Gdansk, **Tom Challands** (PhD student, Durham) to attend the 2007 EGU meeting in Vienna, **Sarah Heal** (PhD student, Dublin) to attend the XVI International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian in Nanjing, **Anna Hey** (PhD student, Cardiff) to attend the 10th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences

in Santa Barbara and **Lea Numberger** (PhD student, Tübingen) to attend TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil Group meeting 2007 in Angers. The committee was pleased by the large number of applications and encourages student members to apply in 2008.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

The Society's updated database comprises 405 members who have paid their membership dues for 2007. Of these, 212 are resident in the UK, 106 in Europe, and 87 in the rest of the world. The membership of the Society has increased compared to the last year (395 members). Particularly encouraging was the increase in new members joining the Society: since January 2007 TMS welcomed 48 new members and 6 re-joining members, which is the highest number since electronic records are available second year in a row. Clearly, the generation shift is gaining momentum and young micropalaeontologists continue to recognize the Society as an important platform for furthering the science.

NEWSLETTER

Dr **Ian Slipper** continued in his office as the Newsletter Editor. *Newsletter of Micropalaeon*

tology No. 75 was issued in February 2007 and No. 76 in August 2007. The copy date of the Summer issue has been changed to 1st July, to allow for inclusion of latest news from the June/July committee meeting.

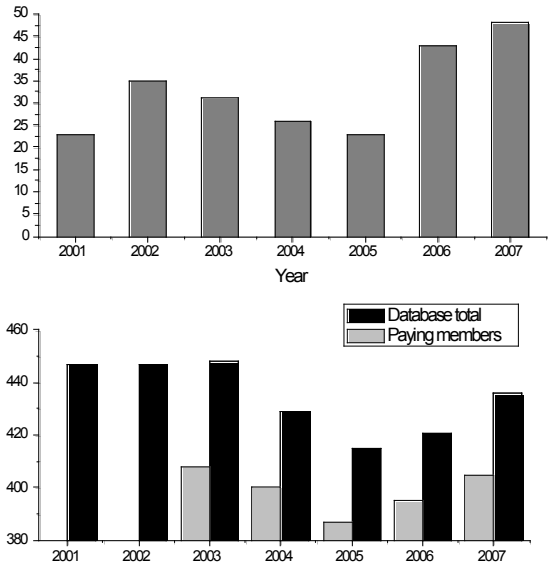
WEBSITE

Dr **Andy Henderson** continued to develop the website and issue electronic newsletters. The website is continuously updated and used to disseminate information to the membership including details of specialist group meetings. The link is: <http://www.tmsoc.org>. Following the setup of electronic access to back issue of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* to TMS members, electronic access can now be offered to subscribing libraries as well.

PUBLICITY

Dr **Mark Williams** has produced a new portable TMS Publicity Pack. In addition, the first set of TMS calendars is being piloted. These PR activities seem to be correlated with the rise in new members and the Committee is keen to continue increasing the visibility of TMS.

Michal Kucera, TMS Secretary, 5/11/2007



Treasurers' Report - Dr Stephen Packer, Mr Clive Jones

The TMS accounts for 2006-2007 were presented at the AGM in November. Copies of the accounts will be available on the TMS website and are also reproduced in this newsletter. The end of year balance is higher than last year and is in line with the overall strategy of attempting to increase the financial reserves of TMS, whilst maintaining support to our core activities and other micropalaeontological events around the world.

Membership subscription income has grown, reflecting increased numbers of new individual members. Library subscription income is reduced from last year, but this is mainly due to late payments, rather than any reduction in numbers of institutional subscribers.

There are still a couple of outstanding bills in the pipeline. We are still waiting for the bill for printing of NL76 and a second payment will be due for the production costs of the Brady Medal.

One-off costs this year include a payment of 1800.00 for the inclusion of colour plates in the forthcoming climate change volume (TMS002). This item has been funded from the Shell UK sponsorship revenue for the 2006 AGM.

Our thanks go to the sponsors of this year's AGM, The Geological Society and the wine reception, PetroStrat Ltd.

If your company would like to sponsor the 2008 AGM, please get in-touch.

Revenue from Gift Aid has declined slightly from last year. Gift Aid allows us to reclaim tax on subscriptions and donations. I would urge all UK tax payers to complete and return GA form if possible, if you haven't already done so (you only need to complete a form once and it's valid whilst you still pay a subscription). The GA form can be downloaded from the TMS website. Thank you to those of you who have already completed and returned forms.

Both the *Journal* and the *Newsletter* provide a platform for advertising your institution or company to a global market at very reasonable prices, so please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate editor should you wish to submit an ad.

Subscription rates for 2008 will remain unchanged at 35 GBP for ordinary members and 20 GBP for retired / student members. 2008 subscription invoices were issued towards the end of the year and were due for payment on the 1st January 2008. As always we would ask you to pay promptly and to complete the form in full. Please return all subscription forms to Clive Jones, at the address on page 18 or use the centrefold. For those of you that pay by direct debit, accounts will be debited in the first working week of January.

Thank you for your continued support of TMS and I look forward to seeing many of you again during 2008.

New Members

Emanuela Mattioli
Annette Bolton
Brian Pedder
Tom Russon
Colin Ralph Harris
Noritoshi Suzuki
Steffen Mischke
Agail Abdusalam

Kenneth Wong
Vesna Cilic
Katarzyna Sliwinska
Jodie Fisher
Louise Gooderham
Renate Matzke-Karasz
Irfan Ullah Jan
Sanatul Salwa Hasan

Mahani Mohamed
Ilene Rex

And welcome back to:

Sev Kender
Bronagh McPhilemy

**TMS Statement of accounts
for financial year 2006-2007**

INCOME	
Balance from 2005-2006	17157.13
Membership Subscriptions	
Individual/Student 2006	55.00
Individual/Student 2007	13063.57
Gift Aid	831.77
Sub-total	13950.34
Library Subscriptions	16614.00
Total Subscription income	30564.34
Miscellaneous Income	
Advertising revenue 2006 - 2007	840.00
Donations to Higgins Fund	100.00
Donations to Downie Fund	0.00
Sale of JoM backparts	125.00
TMS Foundation	2135.00
Special Publications royalty (TMS001)	412.08
Bank account interest (BRT acc)	406.49
AGM 2006 Sponsorship (PetroStrat)	250.00
AGM 2006 Sponsorship (Shell UK)	2000.00
AGM 2007 Sponsorship (Geol Soc)	500.00
Amazon royalties	61.78
Springer royalties	186.45
Miscellaneous payment	1.00
Total Miscellaneous income	7017.80
TOTAL INCOME	54739.27

EXPENDITURE	
Journal of Micropalaeontology	
Volume 26, Part 1 (inc. postage)	12834.00
Volume 26, Part 2 (inc. postage)	12834.00
TMS Special Publications	
TMS 002 Colour plates	1800.00
Sub-total costs for TMS Publications	27468.00
Newsletter of Micropalaeontology	
Printing costs Number 75	194.16
Postage: Number 75	217.80
Printing costs Number 76	0.00
Postage: Number 76	55.84
Sub-total costs for Newsletter	467.80
Annual General Meeting	
Speakers meal	222.60
Reception	775.81
Speakers expenses	89.50
Sub-total AGM 2006	1087.91
Miscellaneous outgoings	
IPA Subscription (2007, 2008, 2009)	158.46
IFPS Subscription	100.00
Ostracod Group meeting expenses 2007	75.60
Ostracod Group meeting deposit for 2008	400.00
JoM Editor's expenses	186.13
Treasurer's expenses	80.43
Postal expenses	135.18
Committee meeting expenses (Nov 06)	156.45
Committee meeting expenses (Mar 07)	113.65
Committee meeting expenses (Jul 07)	60.90
Grants-in-Aid 2007	600.00
Brady Medal	1762.50
Downie Award 2007	200.00
Credit Card Company fees	491.14
Direct Debit fees	47.75
Bank Charges	63.00
Subscription refund	35.00
Sub-total	4666.19
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	33689.90

BALANCE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2006-2007 (Current & Reserve accounts):	21049.37
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	21049.37
The total cash assets includes:	
Downie Fund	1977.52
Higgins Fund	1205.00
This financial period ran from 11th November 2006 to 7th November 2007	
Dr. S.R. Packer (Honorary Treasurer)	
Dr. J.B. Riding (Honorary Auditor)	

2007 TMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

University College London

Cruciform Building Lecture Theatre 1, Wednesday 7th November 2007

Introduction

The Chairman, Prof **David Siveter** opened the AGM by welcoming the members and guests. He reminded the audience that this AGM forms a contribution to the Bicentenary celebrations of the Geological Society. Approximately 100 persons, including 59 members, were in attendance.

Reports

The Society's Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Journal Editor and Special Publications Editor reported on the progress since the previous AGM. The Chairman thanked all who volunteered their time for the Society, in particular to the officers who were retiring from the Committee: Treasurer Dr Steve Packer and Special Publications Editor, Prof. Malcolm Hart.

Elections of Committee Members

The members present first confirmed Dr Tom Dunkley-Jones and Dr Jeremy Young as the scrutineers. The Secretary then announced that there was only one nomination for each of the free offices, namely that by the Committee, as previously announced on the Website. The Secretary read out the nominations:

Dr Jackie Lees for the office of the Treasurer. Proposer: Dr J. Gregory; Seconder: Dr M. Williams. Dr Jeremy Young and Dr Daniela Schmidt for the office of the Special Publications Editor. Proposer: Dr D. Lazarus; Seconder: Dr J. Gregory. The Secretary explained that this is a joint candidature and the office will be shared between the candidates.

Following a vote, the scrutineers confirmed that these candidates were elected by due majority of the members present.

The Chairman announced that the nomination for the office of the new President of the Society was the current Secretary Prof. Michal Kucera. The proposer was Dr S. Packer seconded by Dr J. Young. The Chairman then noted that in case of election of Prof. Kucera, the office of the Secretary will be filled until the next AGM by Dr David Horne, who agreed to be co-opted by the Committee and stand for election at the 2008 AGM.

Following a vote, the scrutineers confirmed that Prof. M. Kucera has been elected by due majority of the members present.

Guest Lectures

Following Society business, the audience was treated to a fascinating and amusing account on various heroes and anti-heroes of micropalaeontological research. The topic of "Heroes" has been selected to reflect one of the initiatives of the Geological Society Bicentenary celebrations. This connection had been highlighted in the opening address, which was delivered by Prof. Richard Fortey F.R.S., the President of the Geological Society.

In the first part of the session, Prof. Simon Knell discussed the life and work of Christian Pander, the discoverer of conodonts. Many a myth on this remarkable person has been put straight and his visionary and most informed approach to the "contentious vertebrate" have been highlighted. Prof. John Marshall then introduced to the audience the most remarkable Dalesman, notorious pacifist and prolific book writer Arthur Raistrick, who also happened to invent a way of correlating Carboniferous coal seams by their palynological content. A climax of the first session was presented by Dr Jeremy Young with a detailed account on the bizarre history of the discovery of the true nature of the coc-

colithophores and the role of many anti-heroes in this tale of primeval slime and most emotional scientific feud. Following a coffee break, which was held in the South Cloisters, Dr David Horne and Dr Robert Wynn Jones then introduced two remarkable personalities and heroes of micropalaeontology, the brothers George Stewardson Brady and Henry Bowman Brady.

Inaugural presentation of the Brady Medal

The scientific programme then naturally culminated in the announcement and presentation of the first TMS medal, which has been named in honour of the Brady brothers and constitutes the highest award of the Society. Prof. David Siveter first gave a brief report on the making and design of the medal; this was followed by the presentation of the Medal to Prof. John Murray for his lifelong achievement and excellence in the study of modern and fossil foraminifera.



Presentation of Charles Downie Award 2007

Following the Brady medal ceremony, Prof. David Siveter then presented the 2007 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2006) to Dr Eleanor Maddison, (Open University, UK, formerly of University College, Cardiff), pictured above, for her publication: Maddison, E. J., Pike, J., Leventer, A., Dunbar, R., Brachfeld, S., Domack, E. W., Manley, P. and McClennen, C. Post-glacial seasonal diatom record of the Mertz Glacier Polynya, East Antarctica. *Marine Micropaleontology* **60**, 66-88 (2006).

