

# PALYNOS

Volume 21, No. 1 - June, 1998

NEWSLETTER of the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

## NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS

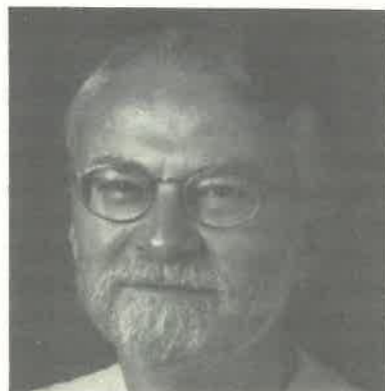
In the December, 1997 issue of PALYNOS the biographies of the new IFPS Vice-presidents were published, but we did not have space for the photographs. Appearing here are the photographs, and brief biographies of the three new officers.

MADÉLINE HARLEY (Actuopalynology)  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
e-mail: mh12kg@lion.rbgekew.org.uk



Dr. Madeline Harley (Ph.D., FLS) has worked in the Palynology Unit of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, almost since its inception (May 1973). Her research interests are mainly in actuopalynology, but she is also interested in palaeopalynology in relation to recent plant families, particularly the Palmae and its fossil record in the Southern Hemisphere. As Vice President for actuopalynology, Dr. Harley will focus on the importance of extant pollen data in plant systematics, and for deciphering the fossil pollen record in relation to recent plant families.

STEFAN PIASECKI (Paleopalynology)  
Geological Survey of Greenland  
e-mail: piasecki@geus.dk



Dr. Stefan Piasecki (Ph.D) joined the Geological Survey of Greenland as a Ph. D. student in 1977 and has continued working with the geology of Greenland. Stefan's research interests focus on subjects that associate palynology and geology; fossil spores, pollen and dinoflagellate cysts, biostratigraphy, organic debris, thermal diagenesis, sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy and petroleum geology. Petroleum related field work in Upper Palaeozoic and Mesozoic basins of the Arctic East and North Greenland forms the basis for these studies.

ANA TERESA ROMERO  
Granada University, Spain  
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Dr. Ana Teresa Romero (Ph.D.) has been a permanent member of the faculty of Granada University, Andalucia (Spain) since 1987. She finished her Ph.D., which focused on the taxonomy of the grasses, in 1985. She is interested in the pollen morphology of the Cactaceae, Cruciferae, Compositae, Papaveraceae, and the endemic flora of the Mediterranean area.

#### NEW AFFILIATE SOCIETY JOINS IFPS

Owen Davis, President of IFPS, has asked that an announcement be made that the Philippine Palynological Society has become affiliated with IFPS. As of last April, the PPS had 13 dues-paying members. We are always pleased to have another group join IFPS. The PPS will be represented by Lolita Bulalacao. Her address is as follows:

Lolita J. Bulalacao (PPS Councillor)  
Philippine Palynological Society  
c/o Botany Division  
National Museum  
P. Burgos St., P.O. Box 2659  
Manila, Philippines  
Tel 011 632 527 11 46  
FAX 011 632 527 03 06  
e-mail: nmuseum@webquest.com

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A number of publications that may be of interest to many readers of PALYNOS are identified here.

The following book has been brought to our attention by Donatella Magri, IFPS Councillor for the Italian palynologists (Gruppo di Palinologia della Società Botanica Italiana) Dip. Biologia Vegetale, Università "La Sapienza", Rome

#### Textbook of Melissopalynology.

G. Ricciardelli D'Albore, 1997, 308 p., 157 figs., 32 plates. Apimondia. US\$30. ISBN 973-605-023-8.  
Available from:  
APIMONDIA SECRETARIAT  
Corso Vittorio Emanuele 101, I-00186  
Rome, Italy  
Tel. and FAX ++39 6 6852286

The Textbook of Melissopalynology by G. Ricciardelli D'Albore is the first book on this topic written in English in one hundred years. It consists of the following chapters: introduction, particulars on palynology, melissopalynology with some important topics (qualitative and quantitative honey pollen analysis, honeydews, botanical and geographical origin of pollen, propolis, royal jelly, pollen representation problems in melissopalynology, Italian unifloral and multifloral honeys, dichotomous keys of the pollen sculptures, dichotomous keys of European pollen, etc.). The book has 157 figures (drawings and pollen spectra at 400x) and 32 plates with about 370 pollen photos at 1000x.

