In 1997, she was a research fellow at the School of Ocean Sciences in Bangor (UK) where she further studied land-ocean interactions in the east equatorial Atlantic using marine palynology as a tool. Still based in Bangor, she received in 1999 a Marie Curie Grant to study the Holocene of the Celtic Sea based on dinoflagellate cysts and biomarkers, and in 2001, a Leverhulme Trust funded further study the recent and past distribution of organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts for quantitative and qualitative reconstructions of sea-surface conditions.
project allowed her to carry on working on late Quaternary climate changes in west equatorial Africa. In 2005, she moved to the University of Liverpool as a Lecturer in Physical Geography. Her research interests range from modern and fossil dinoflagellate cysts as well as pollen and other NPPs, from polar to tropical environments, from oceans to inland seas for the Quaternary period. She is particularly interested in the relationship between recent dinoflagellate cyst distribution and oceanographic conditions as a tool to reconstruction the past and is also involved in the on-going development of a modern database for dinoflagellate cyst assemblages. Her current research is focused on the Holocene of the Black Sea as well as the Caspian Sea, looking at the timing and amplitude of the reconnection between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea at the beginning of the Holocene. In parallel, she is looking into the dinocysts and NPP records of the Holocene of Antarctica and the late Quaternary of the North Pacific. Since 2005, she has been a board member of the APLF (Association des Palynologues de Langue Francaise). She is also on the Editorial board for Palynology. Her hobbies involve roaming in the British countryside on her Virago with her husband and gardening.

Email: f.marret@liv.ac.uk

**MEETING REPORTS**

2010  A Marum-Workshop on (palaeo-)ecology of cyst forming Dinoflagellates, Bremen, Germany, May 16–21, 2010

Report by Fabienne Marret-Davies, University of Liverpool (f.marret@liv.ac.uk)

Organised by Karin Zonneveld at the Marum Center in Bremen, Germany, within the frame of EUROPROX (The European Graduate College 'Proxies in Earth History), this workshop, with a total of 22 participants, aimed to present a series of lectures/courses on the use of organic-walled dinoflagellate cyst associations as palaeoenvironmental, palaeoceanographic and palaeoclimatic indicators, followed by discussions to an European post-graduate community. André Rochon (Rimouski, Canada) started the course on Monday morning talking about *Biological of dinoflagellates with emphasis on feeding strategies and invasive species*, by giving an overview of our latest understanding and knowledge on the complex life cycle of dinoflagellates as well as their feeding behaviour (from autotrophy to heterotrophy). Four talks were given in the afternoon session, with Andrea Price (Victoria, Canada) about *A high-resolution sediment trap study of organic-walled dinoflagellate cyst production and biogenic silica flux in Saanich Inlet (BC, Canada)*, José Luiz Peña-Manjarrez (Mexico) about *Environmental factors influencing the variability of Lingulodinium polyedrum and Scripsiella trochoidea resting cysts in Todos Santos Bay, Baja California, Mexico* and to conclude the day, a talk from Vera Pospelova on a *study of a sediment trap in the Strait of Georgia*. On Tuesday morning, Fabienne Marret (Liverpool, UK) started the discussion on *the morphological variability in cysts and the possible forcing mechanisms*, followed by Kenneth Mertens (Ghent, Belgium) talking about *Morphological variation of Operculodinium centrocarpum and Lingulodinium machaeorhophorum in culture and the field and relation to environmental parameters*. The afternoon session consisted of shorter talks, with Peta Mudie (Halifax, Canada) presenting *Dinocysts with crosses and parachutes: when, where and why?* followed by Thomas J. Verleye (Ghent, Belgium) with a talk on *The driving factors behind the present geographical distribution of organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts off the South American west coast (25–53°S)*, Rehab el-Shanawany (Bremen) with the *Distribution patterns of recent organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts in relation to environmental parameters in the Mediterranean Sea*, Liang Chen (Bremen)
with Organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts assemblages and paleoclimate reconstructions during “Roman Warm Period” of Eastern Mediterranean and lastly Ulrike Holzwarth (Bremen) raising the question of accumulation rates and cyst production with the following talk Why dinocyst accumulation rates matter: a paleo-reconstruction from NW Africa. Wednesday morning, our distinguished Barrie Dale talked about Dinoflagellate cyst biogeography and/or Some important topics to discuss for the future development of cyst research and application: A personal view, raising many questions and comments. Karin Zonneveld concluded the morning session with a presentation on a global distribution of organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts What influences the geographical distribution of dinoflagellate cyst when relative abundance data are considered; first results from 2385 data points, a collaborative effort and many years of analysis from many colleagues. An excursion was organised for the afternoon, looking at post-glacial landscapes around Bremen. Gerard Versteegh (Bremen) presented on Thursday morning the latest results on The dinoflagellate chemical fossil record, followed by a talk from Stefanie Dekeyzer (Bremen) on the Elemental composition of calcareous dinoflagellates: development of a new proxy. In the afternoon, Stijn de Schepper (Bremen) talked about the Unravelling the (palaeo)ecology of dinoflagellate cysts: preliminary results, Lyudmila Shumilovskikh (Gottingen, Germany) about the Last interglacial dinoflagellate cysts from SE-Black Sea: the first results, Stefanie Dekeyzer on the Temperature reconstruction based on the stable oxygen isotope composition of Thoracosphaera heimi (Dinophyceae) from West Indian Ocean surface sediment samples: a re-evaluation and Kenneth Mertens concluding on Further testing of the Lycopodium method to determine absolute abundances of dinoflagellate cysts with a focus on the sodium-polytungstate method. In parallel, it was possible to show specimens as microscopes were available. A number of posters were also presented. This workshop enabled to successfully discuss in depth many unresol ved questions with regards to dinoflagellate ecology. To be followed at the next DINO9 conference.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2010  CIMP General Meeting, Warsaw, Poland, Sept. 13–16, 2010
The 2010 CIMP General Meeting will be held in Warsaw-Kielce, Poland, at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (with the co-operation of other geological institutions) on “Palynology and its possibilities: a record of climate and environmental changes”. Oral and poster presentations are followed by a three day fieldtrip (Sept. 16-19) to the Holy Cross Mountains to examine Palaeozoic deposits. Further details can be found at http://www.ing.pan.pl/CIMP-2010/index_cimp.htm.