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman then formally closed the AGM by thanking the speakers for their interesting contributions, the Geological Society and PetroStrat Ltd. for their support, the Local Organisers, Dr Paul Bown, Jayne Dunn and James Davy, and Dr Andy Henderson for organising a very enjoyable and memorable meeting.

Wine Reception

The audience then adjourned to the South Cloisters where a wine reception, sponsored by **PetroStrat Ltd.**, was held.



Professor John Murray receiving the Brady Medal at The Micropalaeontological Society's Annual General Meeting 2007. Photo by D.J.Horne.

Michal Kucera

michal.kucera@uni-tuebingen.de

TMS Secretary, 04/12/2007

New Awards

The Brady Medal

The Brady Medal is the highest award of The Micropalaeontological Society. It is named in honour of George Stewardson Brady (1832-1921) and Henry Bowman Brady (1835-1891) in recognition of their outstanding pioneering studies in micropalaeontology and natural history.

The Medal is awarded to scientists who have had a major influence on micropalaeontology by means of a substantial body of excellent research. Service to the scientific community may also be a factor for consideration by the Award Committee. The medal was commissioned and was awarded for the first time in 2007.

The Medal is cast in bronze from original sculptures commissioned by The Micropalaeontological Society in 2007. The sculptor is Anthony Stones, Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and President (1999-2004) of The Society of Portrait Sculptors. The Medal is hand crafted by the leading sculpture foundry Pangolin Editions of Chalford, England.

Mechanism for making a nomination:

All nominations must be made on the TMS "Brady Medal" pro-forma which can be downloaded from TMS website. Nominations must have a Proposer and Secunder, both of whom should be Members of the Society and not be affiliated to the same institute as the person they nominate. Nominations should be made in strict confidence and in no circumstance should the person nominated be informed. The completed nomination form should be returned to the Secretary of the Society. Nominations may be made at any time of the year.

TMS Undergraduate Prize

This new prize consists of 1 year free membership, including two issues of *Journal of Micropalaeontology* and *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology*, discount on TMS and GSPH publications, discounted registration fees at TMS specialist group meetings, eligibility for awards and grants-in-aid.

The prizes are awarded annually by TMS Committee on the basis of nominations submitted by tutors of accredited courses (see below for accrediting criteria). Only one nomination per year for each course will be considered by the Committee. The nominating tutors should be members of TMS and justify the choice and explain briefly in which way they find the performance of the student exceptional and deserving of the Prize. Nominations must be made using the official nomination form and be forwarded to the Secretary of TMS by 1st September of each year. The decision will be made by TMS Committee on its meeting in November and the Prize winners will be announced at the AGM.

Course accreditation:

One undergraduate (BSc and MSc) level Micropalaeontology or Palynology course for each Higher Education Institute. The course must contain a practical element and involve at least 30 hours of instruction. At least one of the course tutors must be a member of TMS and submit a course description form (to be available from the website) to the Secretary of TMS prior to nominating students for the Prize. The accreditation requires a vote by TMS Committee and is valid for a period of 5 years.

TMS FOUNDATION

The Micropalaeontological Society Foundation is a sponsorship scheme to help support the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*. The Foundation is made up of members, non-members and institutions who wish to support the science of micropalaeontology via the production of the Journal. Any level of subscription is welcome. A minimum annual donation of £25 is suggested; donors of £25 or more will be acknowledged in the Journal and in the Newsletter.

Subscription is welcome at any time. Please send donations to:

Dr Jackie Lees (TMS Treasurer) Department of Earth Sciences
University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK
Email: j.lees@ucl.ac.uk

Please make cheques payable to "The Micropalaeontological Society". If you wish to pay by credit card, please include the amount you wish to donate, card number, expiry date and cardholder's address; for debit cards please include the issue number.
TMS Foundation Donors of £25 or more — 2007

Ron Austin
David Lazarus
Ana Luisa Carreno
Henk Brinkhuis
Henri Oertli
Kunihiro Ishizaki
John Murray
Randall Penny
Silvia Spezzaferri

Alfred Traverse
Hiroshi Ujiie
Gitte Laursen
Chris Denison
Darren Anthonissen
Lavinia Trevisan
Pete Green
David Haig
Henning Uffenorde

TMS Foundation - Brady Medal

Support received towards the commissioning of the Brady Medal is gratefully acknowledged from the following:

Alan Lord, David Siveter, John Whittaker, Michal Kucera.

Others who wish to add to Brady Medal funds are welcome to do so via the Secretary.

TMS Advertising Rates

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Quarter page, 1 issue £25
Quarter page, 2 issues £40

Journal of Micropalaeontology

Full page, 1 issue £190
Full page, 2 issues £280
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Half page, 2 issues £160

Specialist Group News

Foraminifera Group Report part 1

Joachim Schönfeld, previous Foraminifera Group Chair

After almost four years as Foraminifera Group Chair my term has ended, and it is time to say goodbye to all and to recap the trends, developments and achievements of the last years. In 2004, we were already on the way towards internationalisation of the Foraminifera Group. Indeed, we received increasing notice from European and American micropalaeontologists. Through successful spring meetings together with the Nannofossil Group at Copenhagen in 2004, Southampton 2005, Liverpool 2006, and recently at Angers in 2007, the communication between the groups at different Universities and Institutions throughout Europe was strengthened, and we also spun lines to groups in Japan and in the Middle East. This underpins the strong European focus and worldwide scope of our Group activities.

Increasingly the discussions were made directly among all colleagues attending our meetings, from students to established Chairs in Micropalaeontology. The growing number of contributions by Masters and PhD students is encouraging, and it demonstrates that our Society is vital and stays innovative. We called for contributions covering all aspects of foraminiferal studies for our Group Meetings, but there was a clear trend towards biological, palaeoenvironmental and palaeoceanographical studies. Recently, also cross-cutting themes of genetics, biogeochemistry, and relations to macrofaunal assemblages were presented. Biostratigraphy was not equally visible and will be a challenge for the coming years to better embed these groups and to resume the communication with them.

But we kept the connection to classical geology and palaeontology through our field trips. Collecting fossils at the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary at Moens Klint, tracking dinosaurs

strolling around their waterholes on an Early Cretaceous floodplain on the Isle of Wight, experiencing Palaeozoic continental break-up and mountain building in the English Lake District and finally a splendid wine tasting in a Miocene beach sand cavern of Anjou were highlights of our field trips, and they will stay in our memory for a long time. The next joint TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups spring meeting will take place at Tübingen, Germany, on the 15th and 16th May 2008, with a fieldtrip on Saturday 17th May. Tübingen has a long tradition in micropalaeontological studies and thus it will be an ideal venue.

The application of information technology and the use of the Internet as a multi-purpose platform for communication, archiving and reference have grown tremendously through the last years. With the help of our webmaster, **Andy Henderson**, we kept track with the developments, and we recently updated the webpages of our Foraminifera Group with an up-to-date link list of WWW resources. We encourage everybody to use our site as a reference node for taxonomic studies, or if you just need to know where to buy slides or other equipment. That's it. I hope to see many of you at Tübingen next spring.

Daniela Schmidt will continue to represent the Foraminifera Group for another year to allow continuity and help the new Foraminifera Group Chair **Kate Darling** from the University of Edinburgh. Also Daniela is taking, jointly with **Jeremy Young**, the responsibility for the special publications of TMS and I hope that we will see lots of suggestions of books based on interesting meetings, IODP cruises or other ideas you can come up with.

jschoenfeld@ifm-geomar.de

Foraminifera Group Report part 2

Kate Darling, incoming Foraminifera Group Chair

With a mixture of pleasure and surprise I take up my appointment as the new Foraminifera Group Chair of TMS. I have never considered myself a micropalaeontologist and feel quite privileged to be invited into the family. I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself to those who do not know me yet. My path into the foraminiferal field was totally unconventional having originally trained in the animal sciences. I interrupted my career for 12 years to raise my family. My return to science was motivated by my long-standing interest in the fossil record inspired by the many years I spent as a child, roaming the fossiliferous sediments exposed along the Yorkshire coast. I re-trained in the Grant Institute at Edinburgh by working on mid to late Quaternary planktonic foraminifera in sediments from ODP Leg 133, drilled off the northeast Australian margin. With Neogene planktonic forams fresh in my mind, I initiated a new genetic approach to attempt to answer

some of the problems I had encountered in interpreting diversity issues in the planktonic foraminiferal assemblages. Funded by the Carnegie Trust, my first samples were collected in 1993 from Curaçao in the Caribbean and the rest is history.

Now as a NERC Advanced Research Fellow, I continue to extend our knowledge on the diversity and ecology of planktonic forams. Since molecular studies can only be undertaken on living foraminifera, our knowledge of the extent of genetic diversity is restricted to extant species and lineages. Traditional and molecular approaches are therefore not mutually exclusive but entirely complementary. It is essential for us to exchange and utilize the evidence from both disciplines and TMS provides the ideal platform on which to do so.

Kate.Darling@ed.ac.uk

Bioindicators of past and present environments

The Micropalaeontological Society's Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Spring Meeting Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th May, 2008, University of Tübingen, Germany.

This meeting will continue the tradition of promoting contact and exchange of ideas between workers in their respective groups, and of encouraging cross-links between the disciplines and the expertise from the host institution. For the 2008 meeting we will focus on the theme of "Bioindicators" which have become increasingly important during the past years as micropalaeontologists are increasingly using a range of geochemical and biological tools to interpret the past and monitor the present environments. We encourage contributions across disciplines on applications in ecology, stratigraphy and palaeoceanography from the Recent and the geological record. This broad theme of the meeting is not meant to discourage innovative

contributions in any field of nannofossil and foraminiferal micropalaeontology.

The meeting will be followed by an excursion to the Jurassic of the Swabian Alb on Saturday 17th May 2008. The field trip will be led by Dr. Michael Maisch from Tübingen and cover spectacular fossil hunting localities as well as opportunities to collect micropalaeontological samples!

Both oral presentations and posters are welcome. The meeting will include poster sessions as well as viewing of posters during coffee breaks. For additional information about the meeting see the poster on page 28.

With best regards,
Kate Darling, Kalle Baumann, Daniela Schmidt, & Tom Dunkley-Jones (Chairs & Secretaries, TMS Foraminifera Group, TMS Nannofossil Group)
Michal Kucera, Petra Heinz, Ralph Aurahs, Gabi Trommer, Michael Siccha, Lea Numberger & Anne Schulze (organising committee).

Palynology Group Report

Ian Harding & Duncan Mclean

Next year will be a major one for palynological and palaeobotanical meetings of interest to TMS Palynology Group members...

The Geological Society of London's 2008 Lyell Meeting at Burlington House is entitled *Marine climate and change: past and future*, convened by **Daniela Schmidt**, **Sarah Cornell** and **Jenny Pike**, and will see the likes of **Henk Brinkhuis** and **Jeremy Young** giving the keynote presentations. This will obviously be of interest to many TMS members generally, and details can be found on: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/cache/bypass/events/listings/page641.html>

In May, **Anne de Vernal** and **André Rochon** will host DINO8, the 8th International Conference on Modern and Fossil Dinoflagellates in Montréal, Canada from the 4th to the 10th of that month. The Conference will take place in the Complexe des Sciences Pierre Dansereau of the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), and will cover various fields of research relevant to the study of dinoflagellates including molecular biology, ecology, taxonomy, biostratigraphy, limnology and oceanography, paleoclimatology and paleoceanography. Workshops are planned to provide in hand knowledge, notably on taxonomy of Neogene and Quaternary dinocyst, *in vitro* culture techniques, or quantitative data treatments for paleoceanographic purposes. For more details see:

<http://www.dino8.uqam.ca/>

In August we will have the unusual opportunity to attend two conferences at the same time! After many years of being hosted sequentially in the same country, four years ago the International Palynological Congress (IPC) and the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC) were held in different countries! In a move that is to be applauded, not just by those with common interests, the 12th IPC (IPC-XII) and the 8th IOPC (IOPC-VIII), will be held in Bonn, Germany, from August 30th to

September 5th, 2008. The joint congress will be hosted under the auspices of the German Arbeitskreis für Palaeobotanik und Palynologie. Abstract deadline is April 30th, 2008. For more information: <http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/congress08/index.htm>

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP) will also be convening their 41st Annual Meeting during the Bonn IPC-XII, and more details can be found on: <http://www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/IPC12.pdf>.