#### Genera File Of Fossil Spores, Supplement 12 -- 1998

In April, the latest Supplement of the File was validly published; it covers cards 5003-5310; it is available for CAN \$40 (includes shipping) from the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 1N4. Authors are J. Jansonius, L.V. Hills & C. Hartkopf-Froeder. Sets are being mailed out to previous subscribers of the File, but if addresses have changed, you may want to enquire at your old address whether your set has arrived there. There are only a few complete sets left in stock; it is essentially sold out. Information on that, and other matters pertaining to the administration of the File, can be obtained from Ms. Sharron Kaser at sharron@geo.ucalgary.ca

Older subscribers, who have retired since the last Supplement and may have less use for the File, are advised to contact Sharron, to let her know whether they are willing to sell or dispose of the set to young palynologists or new institutions. There has

been, and still is, a constant interest in the File from around the world, and there will be no source of further new sets.

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jansonij@cadvision.com

#### Pollen et Spores D'Europe et D'Afrique du Nord.

Supplement 2 is scheduled for release in September, 1998. Notices were mailed out in the Spring, and though the subscription period is supposed to have closed on July 1, interested parties might want to contact the following address:

Laboratoire de Botanique Historique et Palynologie  
13397 Marseille Cedex 20  
France

This latest atlas has 435 photographic plates (12, 867 photographs) representing spores and pollen of 2,180 new taxa, including 788 genera (323 listed as new), from 153 families. The book is described as having 530 pages, and it will be similar in thickness to volume 1, and similar in presentation to volume 2.

#### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT OFFER FOR IFPS MEMBERS

ELSEVIER SCIENCE offers you a personal subscription to the **Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology** at the very reduced rate of US\$125.00 for the whole year of 1999. IFPS members can thus receive all 5 volumes (20 issues) of the journal at their own desks! The conditions for taking advantage of this offer are as follows:

1. your institution/organization must already have a regular rate subscription to the journal for 1999
2. the associated personal subscription is exclusively for your personal use
3. the associated personal subscription must be prepaid (personal cheque, credit card)

This offer is valid during 1999, until further notice. If you are interested please send your name, with full postal and e-mail addresses and your library's

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1000BX  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Refer to this discount offer, and Elsevier will then send you the special application form for your personal subscription. If you would like to receive further details regarding the **Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology** just check the journal's home page at <http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/revpalbo>.

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The 15th Symposium of the Association of French-speaking Palynologists (APLF) was held in Lyon at University Claude Bernard (UFR, Sciences de la terre) from 1st to 3rd September 1997. The meeting was organised by Bernard Courtinat, Henriette Méon and Jean-Pierre Suc. The topic of the Symposium was "Biostratigraphy and Systematics". This symposium was attended by 62 palynologists from Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Madagascar, Morocco, Rumania, Switzerland and France. There were 21 posters and 37 oral communications which covered Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic, and Quaternary topics, as well as Systematics and Melissopalynology. The lecture entitled "Mammals and biochronology: new methods used in dating Paleogene European sites" was given by Serge Legendre (University of Lyon/Villeurbanne). The APLF symposia are biennial but general meetings to renew officers' positions are held every four years. The new committee elected during the 15th Symposium is as follows:

President: Edwige Masure, edmasure@ccr.jussieu.fr

Vice Presidents: Maria Suarez-Cervera, suarez@farmacia.far.ub.es  
Hervé Richard, herve.richard@univ.fcomte.fr

Secretary: Marie-Pierre Ledru, ledru@bondy.orstom.fr

Treasurer: Jean-Louis Turon, turon@geocean.u-bordeaux.fr

Members include:  
Bernard Courtinat, courtin@cismun.univ-lyon1.fr  
Danielle Fauconnier, fauconnier@sgn.brgm.fr

Lionel Visset, geminaecol@aol.com  
Nathalie Nebout, nebout@ccr.jussieu.fr  
Laurent Londeix, londeix@geocean.u-bordeaux.fr

Submitted by:  
Marie-Pierre Ledru  
APLF secretary  
e-mail: ledru@bondy.orstom.fr

#### SPEAKING OF MEETINGS...

Owen Davis has passed this bit of information on to the Councillors. You should make note of this address:

Please note the new e-mail address for Gengwu Liu, as it will become increasingly important in planning for IPC 10, to be held in Nanjing in 2000.

Liu Gengwu (PSC Councillor)  
Nanjing Inst. of Geol. & Palaeontol.  
Academia Sinica  
Nanjing, 210008 P.R. China  
gwliu@jlonline.com

#### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many newsletters, including those of the Canadian Association of Palynologists and the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists publish lists of forthcoming meetings. Here are two more notices that might be of particular interest to the readers of PALYNOS.

