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Nachrichten

Fourth Congress of the Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy of the International Union of Geological Sciences at Bologna 19–30 September 1967

The «Proceedings of the third session in Bern (8–13 June 1964)» appeared 1966 in Leiden, E. J. BRILL. The 346 pages contain 48 contributions with numerous figures, plates and tables. At the plenary meeting of June 10 it was admitted that despite the recognition of clearly defined micropaleontological zones it was not advisable to change the sequence of those Neogene stages proposed at Vienna in 1959. However, it was recommended to gather data on stratotypes of the stages composing the Mediterranean Neogene. A working group of specialists on 8 subjects such as sedimentology, palynology, etc. was established. The study of stratotypes was to be directed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Executive Council. The assembly (129 were listed) gratefully accepted the invitation of Prof. R. SELLI for the next meeting at Bologna in 1967. The assembly elected the following members to direct the activities of the Committee until the meeting at Bologna took place:

R. F. Rutsch (Bern) President
R. Selli (Bologna) Vice-President
J. Sigal (Paris) Member
A. Papp (Vienna) Member
C. W. Drooger (Utrecht) Member
Z. Reiss (Jerusalem) Member
P. Marks (Utrecht) Secretary

During August 1967 the Secretary reported on the results of a circular letter sent to specialists on Neogene stratotypes. These results were issued as pre-prints after a meeting with the President. Despite the heterogenous character of the replies received on specific questions, the entire report of 201 pages, covering 33 terms of European Neogene stages, is a valuable document and forms a solid basis for discussions at Bologna.

During the Congress at Bologna abstracts, reports or pre-prints were distributed on subjects such as:

- 1) Palynology and Paleobotany (4)
- 2) Mammal phylogeny (10)
- 3) Mollusca and Echinoidea (8)
- 4) Micropaleontology (Ostracoda 3, Bryozoa 3, Nannoplankton and Pteropods 6, Large Foraminifera 4, Empirical Lineages of Foraminifera 4, Planktonic Foraminifera 27, Miscellaneous topics 12)
- 5) Stratotypes (17 for early and middle Miocene, 7 for late Miocene and 9 for Pliocene)
- 6) Terminal Miocene (5)
- 7) Sedimentology (12)
- 8) Stratigraphy and Paleogeography (8)
- 9) Volcanism (6)
- 10) Absolute age (3)

Prof. R. F. RUTSCH kindly supplied the following resolutions of the plenary meeting of 26th September 1967:

- «1. The successions of stages of the Neogene in marine and in non marine sediments should for the time being be made independent of each other, with different names for the stages. The subdivision in stages of the non marine sediments should be made according to the same basic principles as have been used for the marine successions, that is, each stage should be defined by a stratotype consisting of a succession of rocks, containing any number of biostratigraphic zones or datumplanes.
2. It has become very clear during the session on the stratotypes that many units qualified as stages, cannot be used, either as to their duration in time, or in respect to the possibility to correlate them over larger distances, in any practical way except for local purposes.
3. Also the succession of stages as proposed during the sessions in Vienna and Berne proves to be difficult to apply beyond a certain regional limits. Quite apart from the circumstance that this proposal has not yet been sanctioned by the International Geological Congress.
4. The Bureau has unanimously come to the conclusion that for the time being a subdivision of the Neogene in 4 units will be the most useful for practical purposes. These units might for the time being be indicated as Suprastages.
5. We are convinced that an open nomenclature, such as lower, middle and upper, as well as the use of ciphers or characters, would only create new confusion as all of these have – sometime, somewhere – been applied before. The same is true for nearly all stage names that have been used so far, as their original meaning is not identical with that of the newly proposed subdivision.
6. The new units are likewise to be based on stratotype sections, to be chosen in such a manner that the boundaries are on or close to, biostratigraphic zones or datumplanes.
7. These newly proposed units are to serve in the first place for regionally widely spaced areas, and are in no manner intended to replace the traditionally used local stages.»