Also in August (12-16th) 2008, the 4th European Symposium on Aerobiology (ESA) will be held in Turku, Finland. For further details: 4th ESA 2008, c/o Aerobiology Unit, FI-20014 University of Turku, Finland. Tel.: +358 – (0)2 – 333 6065; Fax: +358 – (0)2 – 333 5565; e-mail: 4esa-info@utu.fi

In October 2008, the the Palynology Group of TMS and the Palynology Special Interest Group of the Linnean Society are hoping to convene a joint meeting at Burlington House – further details will be announced when they are known.

We are currently in the early planning stages of the next TMS Palynology-Silicofossil Joint Meeting – which seems to be becoming known as the 'Sili-Paly' meeting, although I'm not so sure how advisable that acronym might be! We are currently hoping that the meeting will have a high latitude theme, and will be organised with colleagues in Scandinavia. We hope to arrange a venue in Norway, and again details will be announced in a future newsletter once arrangements have firmed up.

As a VERY forward planning date for your diaries, **John Marshall** and I have agreed to host the 44th AASP Annual Meeting in 2011 in Southampton, England. This was initiated by AASP Director at Large, **Sarah de la Rue**, who presented the presented the Southampton plans to the AASP committee earlier this year, and the proposal has now been accepted.

Silicofossil Group Report

David Lazarus

Upcoming meetings

The 20th International Diatom Symposium will be held from 7-13 September 2008 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The First Circular is now available at the meeting's website:

<http://www.imp-du.com/ids2008/>

Interrad 12 will be held in September 2009 in Nanjing, China. For further details contact Interrad President **Hui Luo**, Nanjing, China.

hui Luo@nigpas.ac.cn

Our own next TMS silicofossils meeting is tentatively planned as a joint meeting with the

palynology group, and to fit in-between these other major events, i.e. sometime in early 2009. Hopefully more information will be available by the next *Newsletter*.

Publications

No specific new volumes to report. But as co-editor, with **Chris Hollis**, of the New Zealand Interrad volumes I can happily report that the last paper revision has now been accepted. The volumes are being sent on to the production phase for an expected publication in mid 2009. They will be one "special issue" each of the journals *Micropaleontology* and *Stratigraphy*.

Ostracod Group Report

Ian Boomer

The main event of 2007 for the Ostracod Group was the Sixth European Ostracodologists' Meeting held in Frankfurt - See report on page 34.

Spring Meeting, 2008

The collection and study of living Ostracoda
Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, Suffolk
Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April, 2008

The weekend will provide an introduction to the collection and study of living freshwater ostracods although the same skills are applicable to estuarine and marine faunas. The weekend is suitable for all biologists, ecologists, environmental and earth scientists interested in the applications of ostracods to their research.

The weekend will be attended by a number of the UK's Ostracod experts who will be happy to offer their expertise!!

There will also be a chance to collect fossil material from a number of local sites on the Sunday morning (possible localities include Walton-on-the-Naze: Pliocene Red Crag and Eocene London Clay; Marks Tey Brickpit: Late Pleistocene,

Hoxnian Interglacial, depending on the interests of those attending)

There is an 'all inclusive' cost of £130 for those wishing to stay at the field centre. This includes 2 nights' accommodation, meals and the use of labs/classrooms, collecting and laboratory equipment can be provided.

The weekend will provide an ideal training course, in an informal environment, for undergraduate dissertation work and postgraduate research. Those with an interest in any aspect of ostracod research are welcome to attend. Places may be limited so you are encouraged to contact the organisers as soon as possible.

For further details or to book a place, please contact:

Dr Ian Boomer (University of Birmingham)
i.boomer@bham.ac.uk

For details of the study centre: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/flatfordmill/index.aspx>

See also: <http://www.tmsoc.org>

Proposed Special Publication

The History of Foraminiferal Micropalaeontology

Alan J. Bowden - alan.bowden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

We had a successful TMS AGM on 7th November 2007 which also celebrated the bicentenary of the Geological Society of London by taking a historical theme to its proceedings. Following on from this we have decided to be more ambitious and assemble a series of key articles for a Special Publication of TMS. It has been decided to enlarge the scope of the publication to provide a global view of the history of foraminiferal micropalaeontology as we feel that the discipline is standing at a watershed in its history. Formal adverts for the proposed publication will shortly be placed in the *Geoscientist*, on TMS website, History of Geology newsletter etc. Our aim as an editorial team is to produce an integrated text that will have significant international scope.

Whilst thinking about the proposed topics I and my co-editors are aware of the many impassioned debates that have occurred throughout micropalaeontology as a discipline, not the least concerning classification. The submitted articles should stress the chain of events historically, the development and modification of ideas and personalities involved. All articles will be subject to the normal peer review process. If you are interested in contributing please contact me or my co-editors: Dr **Andy Henderson** (a.henderson@nhm.ac.uk) or Dr **John Gregory** (john.gregory@petrostrat.com). We are anticipating a book length of 400-500 pages. Below is a list of suggested topics and ideas for the book. These are purely for guidance and all other suggestions are very welcome.

If you feel that you are able to make some form of contribution towards the volume we would be delighted to hear from you. You may have an idea for a topic that is not currently explored within the scope of the work that would be applicable. Our aim is to produce a volume that would be a valuable and significant addition to the literature which would have lasting value.

The History of Foraminiferal Micropalaeontology

Book plan

Section 1:

The beginning of foraminiferal studies

Early beginnings 18th - 19th century (William Boys, Walker & Jacob, Fichtel & Moll, Colonel George Montagu).

From Alcide d'Orbigny and Felix Dujardin, the rise of European Foraminifera studies.

The Gentleman naturalists - Victorian microscopy, an evening's recreation (William Benjamin Carpenter, William Crawford Williamson, William Kitchen Parker, Thomas Rupert Jones, Henry Bowman Brady and Joseph Wright).

Dredging: a Victorian/Edwardian pursuit (Royal Irish Academy, Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club and the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club amongst others), role of the Quekett Microscopical Club.

The legacy of the Challenger expedition and Brady's 1884 monograph.

The German contribution: Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, Johann Ludwig Rhumbler, A.E.Reuss.

A Hungarian Interlude - Á. Franzenau.

An American Pioneer - J.M.Flint.

Bridging the gap from Brady to Cushman - the role of Frederick Chapman.

Taxonomy (Lumpers and Splitters) - the British School versus Europe and the States.

Section 2:

The rise of professionalism

Post Challenger and the rise of industrial applications (The work of Józef Grzybowski and Joseph Cushman).

Industrial micropalaeontology – the influence of Oil Exploration and early biostratigraphic applications. The work of Williams-Mitchell, Martin Glaessner, Subbotina, Bolli, Banner, Bandy, Blow, Berger, Stainforth and others.

The role of larger Foraminifera.

The role of Planktonic Foraminifera.

Oil and the supply of micropalaeontologists, the rise of University research schools such as Imperial, UCL, East Anglia and Aberystwyth.

Expanding the view: Deep Sea Drilling Project, deep sea sediments and Allogrominid research.

Post war twentieth century heroes: Paul Bronniman, Geoffrey Adams, Alan Bé, Hiroshi Ujiie, Fred Banner, Helen Nina Tappan & Alfred R. Loeblich, William V. Sliter, Esteban Boltovskoy, Norcot Hornibrook, Kyoshi Asano, Fred Phleger plus many others. (This should not become a list of potted biographies but more of an integrated approach to review the significance of those foraminiferologists in the latter 20th century, now deceased, who have made great contributions to our understanding of stratigraphy, palaeoecology, systematics etc. not covered in the other sections).

Changing directions – a modern perspective and the apparent decline of post-graduate training.

Section 3:

Changing times

A change in balance - the rise of environmental micropalaeontology.

The development of quantitative foraminiferal studies, morphometrics and multivariate analysis.

Issues of global climate change, isotope and trace element studies and the use of foraminifera as palaeoceanographic proxy carriers, sea level reconstructions, molecular genetics and taxonomic revision.

Section 4:

Collections and collectors

The history of foraminiferal micropalaeontology collections and collectors (Heron Allen & Earland, Fortescue William Millett).

Institutions holding foraminiferal collections (Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Natural History Museum Vienna, Hungarian National Museum, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, Keele University, Jagiellonian University, Buenos Aires Natural History Museum, Japanese Institutes etc.).

Section 5:

Depiction of form

The development of illustration from pen and ink to SEM, from plaster models (d'Orbigny - Zheng Shouyi) to computer graphics.

Section 6:

Keeping alive the legacy

Retrospectives. A review of the work of early micropalaeontologists in the light of modern research (revisiting the research of early micropalaeontologists – ahead of their time, a lasting legacy).

The role of specialist scientific societies (Histories of the Cushman Foundation, Grzybowski Foundation, Micropalaeontological Society, Quekett Microscopical Club etc.).

Section 7:

Epilogue

The future of foraminiferal studies.

Officers of the Society

Prof. Michal Kucera (President)

Institut für Geowissenschaften
Universität Tübingen
Sigwartstrasse 10
72076 Tübingen, Germany
Tel: +49 (0)7071 2974674
Fax: +49 (0)7071 295727
michal.kucera@uni-tuebingen.de



Dr Daniela Schmidt

(Special Publications Editor)
Department of Earth Sciences
University of Bristol
Wills Memorial Building
Bristol BS8 1RJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)117 954 5414
Fax: +44 (0)117 925 3385
d.schmidt@bristol.ac.uk



Dr David J. Horne (Secretary)

Department of Geography
Queen Mary, University of
London, Mile End Road
London E1 4NS, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 882 5400
Fax: +44 (0)208 981 6276
d.j.horne@qmul.ac.uk



Dr Jeremy R. Young

(Special Publications Editor)
Department of Palaeontology
Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5286
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
j.young@nhm.ac.uk



Dr Jackie Lees (Treasurer)

Department of Earth Sciences
University College London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7679 2424
Fax: +44 (0)20 7679 2685
j.lees@ucl.ac.uk



Dr Ian J. Slipper (Newsletter Editor)

School of Science,
University of Greenwich
Chatham Maritime,
Kent ME4 4TB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 8331 9824
Fax: +44 (0)20 8331 9805
i.j.slipper@gre.ac.uk



Clive Jones (Membership Treasurer)

Department of Palaeontology
Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5580
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
clive.jones@nhm.ac.uk



Dr Mark Williams (Publicity Officer)

Department of Geology
University of Leicester
Leicester LE1 7RH, UK
Tel: +44 (0)116 2523642
Fax: +44 (0)116 2523918
mri@le.ac.uk



Dr F. John Gregory (Journal Editor)

PetroStrat Ltd (& The Natural
History Museum, London)
33 Royston Road, St Albans
Hertfordshire AL1 5NF, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1727 843056
Fax: +44 (0)1727 843056
john@jgregory.demon.co.uk



Dr Andrew S. Henderson (Webmaster)

Department of Palaeontology
The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 5684
Fax: +44 (0)20 7942 5546
a.henderson@nhm.ac.uk



Richard Hodgkinson (Archivist)

Department of Palaeontology
Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London
SW7 5BD, UK



Foraminifera Group

Dr Kate Darling (Chair)

School of GeoSciences,
Grant Institute of Earth Science
University of Edinburgh
West Mains Road
Edinburgh EH9 3JW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 4913
Fax: +44 (0)131 668 3184
Kate.Darling@ed.ac.uk



Dr Daniela Schmidt (Secretary)

Department of Earth Sciences
University of Bristol
Wills Memorial Building
Bristol BS8 1RJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)117 954 5414
Fax: +44 (0)117 925 3385
Email: d.schmidt@bristol.ac.uk