The first circular announcing the **4th Symposium of African Palynology** has been mailed by the International Association of African Palynology. The conference will be held in Sousse, Tunisia, during the second half of April, 1999. All palynologists are cordially invited to attend the meeting and present the results of their research.

The venue is the Ecole Superior d'Agriculture, Chott Mariem, a campus that is sited in the suburbs of Sousse and which is easy to reach from the airport at Monastir. Registration costs are listed as US\$200 for general delegates, and US\$60 for students and accompanying persons. The fees cover costs of the Abstracts and Proceedings volumes, as well as excursion and social functions from Monday, April 26 to Friday, April 30, including the conference dinner. A field trip that precedes the meeting will include visits to geological, botanical, and archeological sites over a large portion of Tunisia between April 17 and 24.

Although responses to the first circular were to be returned by July 15, 1998, interested persons should contact the following person for further information and copies of the second circular:

Pr. Dr. Z. Tabka  
Universite du Centre  
Faculte de Medecine  
Service de Physiologie  
4002 Sousse, Tunisie  
Tel. 216.3.230.899  
FAX 216.3.224.899

The first circular of the **31st International Geological Congress** has recently been mailed out. The organizing committee describes this as "the most important event of the geosciences and one of the world's most traditional scientific conferences". The conference will take place from August 6-17, 2000, at Riocentro, Rio de Janeiro, during the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Portuguese venue to Brazil. The meeting has been designed to create a forum for broad debate of the most significant advances in the geological sciences and to promote a discussion of the conference theme, which is **Geology and Sustainable Development: Challenges for the Third Millennium**. Numerous symposia, workshops, and pre- and post-conference field trips have been identified, including several that deal with sedimentation and climate studies that should be of interest to readers of PALYNOS. Anyone who would like to receive more information should contact the following office before November 1, 1998:

Secretariat Bureau-Casa Brazil 2000  
31st International Geological Congress  
Av. Pasteur, 404  
Urca, Rio de Janeiro  
RJ, Brazil  
e-mail: 31igc@31igc.org  
http://www.31igc.org

#### IN MEMORIUM

Too often we learn of the passing of our friends and colleagues. Since the December, 1997 issue of PALYNOS was printed, we have learned of the deaths of two palynologists.

The following notice was sent to the Editor earlier this year. The most recent CAP newsletter (May, 1998) contains a more extensive memorial tribute.

#### Julian Szeicz

Dr. Julian Szeicz, Canadian Association of Palynologists Councillor to IFPS, and a Canadian tree-ring analyst and palynologist from the Department of Geography at Queen's University in Ontario was killed tragically in an avalanche on Thursday, April 16, 1998. Julian Szeicz lost his life near Watson Lake in the Yukon, Canada. The accident happened while he was doing field work with two graduate students, both of whom survived.

Julian completed his PhD in 1994 with Dr. Glen MacDonald at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, on climate change and vegetation dynamics at the subarctic tree line in NW Canada. During 1994-1995, he was an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, where he conducted research in southern Chile. In 1995, he joined the Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He received an award for excellence in teaching, published actively, and gave twenty conference addresses. He quickly developed an international reputation in the field of paleoenvironmental reconstruction and analysis, with research collaborations in Canada, U.S.A., U.K., Australia, Chile, and Argentina. Julian married Barb Zeeb in Sept., 1997. Barb is a paleolimnologist who completed her PhD on chrysophyte cysts with John Smol, at PEARL, Dept. Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. She is presently on staff with the Environmental Sciences Group, at the Royal Military College, Kingston, and is an adjunct assistant professor at Queen's University, Department of Biology. They made many friends, both in the Kingston area and in the scientific community at large. We have lost an important friend and colleague.

written by:  
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#### Anna Fedorovna Dibner



Anna Fedorovna Dibner, a noted palynologist of the USSR and Russia, passed away on February 22, 1998. Her scientific career, which lasted over a 40 year period, was mainly bound up with the Research Institute of Geology of the Arctic (NIIGA), now known as the Russian Research Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources of the World Ocean (VNIIOkeangeologiya) in St. Petersburg. Anna Dibner studied the palynology of the Middle and Late Paleozoic of Siberia, and published about 100 research papers.