Among the 246 registered participants were 6 from Switzerland: *F. Allemann* (Bern), *H. M. Bolli* (Zürich), *K. A. Hünermann* (Zürich), *H. G. Kugler* (Basel), *R. F. Rutsch* (Bern) and *Monique Toumarkine* (Zürich).

The well organized pre-congress excursion (19–22 September) led from Bologna to the stratotype localities of the Tabianian, Piacentian, Tortonian, Serravallian, Langhian, Astian and Villafranchian. The detailed maps and sections of an excellently prepared guide book allow students to find the localities. The guiding Italian colleagues deserve the gratitude of the almost 120 participants.

The post-congress excursions (27–30 September) were also covered by a guide book. They aimed at collecting samples of Neogene and Pleistocene marine sediments of Romagna and Marche, as well as of Plio-Pleistocene terrains of continental facies in Valdarno (Tuscany).

The Congress at Bologna was an outstanding success as far as scientific contributions are concerned. The organisation was excellent and the hospitality never to be forgotten.

H. G. K.

Adressänderungen

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Résultats principaux de l'enquête auprès de tous nos membres

Conformément au *Projet d'extension de l'intérêt et de l'activité de notre Association à l'ensemble des géologues praticiens*, présenté par notre président à l'assemblée de juin 1965 à Neuchâtel (voir Bull. 82, page 2), il a été procédé, en 1967, à une consultation écrite auprès de la totalité de nos membres. Sur près de 370 de ceux-là, 115 seulement se sont donné la peine d'exprimer leur avis.

Un questionnaire demandait à chacun une réponse par oui ou par non, aux questions suivantes:

- 1) Etes-vous d'accord sur le principe d'une extension de l'intérêt et de l'activité de l'ASP à d'autres branches du métier de géologue, qu'à celle du pétrole exclusivement?
- 2) Si oui, trouvez-vous suffisant la modification de l'article 1 des statuts: Art. 1. – «But de l'Association: associer les géologues et ingénieurs suisses du pétrole, ainsi que toutes les personnes et les spécialistes intéressés par les questions pétrolières et de géologie pratique dans le but d'encourager la recherche scientifique et de défendre leurs intérêts communs.»?

Les résultats ont été:

Question 1: 93 oui, 22 non

Question 2: 76 oui, 22 non

Le Comité fait remarquer que les réponses à ces deux questions sont suffisantes, car la majorité obtenue à la question 2 enlève tout intérêt pratique aux questions suivantes. En clair, il résulte que la majorité des votants est d'accord sur le principe de l'extension, mais que la majorité s'accorde aussi sur la suffisance d'une légère modification de l'article 1 des statuts, associant les géologues praticiens aux personnes intéressées au but de notre Association.

Les chiffres obtenus pour la question 3, a, b et c n'ont qu'une valeur d'information et nous ont valu quelques commentaires savoureux.

Ces chiffres ont été:

Question 3, a (Changement du nom de l'Association): 19 oui, 6 non.

Question 3, b (Association suisse des géologues praticiens): 7 oui, 10 non.

Question 3, c (Association suisse des géologues praticiens et du pétrole) 2 oui, 23 non.

Rappelons que la réponse à ces trois questions ne pouvait être formulée que par les membres ayant répondu non à la question 2 et se trouvant, par conséquent en minorité.

Spenden für den Bulletinfonds

Die folgenden Herren haben grosszügig eine Spende für unseren Bulletinfonds geleistet:

Dr. E. F. Escher, Zürich	Fr. 80.—
Dr. E. Fränkl, Nigeria	Fr. 80.—
Dr. E. G. Bonnard, Lausanne	Fr. 10.—
Dr. O. Renz, Basel	Fr. 80.—

Bekanntmachung

Die nächste Tagung findet in Lugano am 22. und 23. Juni 1968 statt. Am 23. Juni führt Herr Dr. H. Rieber eine Exkursion an die berühmten Saurier-Fundstellen am Monte San Giorgio.