Microvertebrate Group

Dr Howard Armstrong (Chair)

Department of
Geological Sciences
University of Durham
South Road
Durham DH1 3LE, UK
Tel: +44 (0)191 3744780
Fax: +44 (0)191 3742510
h.a.armstrong@durham.ac.uk



Robert Raine (Secretary)

The Lapworth Museum
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT, UK
rjr873@bham.ac.uk



Nannofossil Group

Dr Karl-Heinz Baumann

(Chair)
FB Geowissenschaften,
Universität Bremen
Postfach 330440
D-28334 Bremen, Germany
baumann@uni-bremen.de



Tom Dunkley Jones (Secretary)

28c Cranfield Road
London SE4 1UG, UK
Tel: +44 (0)208 469 0886
Mobile: 07977 563 927
ucfbtd@ucl.ac.uk



Ostracod Group

Dr Giles Miller (Chair)

Department of Palaeontology
The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road,
London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5415
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
g.miller@nhm.ac.uk



Dr John Whittaker (Secretary)

Department of Palaeontology
The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5132
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
j.whittaker@nhm.ac.uk



Palynology Group

Dr Ian C. Harding (Chair)

School of Ocean & Earth Science
University of Southampton
National Oceanographic Centre
European Way
Southampton SO14 3ZH, UK
Tel: +44(0)23 80592071
Fax: +44(0)23 80593052
ich@noc.soton.ac.uk



Dr Duncan McLean (Secretary)

MB Stratigraphy Limited
11 Clement Street
Sheffield S9 5EA, UK
d.mclean@mbstratigraphy.co.uk



Silicofossil Group

Dr David Lazarus (Chair)

Museum für Naturkunde
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
Invalidenstrasse 43
10115 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 (0)30 2093 8579
Fax: +49 (0)30 2093 8868
david.lazarus@rz.hu-berlin.de



Dr Richard Pearce (Secretary)

School of Ocean & Earth Science
University of Southampton
National Oceanographic Centre
European Way, Southampton
SO14 3ZH, UK
rp1@noc.soton.ac.uk



Conference Announcements

European Geosciences Union general Assembly,
Vienna, Austria, 13th-18th April 2008

SSP8 Ostracoda as proxies for Quaternary climate change

Convenors: Dave Horne and Finn Viehberg d.j.horne@qmul.ac.uk

Ostracoda, common microfossils in both marine and nonmarine Quaternary deposits, are versatile palaeoclimate proxies via ecological, biogeographical and geochemical approaches. Alongside traditional methods such as the use of warm- and cold-water indicator species, a range of innovative and increasingly sophisticated techniques now exists. Analyses of the trace element and stable isotope compositions of their calcite shells provide proxies for climate-related factors such as temperature and salinity. GIS and transfer-function applications of large geographical databases have been developed, permitting (for example) the estimation of past air temperatures, water conductivity, or the climate-related solute history of a lake, and the use of deep-sea ostracod assemblages as water mass proxies for the interpretation of past changes in deep ocean circulation. This session will encompass all facets of the application of ostracods to Quaternary palaeoclimate studies.

We encourage contributions on all aspects of ostracods as proxies for Quaternary climate change, including indicator taxa, transfer function and Mutual Climate Range approaches, geochemical techniques, and comparative testing of one ostracod technique against another or of ostracods against other biological proxies such as chironomids, diatoms or foraminifera. We particularly encourage contributions from young scientists such as PhD students who may be looking for a first opportunity to make an oral presentation of their research at an international conference.

CL33: Production, flux and burial of silica, and the regulation of global (paleo)cycles

Main organiser: O. Romero, oromero@ugr.es

The silica cycle is intimately linked to the carbon cycle and thus has a profound impact on climate (past, modern and future). Siliceous microorganisms produced in the water column as well as microfossils preserved in underlying sediments have been intensely used in the last two decades to document variations in the trophic web, the dynamics of the silica cycle, but also paleoclimatic changes. We propose here an interdisciplinary session (1) to bring together a range of presentations covering the use of biogenic silica (opal) and silica-producing organisms for the reconstruction of environmental and climatic conditions from both, freshwater and marine systems, and (2) to discuss recent advances and challenges of opal-based proxies. The session will bring together the diverse and sometimes non-interconscious scientific communities involved including chemical and biological oceanographers, ecologists, taxonomists, micropaleontologists and paleoclimatologists. Session themes will focus on a set of issues related to (i) technological advancements in biogenic silica research, (ii) production of siliceous organisms, including aspects related with biomineralization and genetics, (iii) mechanisms and controls of Si export, (iv) factors controlling preservation and burial of Si, (v) variations of productivity, meltwater pulses, sea-ice coverage, temperature, salinity, pH, and nutrient utilization, and (vi) major geological and evolutionary changes in the silica cycle and its component.

Marine climate change *past and future*

Lyell Meeting 2008

Bringing together the science of
past and present climate change
to inform about the future

20 February 2008
The Geological Society
Burlington House
London, UK

Organisers

Dr Daniela Schmidt (University of Bristol,
The Micropalaeontological Society)
Dr Sarah Cornell (University of Bristol,
Challenger Society for Marine Sciences)
Dr Jennifer Pike (Cardiff University)

Themes

Ocean acidification
Temperature
Sea level
Climate active gases
Sea ice
Climate change policy

Speakers

Samantha Gibbs (NOCS)
Carol Turley (Plymouth Marine Laboratory)
Caroline Lear (Cardiff University)
Carol Robinson (Plymouth Marine Laboratory)
Robin Edwards (Trinity College Dublin)
Mikis Tsimplis (NOCS)
Jeremy Young (Natural History Museum)
Peter Liss (University of East Anglia)
Xavier Crosta (Université Bordeaux I)
Seymour Laxon (University College London)
David Cope (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology)
Claus Otto (Shell)



The
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www.geolsoc.org.uk

The Geological Society of America –
North Central Section 42nd Annual Meeting
24th and 25th April 2008
Evansville, Indiana, USA

THEME 19

Conodont Biostratigraphy and Correlation of Paleozoic and Early Mesozoic Records of Environmental Change

The Pander Society invites authors to present results of research on Paleozoic and Mesozoic conodont sequences, systematic matters bearing on improvements to resolution of correlations, and advances in inter-correlation of neritic and pelagic conodont sequences, providing temporal control for study of marine records of regional and global environmental change.

Chair: Dr. **Jed Day**, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University

Email: jeday@ilstu.edu Phone: 309-438-8678 Fax: 309-428-5310

The Second Canadian Ostracode Meeting (COME2)
Laboratory for Paleoclimatology and Climatology, Department of Geography,
University of Ottawa
25th and 26th April 2008.

The University of Ottawa is located in the centre of the nation's capital with easy access to many sight-seeing opportunities, including the Parliament Buildings, the Canadian War Museum, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Byward Market.

Recently the entire Delorme freshwater ostracode collection was deposited with the Canadian Museum of Nature at the Natural Heritage Building (research and collection facility). This diverse collection is comprised of specimens from over 6,000 localities in Canada, and was diligently cross-referenced and maintained by L. Denis Delorme prior to deposition.

We propose the following schedule and suggestions are welcome:

Thursday afternoon/evening: Participants arrive in Ottawa. Welcome at the Laboratory for Paleoclimatology and Climatology
Friday: Groups go to the Canadian Museum of Nature to view the Delorme freshwater ostracode collection (The museum can only accommodate a maximum of 4 persons at a time, so this could be planned as 2 half-day visits of 4 people each).
Saturday: Presentations (all topics regarding ostracodes are welcome) and discussions.

Based on the number of interested participants so far, there will be no registration fees, however this may change depending on the response to this circular. In addition, if more people are interested in viewing the Delorme collection, we could probably arrange a visit to the museum on Thursday afternoon.

Please reply or direct any questions to jbunbury@uottawa.ca.
We hope to see you in Ottawa!

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**Please pass this form to a colleague
and recruit a new member to
TMS**



TMS

(founded 1970)



The Micropalaeontological Society

TMS is the world's leading micropalaeontological society. We organize specialist meetings through the year on aspects of research into foraminifera, palynology, ostracods, silicofossils, nannofossils & microvertebrates.

The society holds its AGM in the Autumn of each year with 6 invited speakers on themes such as climate change.

We publish the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* (two parts a year), whose remit includes palaeobiology, palaeoenvironments, evolution, taxonomy & biostratigraphy.

For a profile of the society & the benefits of becoming a member, please visit our website at:

<http://www.tmsoc.org>

To join, fill in the membership form opposite. Please make cheques payable to "Micropalaeontological Society" and send with the form to: Clive Jones (Membership Treasurer)
Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5580
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
Email: clive.jones@nhm.ac.uk

TMS Membership application/renewal form

Membership is open to individuals as student, ordinary, or retired members (for libraries please contact the society) **subscriptions are due 1st January**

Rates for 2008 are:

Student Membership - £20 per annum (form to be countersigned by supervisor)

Individual Membership - £35 per annum

Retired Membership - £20 per annum

I would like to become a member of The Micropalaeontological Society in the category of : Student ☐ Ordinary ☐ Retired ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

COUNTRY

TELEPHONE

FAX

EMAIL

☐ In addition to normal membership, I would also like to become a TMS foundation member (suggested additional donation £25)

I would be interested in receiving details of the following specialist groups

Foram ☐ Microver ☐ Nannofoss ☐ Ostrac ☐ Palyn ☐ Silicofoss ☐

☐ I enclose cheque/money order/banker's draft for the sum of.....

☐ I wish to pay by credit/debit card (£1 surcharge) Total sum.....

Name on card.....

Credit card Number (credit cards 16 digits, Debit cards 16+ digits)

Type of card..... Expiry date /

(NB American Express not accepted)

Security code (last 3 digits on back of card)

Issue Number (Debit cards only)

Signed Date.....

Student's supervisor.....

Supervisor's institute.....

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and recruit a new member to
TMS**

DINO8: Eighth International Conference on
Modern and Fossil Dinoflagellates
Montréal, Canada
4th-10th May 2008

The Eighth International Conference on Modern and Fossil Dinoflagellates (DINO8: <http://www.dino8.uqam.ca>) is being organized by the Geochemistry and Geodynamics Research Centre (GEOTOP; <http://www.geotop.uqam.ca/>) and will be held at UQAM in Montreal from May 4 to 10, 2008. The conference will cover various fields of research relevant to the study of dinoflagellates including molecular biology, ecology, taxonomy, biostratigraphy, limnology, oceanography, paleoclimatology and paleoceanography. Workshops are planned to provide hands-on knowledge on the taxonomy of Neogene and Quaternary dinoflagellate cysts, in vitro culture techniques, techniques of preparation and analyses, and quantitative data treatments for paleoceanographic purposes. The preliminary program and information concerning registration are available on the internet at: <http://www.dino8.uqam.ca>

The organizing committee warmly welcomes students, researchers and professionals to attend DINO8. Organizing committee:

Anne de Vernal (GEOTOP-UQAM)
André Rochon (GEOTOP and ISMER)
Contact: Taoufik Radi at: dino8@uqam.ca

Mid-Mesozoic Life and Environments
Cognac, France
25th-27th June 2008

We want this symposium to be a scientific forum for palaeontologists and geologists working on different aspects of mid-Mesozoic continental and margino-littoral ecosystems. All the palaeontological, paleoecological and sedimentological aspects of these Upper Jurassic - Lower Cretaceous times will be welcome. The symposium will consist of three days of scientific presentations.

The meeting will take place in the Congress Centre "La Salamandre" in the historical centre of Cognac, a comfortable place with an amphitheatre, several small meeting rooms and facilities.

A visit to the Musée d'Angoulême, just renewed, is planned during the meeting.

The last day of meeting (Saturday) will be spent in the quarry of Cherves-de-Cognac. Each of us could be lucky enough to find either dozens of scales of *Lepidotes* (surely) or crocodilian teeth (quite surely) or a complete crocodilian skull (less surely!).