A.F. Dibner was born on December 21, 1920 at Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) in a family of teachers. In 1938 she entered Leningrad State University, but in the years of World War II she had to interrupt her studies and work at a military plant. By 1945 she had graduated from the geography department of Leningrad State University as a geomorphologist. Having worked for three years at the All-Union Research Geological Institute (VSEGEI) as a geologist at the Department of Quaternary Geology, in 1947 she passed on to the Third Geological Department. In 1948 she became affiliated with the Research Institute of Geology of the Arctic, where she started her palynological research at the laboratory headed by E.N. Kara-Murza. This laboratory was one of the three most important palynological laboratories of the Leningrad school; others included the laboratory at VSEGEI headed by I. M. Pokrovskaya, and the laboratory of the All-Union Petroleum Research Geological Prospecting Institute (VNIGRI) headed by S. R. Samoilovich.

In 1959 Prof. Dibner received the Degree of Candidate of geologo-mineralogical sciences for palynological studies of the Nordvik area and the northwest Siberian Platform. Beginning in 1965, A. F. Dibner managed the Palynological Laboratory of NIIGA, where she worked with 12 scientific collaborators and two laboratory

assistants. Anna Dibner was an efficient and tactful organizer who shared the scientific interests of the workers in the laboratory and who contributed to the successful pursuit of research. She worked in both the fields of biostratigraphy and morphology and systematics of spores and pollen. She also had an interest in the development of new methods of extraction of microfossils from metamorphosed rock. The scientific staff in the laboratory headed by Anna Dibner carried out the systematic study of spores and pollen from Middle and Upper Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic sedimentary deposits in Arctic areas of the Asiatic portion of the USSR, and in Antarctica. They performed spore and pollen analyses of Quaternary deposits and pre-Quaternary rock from the floor of shelf seas, and studied microfossils from Upper Proterozoic deposits of Antarctica.

Palynological research performed by Prof. Dibner dealt with the study of miospore assemblages from Carboniferous, Permian, and late Devonian deposits of many areas of Siberia, the Arctic Islands of Russia, Spitzbergen, and Antarctica. A. F. Dibner distinguished and described miospore assemblages which enabled the validation of the subdivision, correlation, and dating of Upper Paleozoic deposits over the vast Angaridaland area. Later, these materials formed the basis for distinguishing the Carboniferous and Permian palynozones of Angaridaland. The zonal miospore scheme proposed by Anna Dibner for the Upper Paleozoic of Angaridaland was the most prominent contribution to the biostratigraphy of those continental deposits, and it was widely adopted by palynologists of the USSR. A. F. Dibner was one of the authors of the volume "The Permian System" of the series "Stratigraphy of the USSR", published in 1966. While solving problems of Upper Paleozoic biostratigraphy of Siberia, Anna Dibner analyzed vast amounts of palynological material, which enabled her to carefully study the morphology of the frequent and diverse monosaccate pollen. This led to a revision of the known genera of those pollen and to a suggested classification of the cordate pollen of Angaridaland. The resulting monograph appeared in 1971 and is still of great theoretical and practical importance.

A. F. Dibner was a member of the Interdepartmental Stratigraphic Committee (ISC) on the Permian System and was a member of the Siberian Regional Commission of the ISC (SibRISC). She always took an active part in All-Union Paleontological and Stratigraphic meetings, as well as international conferences.

Anna Dibner was a loving wife and mother, and her mild

and feminine character attracted people. She was hardworking and responsible, and was very exacting of herself and of her associates. Everyone who knew A. F. Dibner loved and respected her, and her friends and colleagues will hold her in remembrance for ever.

written by:  
Maya Oshkurkova  
Natal'ya Pashkevich  
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St. Petersburg 199106, Russia

## BOOK REVIEWS

The following publications were brought to the attention of Owen Davis and Fred Rich. We were asked to publish a review of these, and decided that a review that had been written by Owen for *Radiocarbon* (35:339-340) would be appropriate. With many thanks to our Chinese colleagues, the editor of *Radiocarbon*, and Owen, I provide the following slightly edited review.

The Quaternary of China  
Chief editor Zhang Zonghu, Shao Shixiong (Deputy Chief Editor), Tong Ghobang, and Cao Jiadong of the Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Zhengding, China; 1991, English Edition  
185X260mm, 575pages, 155 figures, Hardback  
Price: US\$47; Postage: US\$12 surface mail, 2 or 3 month arrival.

Quaternary Geologic Map of the People's Republic of China and Adjacent Sea Area, with Explanatory Notes  
(9 Sheets, 1:2,500,000) Chief compiler Zhang Zonghu, aided by Shao Shixiong, Zhou Mulin and Fan Yi (English Editor); 1990, ISBN 7-5031-0752-9, includes English Edition of Explanatory Notes (78 pages)  
Price: US\$36; Postage: \$12.

Mail Order: Huayu Center for Environmental Information Services, P.O.Box 4088, Beijing 100001, People's Republic of China. FAX Order: +86-10-68575909 Tel: +86-10-68415522 ext.6757 (Business hours only)  
e-mail: hceis@ mx.cei.gov.cn  
Payment: check or bank transfer upon receipt of book.

These book(s) and maps were produced in association with the 1991 INQUA XIII congress in China. The primary work, The Quaternary Of China, is edited by

Zhang Zonghu (Chief Editor), Shao Shixiong (Deputy Chief Editor), Tong Ghobang, and Cao Jiadong of the Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Zhengding, China. This lengthy book (575 pp.) includes 16 Chapters by various authors.

The companion work, Quaternary Geologic Map Of The People's Republic Of China And Adjacent Sea Area, is edited by Zhang, Shao, Zhou, and Fan (English Editor). It consists of 9 1:2,500,000 high-quality color maps (104x 76 cm) of the Quaternary geology of China. These maps are fully explained in the accompanying 78 p. manual, which contains much information complementing the main volume.

Zhang et al.'s (1991) The Quaternary Of China bears many similarities to Late Quaternary Environments Of The Soviet Union, edited by A.A. Velichko (1984). The Chinese work is more comprehensive and larger, and has the wonderful maps, but the format is the same. Following a general introduction by the chief editor (Zhang), there are chapters covering a wide range of topics from tectonism to vertebrate paleontology. The design of the figures and correlation charts is even the same. Like the Soviet volume, The Quaternary Of China provides a glimpse of prolific research in a major region of the world, one of great interest for Quaternary studies. Velichko's volume has photographs, Zhang et al.'s does not; neither has an index.

As with Velichko's volume, The Quaternary Of China provides a valuable counterpoint for Western Quaternary studies. Many of the conclusions seem familiar, but others are novel or exotic. The Quaternary time scale presented in The Quaternary Of China is entirely familiar. The major subdivisions are based on magnetostratigraphy and the marine oxygen isotope stages, and the Holocene subdivisions clearly are descended from the European Blytt-Syrmander sequence. Also familiar are the environmental reconstructions for the Last Glacial Maximum. In Tibet, lake basins dried 18.9 ka B.P. and trees were replaced by cold- and drought-resistant herbs. The periglacial limit was 800 m lower, and snow line descended 350 - 1100 m, with many regional differences. In eastern coastal areas, sea level was 130-150 m lower.

Climatic events during the deglaciation are unclear. Whereas there are indications of climatic fluctuations between 18 and 10 ka, and some evidence for the Younger Dryas event (p.232), I found no mention of whether lake levels were higher during deglaciation (like the northern Great Basin), or in the early Holocene (like southern Sahara), or neither. In fact, I found little

information on the history of the Asian monsoon beyond a general statement regarding its Neogene intensification due to uplift of the Tibetan plateau. In contrast to recent claims of intensified monsoonal precipitation during the early Holocene (An et al., 1991), the climatic chronology presented in this book is one of greater aridity in the early Holocene (pp. 150-154). The middle Holocene, 5.5 - 2.5 ka, was warm and wet in most regions, and the late Holocene cold and dry. The mountainous regions of western China contain extensive deposits left by Holocene glacial advances dated 5500, 3900, 2800, 1700, 1100, and 400-70 yr B.P. Many records of (relative) Holocene sea-level from eastern China indicate water depths ca 4 m greater than today during the middle Holocene 8 - 4 ka.