A symposium volume containing the meeting extended abstracts will be distributed at the meeting. It will consist of a special volume of the "Documents du Laboratoire de Géologie de l'Université de Lyon".

The proceedings will be published, probably in *Geobios*, the international Palaeontological Journal of the University of Lyon (Elsevier publications).

For further details please contact Jean-Michel Mazin:

jean-michel.mazin@univ-lyon1.fr



**The Micropalaeontological Society's
Foraminifera and Nanofossil Groups'**

JOINT SPRING MEETING

**"Bioindicators of past
and present environments"**

**15th - 17th May 2008
Tübingen, Germany**

Hosted by
the Department of Micropalaeontology,
Institute of Geoscience, University Tübingen

14th May

18:00 Icebreaker Reception
in the Palaeontological Museum

15th - 16th May

Scientific Programm

15th May

Conference Dinner*

17th May

Field trip* to the Jurassic
of the Swabian Alb

*prior reservation is required

Deadline for abstract submission and registration:

15th March 2008

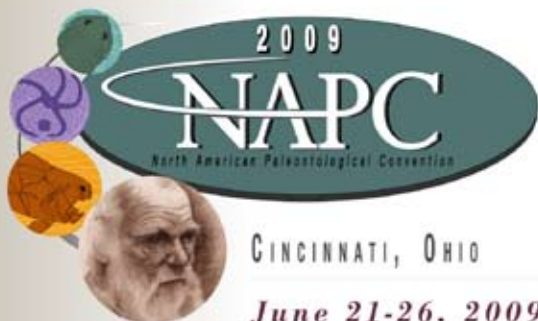
Contact: **Gabi Trommer** <gabriele.trommer@uni-tuebingen.de>
Tel: +49 7071 29 77552 Fax: +49 7071 29 5727

**Further Information and Forms on:
www.micropal.uni-tuebingen.de**

EDUARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



North American Paleontological Convention



First Circular

CINCINNATI, OHIO

June 21-26, 2009

<http://www.napc2009.org/>

The 9th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) will be held on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. The centrally-located Cincinnati region is world renowned for its Upper Ordovician fossils and strata, and has a long-established heritage of paleontological research and teaching.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

Proposals for symposia, which will form the backbone of the meeting, are now being accepted at our web site. The deadline for proposal submission is September 15, 2008, and we encourage members of all ANAPS organizations to consider organizing symposia.

ACCOMMODATIONS & AMENITIES

Comfortable and inexpensive state-of-the-art dormitory, dining, and recreational facilities will be available on campus, as will rooms in nearby hotels.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

*The organizing committee is planning a wide range of activities, including a plenary session commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Charles Darwin and the sesquicentennial of the publication of *The Origin of Species*; workshops on the creationism/evolution controversy; a banquet at the Cincinnati Museum Center; and a full slate of regional field trips.*

For additional information, including contact information for members of the organizing committee and instructions for submission of proposals go to:

<http://www.napc2009.org/>

Conference Reports

Mikro 2007 workshop in Gdansk 18-20 June, 2007

Claudia Cetea (PhD student, Cluj-Napoca) - TMS Grant-in-Aid report

The new building of the Geological Institute located in the outskirts of Gdansk, Poland was our host for the 6th Polish Micropaleontological Workshop which was held in June 18-20. Although usually the Polish Micropaleontological meetings deal with all groups of microfossils, this year the foraminiferal crowd was so big that it took over almost the entire lecture time in the workshop! The participants were from all the corners of Europe (Norway, UK, Germany) but with a majority of central & east Europeans (Poland, Austria, Czech Republic, Romania) and Russia.

The first day of lectures immersed us in all the topics related with foraminifera starting from the Phanerozoic diversity of the agglutinated foraminifera presented by **Mike Kaminski** and **Eiichi Setoyama** to **Jaroslav Tyska**'s models of foraminiferal test growth and the implications of morphogenesis for classification of foraminifera correlated with morphology and molecular studies. We had a very informal poster session in the afternoon combined with a coffee break, which finally brought a small change from the foraminiferal topics.

For the second day of the workshop, a field

trip in the nearby Hel Peninsula (no, it did not involve a dark place with fires – actually it was quite bright and sunny) was arranged by the organizers. We started near the harbor of the town Gdynia to see the cliff in Orlowo, a short walk on the beach which actually proved to be a very interesting petrology lesson as all types of rocks brought by glaciers can be found there. We visited the Marine Station and after lunch, we spent some time on the beach. Although the Baltic Sea water was only some degrees above zero, some of the participants had the courage to actually dive in, encouraged by the general cheers of the others, who had enough just to soak their feet. The field trip was followed by the conference dinner which, in the good tradition established from the first day by the grill party and coffee breaks, consisted of huge amounts of good food and at least, for this occasion the Polish gold bubbly liquid was exchanged with wine.

The third day started again with lectures in the morning when **Johann Hohenegger** surely had stirred up the atmosphere in the conference room with his studies on living Nummulitidae by comparing molecular and morphogenetic data. The conference was followed by a workshop on the agglutinated foraminiferal classification



Participants enjoying the beach at Hel

where some time was even reserved to an interesting debate over the pronunciation of the Latin names of foraminifera.

Finally, the day and the workshop ended with a walk on the spectacular streets of Gdansk's old town, an architectural jewel of Poland. Impressive churches, the town hall and the old ornamented houses brought everybody back to the Middle Ages for a couple of hours. We

said goodbye at a dinner table, in a small café in the street, accompanied by jazz music. Beer and pierogi ruled again, unfortunately not for **Jarek Tyska**, who was left starving by the waitress that forgot completely about him and his order.

I wish to thank TMS for the financial help in attending the workshop and the organizer, **Jarmila Krzyminska** for the effort of making the time we had spent there very enjoyable.

16th International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian, 21-24 June 2007, Nanjing, China

Sarah Heal - TMS Grant-in-Aid report

The 16th International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian was held at the Nanjing Dongjiao State Guesthouse in Nanjing between the 21st and 24th June 2007. During the opening ceremony around 200 international Carboniferous and Permian workers were welcomed by our hosts from the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology.

The plenary sessions followed with a great introduction to what was in store. **Samuel Bowring** introduced the EARTHTIME initiative, an effort focused on an integrated approach to calibrating geological time, using palaeontological datasets alongside radio-isotopes and cyclostratigraphy. **Hongfu Yin** outlined the patterns and causes of the Permo-Triassic extinction in China. **Hermann Pfefferkorn** gave an account of the impact of Carboniferous glaciation on tropical vegetation and plant evolution. **Charles Henderson** reviewed the recent definition of two Upper Permian GSSPs based on the First Appearance Datums of the conodont genus *Clarkina*, as well as fusulinids, ammonoids, carbon isotope shifts and magnetic reversals.

Session S2: Carboniferous and Permian macro- and microfossils: Integrative stratigraphy and high resolution biostratigraphy was the setting for my own talk co-authored with **Geoff Clayton** and **Cortland Eble** – Palynological correlation of some Mississippian (Carboniferous) stage boundaries. Here, I presented preliminary results from localities in the Mississippi

Valley and highlighted discrepancies between the American and European assemblages. We concluded that an independent spore zonation is needed for the Midwest USA and hope to have this in place by the end of 2008 (if my PhD schedule runs smoothly, watch this space!). During the session microfossils proved their worth time after time in numerous presentations involving palynomorphs, foraminifera and conodonts.

The conference was rounded off with a banquet where delegates munched their way through 25 courses of Nanjing specialities ranging from puffer fish to tea-eggs, some more recognisable than others. Rice wine and traditional entertainment were both provided during the meal – a very unique experience requiring an open mind and a strong stomach!

From the very start our Chinese hosts ensured the meeting ran smoothly and efficiently, the technical help was brilliant, and the whole experience was excellent. I want to thank the TMS for the Grant-in-Aid which allowed me to attend the meeting, present my results and gain excellent feedback, as well as meet scientists from a range of disciplines outside of the palynology circle – I came back full of enthusiasm and with a much broader outlook on my PhD.

Further information on the conference can be found at:

<http://www.iccp2007.cn/>

International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences (ISAES X) - 26th Aug - 1st Sept 2007, California

Anna Hey - TMS Grant-in-Aid report

To make comparisons with the film industry (in an appropriate Hollywood style!), the International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences has to be a blockbuster, with the tag line: "Antarctica: A Keystone in a changing World". Falling at the start of the International Polar Year (IPY 2007-2008), there was real focus and enthusiasm on the importance of Antarctica in the global context. Held every 4 years, and hosted this year by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), the conference was attended by a high number of delegates (over 400 scientists from 35 countries) and proved to be a must for a budding Antarctic scientist like me! Thanks very much to the TMS for the Grant-in-Aid support.

As the title might give away, the International Symposium of Antarctic Earth Sciences tended to be dominated by very hard rock geology. So, as members of The Micropalaeontology Society, I have devised a key (somewhat like our taxonomic ones!) to guide you to the relevant section:

- Member owns a rock hammer, doesn't automatically switch off at words like magmatic processes, tectonics and geodynamics.....

..... Still in touch with your geological roots, go to section one

- Member more interested in the stuff living or that has lived on Earth – trees, plants, and the plethora of organisms in the ocean.....

..... Wanting to know the latest scientific developments in the diatom, foraminifera and palaeontology world, go to section two

- Member who loves being outdoors, appreciating nature and wildlife.....

..... Planning a trip to California and want some top tips, go to section three.

1) Geology

There was such enormous breadth to what was discussed in this subject, with topics ranging from supercontinent reconstructions to surface geomorphology, from seismic interpretation of marine strata to drilling such sediments, and from climatic records revealed through ice cores to geophysical surveys that enable the continent below the ice sheets to be mapped.

There was a wealth of information addressing the question of how Antarctica broke away from a larger landmass millions of years ago to become the isolated and frigid continent it is today. A highlight was an excellent keynote talk from **Trond Torsvik**, discussing the long term evolution of the Antarctic continent, from Rodinia, through Gondwanaland and Pangaea, to the opening of gateways and the birth of the Southern Ocean. He presented several palaeogeographic maps spanning from 1 Ga to 75 Ma, which had Antarctic at tropical/subtropical latitudes on several occasions and completely hidden or spun around at several periods!

Of particular interest to me were the latest developments in drilling and coring of the Antarctic continental margin. Early results from two large drilling programmes were presented – ANDRILL (ANTarctic geological DRILLing) and SHALDRIL (Shallow drilling on the Antarctic continental shelf, led by **John Anderson**).

Focusing on ANDRILL, this is a multinational collaboration studying stratigraphic records from the Antarctic margin (covering the past 40 million years and the Holocene). Centred on the Ross Embayment, drilling was undertaken in 2006-2007, actually through the McMurdo Ice Shelf. A 1285m long core has been recovered, composed of successions of cyclic glacial marine sediment and interbedded volcanic deposits. The group (**Tim Naish, Ross Powell, Lawrence Krissek** and others) aims to address Late Neogene (Miocene to Pliocene) climate

and ice sheet variability. Early conclusions are that the Antarctic Ice Sheet in the Early Miocene and late Pleistocene was massive, under cold polar glaciation. In contrast, during the Late Miocene and Pliocene the ice sheet was more dynamic and under a warmer polythermal glacial regime.

2) Biota

The main interest in this field was focused on the climatic signal recorded by organisms living either on the continent, in the Southern Ocean or in quite distant ocean basins.

- Diatoms

Again linked with the ANDRILL programme, **Reed Scherer** presented some early results from the upper 600m of the core, covering the Pliocene and early Pleistocene. Alternating glacial diamictites and diatomites are preserved, with the latter indicative of high biosiliceous productivity. Most of these diatomites are reflecting warmer than present conditions, with variable sea ice and ice rafting. Another interesting finding is that the Late Pliocene (together with other interglacials) experienced significant sea-ice coverage in the Ross Sea region.

Looking at more recent diatom assemblages **Amy Leventer** (Eugene Domack) and **Claire Allen** presented two separate Holocene studies from either side of the Antarctic Peninsula. In a fjord setting on the western side, Claire Allen highlighted through sedimentological and diatom data that fluctuation in the extent of the ice-shelf and local glaciers occurred several times during the Holocene. In contrast, Amy Leventer demonstrated that the Larsen B Ice Shelf (on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula) was persistently present through the Holocene. This observation is significant because the ice shelf collapsed dramatically in 2002, leading to the conclusion that modern climate perturbations in the region have had a greater impact on the Larsen B Ice Shelf than natural variability during the Holocene.

- Foraminifera and bivalves

(or the Mg/Ca record derived from crushing them!)

There were several presentations on Cenozoic Antarctic glaciation reconstructions from isotopes and carbonate variability (**Kenneth Miller, Aradhna Tripathi, Stephen Pekar & Nicholas Christie-Blick**). There is ongoing debate as to when the initiation of a continent-sized Antarctic ice sheet occurred (from 15 Ma to 33 Ma). Likewise, there are also active discussions as to whether glaciation was synchronous in Antarctica and the Northern Hemisphere during the Eocene and Oligocene, or not.

Again using fossils as a means to get $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records, **Linda Ivany** used bivalve shells from Seymour Island (Antarctic Peninsula) to propose that there was a $\sim 10^\circ\text{C}$ cooling during the Eocene, much of which in two comparatively short intervals (~ 52 Ma and ~ 41 Ma). Further, high resolution records indicate a decrease in seasonality, with significantly cooler summers in the late Eocene.

- Terrestrial

There was an excellent keynote talk from **Jane Francis** titled "100 million years of Antarctic climate evolution: Evidence from fossil plants". She proposes that during the Mid-late Cretaceous, flowering plants thrived in sub-tropical climates in Antarctica. Through the Palaeogene (~ 50 Ma) warmth loving plants gradually diminished and were replaced by conifers and southern beech (*Nothofagus*), tolerating freezing winters. These plants then hung on, even after ice-sheets covered the land and during period of interglacial warmth in the Neogene small dwarf plants survived in tundra-like conditions. From this work and that of **Pete Convey**, they argue that refugia for plants and animals living on the continent must have existed and that modellers need to address this – the view of (almost) complete wipe-out associated with successive glacial maxima, either on Pleistocene or longer timescales may not be the case.

3) California

The UCSB campus, set round a lagoon and bordered by beaches on two sides, is absolutely stunning. The morning stroll across to the conference rooms (following the enormous buffet breakfast!) was particularly pleasant. After the



as wine tours and whale watching. The conference dinner was also a lovely evening, set in the wooded grounds of the Natural History Museum.

Finally, the staff at UCSB were fantastic also, both the organising committee and audio/visual team on the floor. There were some interesting touches - such as the live web broadcast that

nightly evening drinks and cakes (which were endless and all complementary!) provided at the poster session, the amble back to the accommodation turned into a bit of a wildlife safari – families of racoons to spot in the bins, skunks skulking around (in true Pepe le Pew fashion!) and the very friendly squirrels to say hello to.

The half-day conference excursions included both geological, to see the famous Monterey Formation, and then more general interest, such

closed the meeting. A small panel gave summary presentations, which was then followed by questions posed by members of the science media via a phone link. This broadcast can be found at <http://www.it.id.ucsb.edu/isaes.mov> and the online proceedings at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1047/> and include extended abstracts from all the authors mentioned in this report. Hope you find it useful and thanks again to the TMS for the financial support.

European Ostracodologists' Meeting EOM VI Frankfurt am Main, 5th - 7th September 2007

Julio Rodriguez Lazaro

Coincident with the 19th International Senckenberg Conference, 88 Ostracodologists from 25 countries gathered between the 5th and 7th of September in Frankfurt am Main (Germany) to attend the Sixth European Ostracodologists' Meeting. The meeting was wisely organised by **Alan Lord** assisted by **Claudia Franz** and hosted by the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg. Many of us remained a bit nostalgic just remembering the first EOM celebration at this museum (2-8 August, 1989) so cordially organised by **Heinz Malz** and **Thomas Jellinek** (that time as A-1 larval stage?). A lot of things have changed between those dates; the town is much bigger, mirroring the economic growth of last decades and the computer era is fully active controlling practically every activity...our almost email-based research included!

The meeting developed during three days and hard work only stopped during the afternoon of day 2, when a very nice excursion to Nierstein village took place. The first day started with the welcome of Prof. **Wolfgang Strutz**, President of the Seckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft (SNG) and Prof. Dr **Volker Mosbrugger**, Director of the Seckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum; the speakers warmly welcomed delegates to celebrate the 300th birthday of Dr J. C. Senckenberg, a philanthropic citizen who inspired the foundation of the SNG and the museum. The same building of the museum is 100 years old, and it was also the 300th birthday of Carl Linnaeus, so we had three anniversaries to celebrate during the meeting.

Scientific sessions were grouped into six themes and one workshop: Theme 1 - Ostracod records

of deep-time global warming, especially Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum (2 talks); theme 2 - Ostracoda and crisis events (3 talks); theme 3 - Biology and Ecology of Palaeozoic Ostracoda (7 talks); theme 4 - Biology and Ecology of post-Palaeozoic Ostracoda (17 talks); theme 5 - Metadatabase applications for Ostracoda (4 talks); Workshop (organised by **Dan Danielopol**), Ostracods of the Paratethys and Lake Pannon (8 talks).

The scope of topics presented during the sessions was too wide to be developed here, but it was shown once again the utility of ostracods in fields such as palaeobiology, palaeoceanography, palaeolimnology, biostratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental sciences. I am sure that all delegates were very impressed by the virtual reconstructions of Cambrian ostracods presented by **David Siveter** and collaborators, whose findings challenge the present classifications of Ostracoda and other associated crustacean groups. This is a good example of new technologies applied to palaeobiological research. The workshop proposed by **Dan Danielopol** on the Paratethys and Lake Pannon ostracods was particularly well attended, showing the importance of coordinated research to the interpretation of particular geological problems such as paratethyan events. But, of course, not many researchers have the energy of Prof. Danielopol!

The 41 oral presentations were distributed into different categories. By time of subject there

were 9 Palaeozoic, 5 Mesozoic, 15 Cenozoic and 8 Quaternary talks. The particular topics of communications are distributed by: biostratigraphy (3), palaeobiology/evolution (6), palaeoecology (10), climate change (3), biology/genetics/taxonomy (8), palaeobiogeography (6) and metadatabases (4). Finally, continental talks beat the marine ones by a score of 21-16.

In the afternoon of the third day the closing sessions were presented with very interesting final conclusions (thanks to **Dave Horne** and **Koen Martens**). Comparing “deep time” and “shallow time” conclusions, Palaeozoic phylogenetic relationships and modern biodiversity in the deep sea can be proposed by detailed study of soft parts supported and/or tested by molecular data. The contribution of ostracod studies to the knowledge of past global change is largely based on their rapid response to environmental changes. This response has been estimated by measuring past events (Pannonian, geographical parthenogenesis) and modern palaeoclimatic proxies. The large amount of data gathered during recent years makes necessary the development of large databases (metadatabases) for the ostracods, thus placing ostracodology in a wider scientific context helping to solve biological problems such as arthropod phylogeny, the evolution of sex, environmental sciences, biostratigraphy and global events, and what next about Ostracoda?...

The afternoon of the first day was dedicated to a guided visit of the Senckenberg museum, led



by **Eberhard Schindler, Volke Wilde** and **Alan Lord**. We all enjoyed the natural wonders of the museum, and in particular the coloured, incredible preserved insects and vertebrates of the Messel grove exhibition. The day officially closed with a welcome party in the Festsaal of the Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft.

After the Pannonian sessions in the morning of Tuesday, 6, delegates had the chance to visit the region with an excursion to the village of Nierstein, with equal doses of geology, palaeontology and ...Rhine wine! The trip was nicely illustrated with a green landscape ending inexorably in the big river. A warm welcome to Nierstein by the Mayor of the village and President of the county was completed with the

silver medal awarded to **Arnulf Stapf**, for his contribution to the creation of the Paläontologisches Museum of Nierstein. Later, a visit to the museum with incredibly well preserved and abundant fossil specimens completed the urban part of the excursion. An unforgettable experience was the tour of the vineyards on the slope of the Rhine River sitting on moveable wagons with wine on board, while trying to serve different local wines into small typical glasses (now we can confess: we kept with the glasses!).

We are sincerely indebted to Prof. Alan Lord, Dr Claudia Franz and collaborators and supporters for the success of this EOM VI meeting where good science and leisure have found their place and looking forward to attend the next ostracodologists' meeting.

40th AASP Meeting, Panama, 9th-12th Sept 2007

Carlos Jaramillo and Ian Harding

This year's 40th American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Annual Meeting was organized by **Carlos Jaramillo** (President of the AASP, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute – STRI - Panama) and held at the Tupper Conference Center of the STRI in Panama City, from September 9th to 12th. The meeting was sponsored by AASP, Exxon, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, STATOIL, BP, Ecopetrol and STRI, and was attended by 82 participants and received 50 abstracts from 18 countries.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks by **Carlos Jaramillo** and **Eldredge Bermingham** (STRI's Acting Director), and the keynote address was by **Alfred Traverse**, entitled: "Founding the AASP: Critical Mass Reached in Tulsa in 1967". The diverse meeting program provided attendees the opportunity to learn about novel uses of pollen relevant to oil and gas exploration, as well as enjoy two palaeobotanical symposia on "Pollen Morphology and Phylogeny"

organized by **David Jarzen**, senior biologist and collections manager for palaeobotany and palynology at the Florida Museum of Natural History; and "Tropical Pollen and Spores: Tracking Vegetation Dynamics of the Neotropics during the Cenozoic" chaired by **Steve Lowe** from BP. The meeting also included a poster session and two general technical ses-



The Miraflores lock, Panama Canal

sions. In addition, participants had the option of attending a free, half-day workshop in analytical techniques for palynological analysis using the statistical freeware program “R”, where participants obtained hands-on experience using the software.

The first night’s social icebreaker took place in the Punta Culebra Nature Center, where attendees got to meet each other and enjoy a wonderful Pacific sunset. There were also two optional field trips, one to rainforest of Barro Colorado Island and other to a Canopy Crane System in the Parque Nacional Metropolitano, where participants were able to see the forest from above the canopy. Conference participants also visited the Miraflores Locks in the Panama Canal, and enjoyed the conference dinner at a fantastic local restaurant. During the Business Luncheon held in the Tupper Conference Center several awards were given, and the new AASP Presi-

dent, **Francine McCarthy**, gave her inaugural speech.

The L. R. Wilson Student Paper Award was given to **Alexander Correa-Metrio**, a PhD student from Florida Technical University. He received a cheque for U\$500 and a two-year free membership in the Association. His paper was “8,200 years of climatic variability in the Amazonian Piedmont of Peru”, co-authored with **Mark Bush** and **Miles Silman**.

The Best Student Poster Award was given to **Millerlandy Romero-Baez**, a student at the Universidad Industrial de Santander in Colombia. She received a cheque for U\$250 and a two-year free membership in the Association. Her poster was entitled “Early Pliocene palinodiversity of the Choco and Amazonia areas”, co-authored with **Silane Silva**, **Vladimir Torres**, and **Carlos Jaramillo**.

PhD Positions

Ph.D. Position in Integrated Bioscience

University of AKRON

Applicants are invited for a new Ph.D. position in Integrated Bioscience at the University of Akron. We seek a student interested in combining paleontology with evolutionary reproductive biology to assess the long-term evolution of breeding systems in “conchostracan” crustaceans (“clam shrimp”). We have a unique set of conchostracan specimens that allow us to associate environment with breeding system within conchostraca over evolutionary time. Such a long-term association would be unique within breeding system evolutionary studies. The ideal applicant would have some background in both paleontology and evolutionary biology or a background in only one area but be eager to learn the alternate area of study.