Several aspects of the book and maps warrant special mention. Chapter 6, entitled "Quaternary Geology in Offshore Areas of China," is the most detailed and informative of the book. The errors are minimal, and there are more figures, radiometric dates, and detailed diagrams of ostracods and pollen than in any other chapter. I also appreciated Chapter 15 by Zhang Zonghu, Zhang Zhiyi, and Wang Yunsheng on Loess in China. It includes a detailed history of loess research, regional descriptions of loess stratigraphy, summaries of fossils preserved in loess, discussions of loess stratigraphy for the environmental chronology. I highly recommend the chapters on fossil hominids in China, "The Other Cradle of Humanity." Chapter 6 in the companion volume to the maps lists the Ziaochangliang Culture, dated 2.5 Ma by paleomagnetism, as the oldest evidence (tools only) for humans in China. Chapter 10 in Zhang et al. more conservatively mentions the earliest skeletal remains of *Homo erectus yuanmouensis*, dated 1.7 Ma by paleomagnetism. These are followed by many other human fossils throughout the Quaternary. Chapter 13, by Han Tonglin, includes a discussion of a unique aspect of Chinese Quaternary studies: the early Pleistocene "Great Ice Sheet." This extensive ice cap formed before the uplift of the Tibetan Plateau had blocked monsoon moisture from the Indian Ocean. Its deposits include several continental-scale glacial features such as bedrock drumlins and till-covered plains. The ice is estimated to have been 1000 - 2000 m thick, covering an area of 2-3 million km<sup>2</sup> (the size of the western U.S.A.). Other topics include neotectonics, volcanism, stratigraphy, palaeogeography, palynology, and laterites. There are two regional syntheses - one for the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, another of the Eastern China Plain. I was surprised by the absence of some topics, such as

Quaternary faunal extinctions, and the minimal coverage given to the history of monsoon climate and pluvial lakes, but overall the coverage is very thorough. Although The Quaternary Of China compares favorably with Velichko's Soviet volume, it would have benefitted from an English-language editing. Wright and Barnosky (Velichko, 1984) provided a conceptual interface for Western readers, and revised the English.

The errors in The Quaternary Of China range from distracting to obscuring. Some sections must be read very carefully, and figure captions are particularly error-prone. For example, the axes of Fig. 3.12 are labeled "Age (Ma B.P.)," but the units are actually 10,000 yr. Most of the errors appear to result from the typesetters' unfamiliarity with the English alphabet, but these mistakes should have been caught in proof. The companion volume to the maps (with Fan Yi, English Editor) is comparatively error free.

The Quaternary Of China and Explanatory Notes Of The Quaternary Geologic Map Of The Peoples' Republic Of China And Adjacent Sea Area are valuable sources of information on the Pleistocene of China, but they fall short as a resource for further study. The "big picture" is there, but without the specifics. Most of the references cited in the text are not included in the "Main References" at the end of the book. Even the radiocarbon dates are given without laboratory numbers. Despite these shortcomings, I strongly recommend these books and maps to any Quaternary scientist interested in Asia in particular or global change in general. They provide a broad introduction over a wide array of topics for this fascinating region, and they have heightened my interest in more detailed studies.

#### REFERENCES

An, Z. Kukla, G.J., Porter, S.C. and Xiao, J. 1991  
Magnetic susceptibility evidence of monsoon variation on the Loess Plateau of central China during the last 130,000 years. *Quaternary Research* 36:29-38.

Velichko, A.A. 1984 Late Quaternary environments of the Soviet Union. Wright, H.E., Jr. and Barnosky, C.W. (Editors, English Edition) University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis 327 p.

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#### YELLOW RAIN, AGAIN....

Jim Canright, Past-President of IFPS, has brought an interesting news item to the Editor's attention. From the Tempe (Arizona) Daily News: "April showers bring out May flowers. But March showers bring out the fire department. Rain falling on blooming sweet acacia trees ...left sticky yellow trails throughout the Valley, prompting 40 fire calls from alarmed residents who feared their yards were being slimed with hazardous chemicals."

According to Jim, "Because there are a large number of cultivated, fragrant acacia trees (mainly *Acacia farnesiana* = Cassie) that are now (March 18, 1998) literally covered with yellow, globular, staminate flowering inflorescences, the recent unusual, El Nino-inspired, heavy rains have washed masses of the large acacia polyads onto the streets, sidewalks and swimming pools. The sudden appearance of these abundant yellow streaks caused panic among many individuals, who feared that a "yellow rain" of hazardous chemicals had been sprayed on them from airplanes, as had been previously reported (erroneously it turned out) during the Vietnam conflict. Jim goes further to say "The reason that I am reporting this incident is because in 1984 (when I served as Editor of *PALYNOS*), I was responsible for the creation of the IFPS logo, which is based on the 16-grained polyad of the genus *Acacia* in the family Mimosaceae. Anyone interested in further details about the development of the logo, as well as the name of this newsletter, can find them in *PALYNOS* 7, no. 2:1-2, December, 1984."

Thanks for this bit of news, and history Jim. We hope the residents of Tempe are happy once again.

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