The PhD position comes with full tuition remission plus a stipend of \$20,000 per year for a total of 5 years. Applications are being sought for positions beginning in August 2008.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Steve Weeks (scw@uakron.edu; 330-972-7156) or

Dr. Lisa Park (mlepark@uakron.edu; 330-972-7633)

or visit our IB PhD website at:

<http://www.uakron.edu/id/ib/>

Tales from the Archive

1- The Foundation of The Society, 1970-1971

Richard L. Hodgkinson (TMS Archivist)

One of the advantages of setting up a TMS Archive, which I have recently undertaken at the behest of the Committee and now put in good order, is to be in a position to report accurately on some important events in the Society's history. There is perhaps no event of more importance and interest than the circumstances surrounding the foundation of the Society itself.

Originally, the only real avenue for micropalaeontologists to be heard in this country was through the publications of the Geological Society of London and the Palaeontological Association. They did not fare well. However, all was about to change. On February 17th 1970, Professor Leslie R. Moore of the University of Sheffield sent out an open letter to some of the leading micropalaeontologists in Britain, including W.G. Chaloner (University of London), J.W. Neale (University of Hull), W.G. Clarke (BP Sunbury), R.H. Cummings (Robertson Research), B. Owens (British Geological Survey), and R.H. Bate and C.G. Adams (through H.W. Ball, the then Keeper of Palaeontology of the British Museum (Natural History)), where he itemised his reasoning for the need for the existence of a dedicated "micropalaeontological group". He was worried that the total studies included under the general terms of "Micropalaeontology" were not given their full consideration and that considerable advantages might accrue to these workers and their subject matters if there was some means by which their work, activities and interests could be coordinated and represented more fully.

This idea was discussed by the Council of the Geological Society and was initially warmly received and indeed, Council indicated in principle its agreement to the formation of an appropriate body (envisaged as a specialist subgroup of the Geological Society, much as the Petroleum Group is at the present day).

In a further letter of May 14th 1970 Professor Moore records that an *ad hoc* group had already met in the Geology Department of Imperial College, London on April 22nd to discuss the possibility of the formation of the British Micropalaeontological Group. The meeting had been able to agree on certain recommendations and arising from these, to suggest further courses of action, which were:

1. To formally institute the British Micropalaeontological Group - but as a separate society independent of the Geological Society - the term Group (BMG) was initially proposed so as to not to immediately offend existing societies (the Geological Society and the Palaeontological Association);
2. To further the cause of the subject of micropalaeontology and micropalaeontologists in every possible manner;
3. To provide a means of communication and coordination;
4. To advise and to participate in, the organisation of international meetings;
5. To prepare and present in a suitable monographic form, stratigraphic correlation of the British succession based on micropalaeontology.

The organisation was to be based on sub-committees (working parties) within acceptable subdivisions of micropalaeontology and that each sub-committee would be able to organise itself. Every British micropalaeontologist was to be approached and asked to give an opinion by ballot/postal ballot, through a questionnaire, about the formation of specialist groups (foraminifera, ostracods, spores and pollen, non-calcareous microplankton, nannofossils, conodonts, algae, and any others). These de-

tails would then be used to form the entry for a proposed Directory of British Micropalaeontologists.

The nascent British Micropalaeontological Group then held a General Meeting in the Department of Geology, Imperial College, London, on Wednesday June 2nd 1971, at 2.15p.m. The purpose was twofold:

1. To enable members of the specialist groups to meet and discuss the precise nature and range of activities they would undertake;
2. To discuss problems relating to affiliation with other learned societies.

The decisions would be decided by ballot of all members present, or by postal vote for those absent. Those present were then given information of the meetings that had been held with the Geological Society of London and the Palaeontological Association, to which the idea of affiliation or association had been, initially, warmly received. It was finally emphasised that it was not the aim of the British Micropalaeontological Group (BMG) to establish itself as a new publication medium; this statement was made as a result of pressure from the Palaeontological Association who saw that it would lose many of its micropalaeontological papers. In fact, many of those attending were clearly of the opinion that they should establish a fully independent society that had its own publication. Whilst the Geological Society was very keen to retain micropalaeontologists within its own organisation, the majority of those attending these early meetings considered it had done little to further their cause in the past – which is precisely the reason why the Palaeontological Association was also established some years earlier. The leaders in the establishment of the BMG were Professors Leslie Moore, John Neale, Charles Downie, Bill Chaloner, Eric Robinson and Ray Bate, but it was the ostracodologists who were the most dynamic with respect to establishing specialist subgroups.

All considerations and options for independ-

ence of the BMG versus affiliation to another society were set out in the June 2nd document, as well as items dealing with tax considerations, meeting accommodation, publications, relationships with other organisations, and formations of its own scientific links. It was concluded that a fully independent organisation would have far reaching implications, but would indeed give a truly independent voice to a significantly large number of scientists....and this is why the BMG voted to go it alone.

The first Circular of the British Micropalaeontological Group is in the Archive; it is undated but is thought to be pre-March 1971. Interestingly the initial Membership Fee was set at ten shillings (50p in new money)!

Some groups worked very well from the very beginning whilst others did next to nothing. This was entirely due to the leading personalities of that time – the ostracodologists were the most willing to work together irrespective of where they worked – in other specialist groups there was definite rivalry. For example the Sheffield palynologists (Leslie Moore, Charles Downie, Roger Neves) did not get on with the Cambridge group headed by Norman Hughes and vice versa. The foraminiferal workers were also divided into fractions based on UCL, Imperial College, the BMNH and BP, Sunbury. It was left to the ostracod specialists to arrange meetings both within the UK and with their French counterparts. The success of these meetings tempted other disciplines to bury the hatchet and join in the running of their respective and ultimately, flourishing groups.

It was to be another five years before our first Newsletter, the then *British Micropalaeontologist* was born and not until 1982 before it was finally decided to initiate our own journal, the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*.

[Additional material supplied by Ray Bate, first Treasurer of the then BMG].

Letters

The Open Paleontology Journal: the open access initiative hijacked by commerce

Robert Speijer

K.U.Leuven, Belgium

Science publishers are adjusting to new demands and opportunities. Some seem to exploit an opportunity without any demand. *The Open Paleontology Journal* is the product of the latter strategy. *OPJ* is an open access journal recently launched by Bentham Science Publishers (BSP):

“Bentham Open aims to be the largest publisher of quality open access journals offering authors World Wide readership at attractive open access fees”

it says at www.bentham.org/open/topaloj. Being ambitious is fine, the question only is, whether there is an academic need for a new general palaeontology journal? Just as it might be questioned whether there is a need for an Open Geology Journal, an Open Biology Journal, as well as some 200 other Open “you name it, we offer it” journals.

At the moment, the following palaeontology journals are available in open access (www.doaj.org): *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* (Poland), *Ameghiniana* (Argentina), *Geodiversitas* (France), *Joannea Geologie und Paläontologie* (Austria), *Palaeontologia Electronica* (UK) and *Revue de Paléobiologie* (Switzerland). Furthermore, there is a range of journals also offering outlets for palaeontology papers, such as *Biogeosciences* and *eEarth* (both EGU), *Carnets de Géologie* (France). In addition, there is a large number of non-commercial journals which come along with a membership for a very limited fee to a society, such as *Palaeontology*, *Paläontologische Zeitschrift* and of course our very own *Journal of Micropalaeontology*, to mention just a few. Some of these journals flourish, whereas others may be struggling for getting a sufficient number of manuscripts or the finances to sup-

port them. The key advantage of open access journals is that everyone can freely download pdf versions of the papers and hopefully for the authors cite them well. Most open access journals request limited financial support from the authors (the EGU journals are an unfortunate exception to this). I suppose that BSP is playing the open access card, realising that open access journals are increasingly cited and that many authors are forced to comply with Science Citation Index and Impact factors as the holy grail in evaluating scientific quality. In contrast to the many societies publishing the above journals, BSP has no particular commitment to palaeontology or any other science as far as I can judge from the long list of Open journals. BSP is of course mainly interested in making money. Unfortunately, this goes at the expense of often limited research budgets in palaeontology: a paper in *OPJ* costs \$600-900 (for 8-10+ journal pages) depending on the type of paper. The reader may judge whether this is an “attractive open access fee” (also assume that the value of the US\$ will rise again some day).

In order to kick-off the *OPJ* successfully, BSP has managed to create an excellent editorial board. A quick look at the list will reveal quite a few established micropalaeontologists, amongst them a couple of TMS members. Notably, Editor-in-Chief of *OPJ* is our colleague and ostracodologist Jean-Paul Colin. I'm very curious to learn what has motivated the editorial board to support *OPJ*, so I invite the editors to explain in the next TMS newsletter why they support the *OPJ* and why the palaeontological community should embrace the initiative.

Some background: Open access started as an initiative to break out of the spiral of increasing costs for our libraries charged by commercial

publishers, notably Elsevier and Springer. Now that libraries are cutting down more and more on journals that are too expensive, commercial publishers are trying to come in through the back door by hijacking the open access initiative for their own purposes. To me BSP appears to be the one most explicit in this attempt. The scientific community in general and the palaeontological community in particular should avoid falling into the same trap as the one we were just thinking to climb out of. As outlined above, there are plenty of journals covering the field of palaeontology on a non-commercial ba-

sis. Scientific societies should more intensively reclaim their territory as science publishers. Open access without interference by commercial publishers is the strategy of the future and a complete rethinking of the financial handling of the outlets is required. This could also enable growth of some journals, not in the last place the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*. Some societies have already successfully taken this path (see www.doaj.org/). Exchange of ideas and experience between societies is needed. What we really do not need is a new commercial player milking our research budgets.

Announcements

Paleontological Data Analysis and Modelling

During the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, August 6-14, 2008, there will be a workshop on "Paleontological Data Analysis and Modelling", on August 10. Conveners are Prof. **Mikael Fortelius** and **Oyvind Hammer**. More information can be found at: <http://www.33igc.org>

The workshops are described under "Scientific Programme".

Oyvind Hammer

oyvind.hammer@nhm.uio.no

New Paleo Coordination Group

IODP-MI has formally founded a Paleo Coordination Group (PCG, with **Emmanuel Soed-ing** of IODP, Sapporo and **Dave Lazarus** as co-chairs). We had a first meeting in Berlin in August, 2007 with the primary goal of developing a concrete implementation plan for getting IODP's taxonomic data management in order. Although important details still need to be worked out, the initial goal, hopefully to be done in 2008, is to compile comprehensive lists of taxonomic names used in DSDP-ODP-IODP, and to annotate them with essential scientific

info, particularly synonymy status and original author of name. This will initially be for the planktonic foraminifera, calcareous nannofossils, diatoms, palynomorphs and radiolaria, though other groups would be desirable as well in the future.

For more info, please contact Dave Lazarus.
david.lazarus@rz.hu-berlin.de

Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils II

If you are interested in solving earth system and resource related problems with ostracodes please see the announcement from the NAMS website.

This is the second meeting sponsored by NAMS (North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM). The first conference was extremely successful and held at Rice University in 2005. Please visit the NAMS website at

<http://www.sepm.org/nams/index.htm>

and click on the
Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils II
hypertext.

Obituaries

Roger Leroy Kaesler, Professor of Geology at the University of Kansas passed away on August 11th, 2007, after a long struggle with cancer. He was 69 years old. Roger received a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1959 and a master's and doctorate in paleontology from the Department of Geology, University of Kansas (KU) in 1965. He joined the faculty at KU in 1965, serving until his retirement in 2006.

In addition to teaching courses and directing the KU Geology Field Camp, Roger was a senior curator at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center (1982-2006) and the director of the Paleontological Institute (1986-2006). He served as editor of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and editor of the University of Kansas Paleontological Contributions, New Series from 1982 to 2006. Throughout his career, Roger published hundreds of scientific papers, including landmark works on the multivariate statistical analysis of fossils, particularly of fossil and modern ostracodes.

A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1972), the Geological Society of America (1980), and the Paleontological Society (U.S.A.) (2006), Roger was also awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award (1999) and van Diest Medal (2006) from the



Colorado School of Mines, the Geological Society of America's Distinguished Service Award (2006), and the Haworth Distinguished Alumni Award from the KU Department of Geology (2006).

Roger's career was dedicated to service as a teacher and editor and to science as a curator and researcher. He was an inspiration to many and a friend to all. Roger is survived by his wife, Jerelyn, three daughters, son, five grandchildren, and a brother.

Lisa Park

William Madison (Bill) Furnish Jr died on 9th November 2007 early in his 95th year. I suppose he was the last of that cohort of people including Branson and Mehl, Ulrich and Bassler, and John W. Huddle who laid the groundwork for conodont studies in North America. I was in Iowa City for a birthday celebration for Bill about a month ago and found him frail but still mentally alert and vigorous. Becky Furnish passed away about two years ago and he continued to live alone in the apartment in a retirement complex that they had occupied when the infirmities of age made it necessary for them to leave their country estate about 30 miles or so

from Iowa City. I credit Bill for most of what I have been able to accomplish but declare him not responsible for any of my shortcomings. It was a privilege to have known and worked with him--they don't make 'em like that anymore. While he has been out of Pander Society circulation for at least 20 years or more, anyone who works in the Early Ordovician anywhere in the world will be familiar with his 1938 paper in the *Journal of Paleontology* and the number of times they have included references to his work in synonymies and bibliographic citations.

Ray Ethington

Hans Martin Bolli (1917-2007)

A small black ribbon was placed last October 5, 2007 at the door of Germaniastrasse 64, in Zurich. Hans Martin Bolli died that day in his home city of Zurich, at the age of 90. I met Hans in Maracaibo, while working in Shell Venezuela during the early 1960s, when I was doing geological work. I remember him as a perfect Swiss gentleman, soft spoken, always with an elegant smile in his face. He was born and educated in Zurich. His doctoral thesis on the Upper Cretaceous of the Helvetic nappes became an instant classic.

Bolli never had any doubt as to what he would do with his life. He would be a micropaleontologist. His long and happy monogamous marriage with planktonic and benthic foraminiferal biostratigraphy converted him into a giant of the paleontological sciences, in the line of Cushman.

He came to South America after graduation, first to Trinidad, as head of the Micropaleontological laboratory of Texaco, where he excelled in the study of benthic foraminifera and started the study of planktonic species. In 1958 he came to Venezuela where he started work with Atlantic Refining in Caracas and, later, moved to Shell Venezuela, in Caracas and Maracaibo, where I met him. In those years I moved among giants

and did not realize it: Hans Bolli, H.H. Renz, Karl Dallmus, Konrad Habicht, Otto Renz, R. M. Stainforth, Harry Hess, Clemente Gonzalez de Juana, Harold Reading, what a crop! They all belonged in a geological Olympus. In fact, Bolli would go on to win the Joseph Cushman Award, in 1984.

Bolli was a micropaleontologist who could talk with the common geologists such as myself and explain why it was important for us to obtain good samples in the field.

As a scientist he was in a class by himself but always had a kind word for us younger geologists and minor creatures.

After his long and distinguished career in the oil industry Hans Bolli went back home, to Zurich, where he became Professor of Geology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and Chairman of the Geology Department. Upon retirement he became an Emeritus professor at his alma mater, the University of Zurich.

At 90 the love affair of Hans Martin Bolli with the *Globigerina* and the *Globotruncana* came to an end. Our condolences go to his relatives in Zurich and to his first-class Venezuelan pupils and colleagues.

Gustavo Coronel

Johanna Martha Resig (1932-2007)

World-renowned University of Hawaii researcher Johanna Martha Resig, called a role model for women in science, died September 19th, 2007 at Hospice Hawaii. She was 75.

Resig earned a master's degree in science in 1956 at the University of Southern California under a leading micropaleontologist. She then worked for the Allen Hancock Foundation, studying living foraminifera of the Southern California coast. Her research papers are cited among pioneering applications of the field now known as environmental micropaleontology, said Janice C. Marsters, who met Resig on a marine geology research cruise off Peru in 1986.

Marsters said she moved to Hawaii about eighteen months later to work on a doctoral degree at UH and Resig was on her dissertation committee. The two became close friends, she said. Resig went to Christian Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany, on a Fulbright grant for research in 1962. Her fellowship was extended, enabling her to earn a doctorate in natural science there in 1965, when she was recruited by the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.

She was the first woman on the HIG faculty and the only one for many years, starting as an assistant micropaleontologist, Marsters said. She became an associate micropaleontologist in 1970 and had a joint appointment in 1990 as an HIG researcher and professor in the Depart-

ment of Geology and Geophysics. She studied microfossils around Hawaii and the Pacific Basin, participating in scientific cruises of the Deep Sea Drilling Project.

Chuck Helsley, Sea Grant emeritus researcher and former HIG director, said Resig “will be sorely missed. ... She was one of the old-style micropaleontologists that looked at bugs themselves. ... She was a tremendous walking encyclopedia... of the morphology of foraminifera.” Her expertise was in knowing how to extract microfossils from layers of the sea floor and “how to identify them through a narrow piece of time,” he said. “This is very essential expertise for making use of data coming from a research drill ship where we sample cores and want to know how old they are and what they tell is about chemistry in the past.” Such information was “one of the key steppingstones to making sense of the history of the ocean basins,” he said.

Resig discovered and described five new species of foraminifera, including a group that “in the mammalian world would be akin to the discovery of a group such as primates,” Marsters

said.

Resig also was a dedicated teacher and mentor and an author of more than 50 articles in scientific books, journals and academic papers. She supported the arts and volunteered as a tutor reading to elementary school children.

She was a former editor of the *Journal of Foraminiferal Research*, member of the board of directors of the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research and member of the Society for Sedimentary Geology for more than 50 years.

She retired in 2001 as an emeritus professor, continuing her research in a small office in SOEST until early this year. Marsters said they traveled to Scotland and Ireland in October. Her health began to fail upon her return and she learned in April she had inoperable cancer.

Survivors include sisters Mary Alley of Folsom, Calif., and Peggy Van Sickle of Austin, Texas, and many nieces and nephews. Colleagues plan a private memorial service.

Helen Altonn

Tetsuro Hanai (1924 – 2007)

Professor Tetsuro Hanai passed away on 26 October at the age of 83. He had been fine in those last days, enjoying his usual life with his wife Michiko, until the morning when a myocardial infarction caused a sudden and almost painless death to him at his home.

Tetsuro Hanai was born in Tokyo on 13th March 1924. His father Juji Hanai was a famous geographer. Tetsuro Hanai graduated from the Department of Geology at the University of Tokyo in 1948 under the guidance of Professor Teilchi Kobayashi and got a place in the University of Tokyo in 1950. Hanai studied the Lower Cretaceous belemnites from Miyako District, Japan and the paper was published in 1953. Later he was famous as the first dinosaur discoverer in Japan (from Miyako) in 1978.



Hanai's first paper on Ostracoda was published in 1951 dealing with Manchurian Cretaceous Ostracoda. He discussed the possibility of sexual dimorphism and parthenogenesis, although another person commenced the study and abandoned it; Professor Kobayashi turned over the specimens and manuscript to Hanai for completion. Then he studied Ostracoda under Professor Henry V. Howe at the Louisi-

ana State University in 1952-56. He published his systematic study of Japanese Ostracoda in 1957- 1970. His systematic work was the foundation of not only Japanese Ostracoda but also the worldwide Ostracoda.

From 1958 he was Associate Professor of the University of Tokyo and from 1972 to 1984 he was Professor of Palaeobiology in the University of Tokyo. He was the President of the Japanese Palaeontological Society in 1979-83.

He started ostracodology in Japan for understanding "the pathways and causations responsible for evolutionary changes" (Mayr, 1969). He was the president of the 1985 International Symposium on Ostracoda (ISO) in Shizuoka.

He was not only a highly gifted scientist with great ideas in natural sciences, but also a warm-

hearted mentor and colleague.

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Michiko Yajima (yajima-michiko@gupi.jp)



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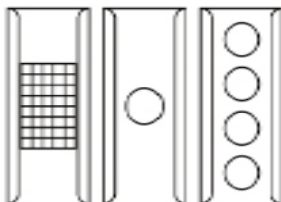
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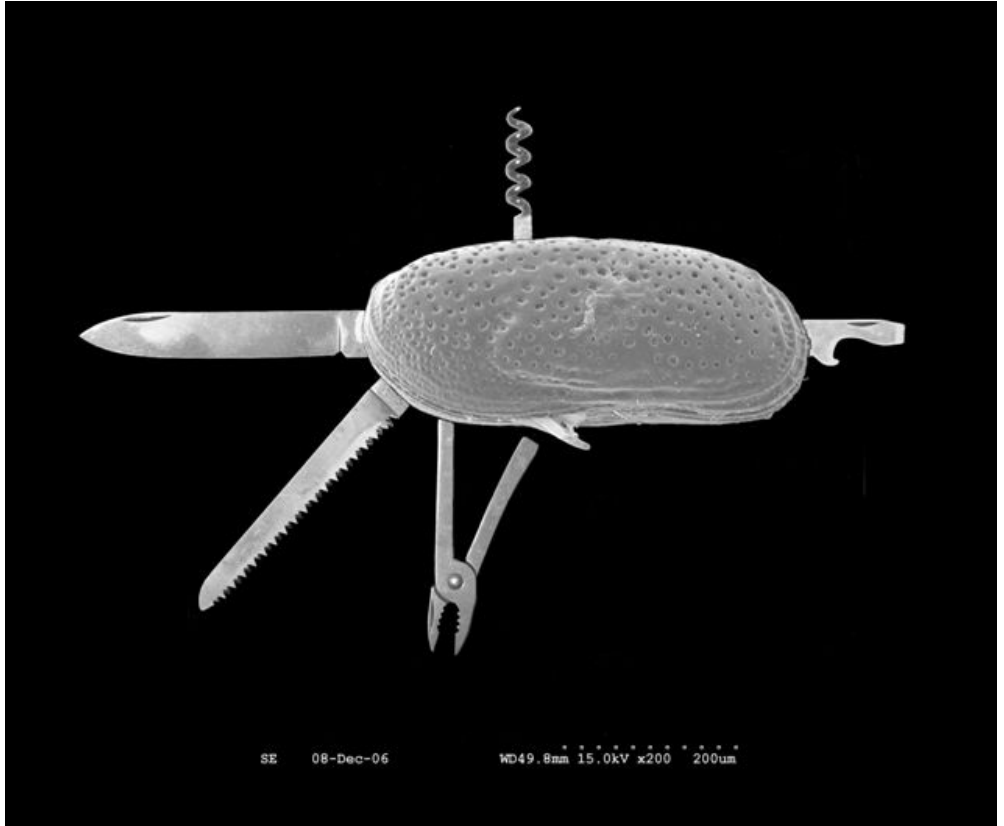
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A new species of ostracod - found only in Swiss lakes I presume?

From Dinah Smith and Dave York of Leicester University, UK.

If you have an SEM, a copy of Photoshop, a sense of humour and an idle coffee break, send your creations to the editor at: i.j.slipper@gre.ac.uk.

Micropalaeontology Diary

2008

Feb 20	Lyell Meeting - Burlington House London
Feb 29	TMS Grant-in-Aid submission deadline
April 13-18	EGU - Vienna, Austria (ostracod & silico- sessions)
April 24-25	42nd GSA, Indiana, USA (conodont session)
April 25-26	Canadian Ostracodologists' meeting (COME2), Ottawa
April 25-27	TMS Ostracod Group Spring Meeting, Flatford Mill
May 4-10	DINO 8 - Montreal, Canada
May 15-17	TMS Foram & Nannofossil meeting, Tübingen, Germany
June 25-27	Mid-Mesozoic Life & Environments, Cognac, France
Aug 12-16	4th European Symposium on Aerobiology (ESA) Turku, Finland
Aug 30-Sept 5	12th IPC and 8th IOPC, Bonn, Germany
Sept 1	TMS Undergraduate Prize nomination deadline
Sept 7-13	20th International Diatom Symposium Dubrovnik, Croatia.
October	Palynology Group Meeting - London

2009

June 21-26	NAPC - Cincinnati, USA
September	Interrad 12 - Nanjing, China

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