The joint meeting will take place at the Harbourview Holiday Inn and will be organized by Rob Fensome, Peta Mudie and Graham Williams. See www.palynology.org/meetings.html for further details.

The next INQUA-Congress will be held 20-27 July 2011 in Bern, Switzerland. See http://www.inqua2011.ch/ for further details.
The next APLF Symposium will take place in September 2011 in Meudon, France, and will be organized by Agnès Gauthier, Nathalie Comboudieu Nebout, and Vincent Lebreton under the main theme: PALYNOLOGIE et DIVERSITES: marqueurs, milieux, méthodes, modèles, applications [Palynology and Diversity: markers, environment, methods, models, applications]. For more information see: http://w3.laplf.univ-tlse2.fr/

This Ninth International Conference on Modern and Fossil Dinoflagellates will be held at the University of Liverpool, UK. The overarching aim of the conference is to bring together researchers working on present day dinoflagellates with those working on dinoflagellates in the fossil record to foster interdisciplinary understanding and collaboration. Four workshops are planned with themes to be decided. Organizing committee:

Fabienne Marret (School of Environmental Sciences, Liverpool, UK) and Jane Lewis (School of Life Sciences, University of Westminster, UK). To contact us: dino9@liv.ac.uk. Further details are available from the following website: http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~dino9/index.htm

2011  AASP Annual Conference, Southampton, UK, 2011
See www.palynology.org/meetings.html for further details.

2012  34th International Geological Congress, Brisbane, Australia, August 2-10, 2012
The 34th International Geological Congress will be held in Brisbane, Australia. Further information at http://www.34igc.org/.

2012  5th ESA-European Symposium on Aerobiology, Krakow, Poland
The 5th European Symposium on Aerobiology will be held in Krakow, Poland, in 2012, and will be organised under the patronage of the Rector of Jagiellonian University. Contact person is Dorota Myszkowska (dmyszkow@cm-uj.krakow.pl).

2012  IPC XIII / IOPC IX Joint Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 23-30, 2012
The joint meeting of the 13th International Palynological Congress (IPC-XIII 2012) and the 9th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC-IX 2012) will be held in Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan, under the theme: Palynology and Palaeobotany in the Century of the Environment.

Our world is changing dramatically. There are many urgent environmental issues, such as pollution, climate change, landscape and land-use changes, that have affected ecosystem, biological diversity and human life.
Palynology and Palaeobotany have provided baseline information on the past biological and environmental changes, which have in turn become critical for sustainable environmental management and nature conservation. In Japan and elsewhere more medical doctors are actively involved in Aerobiology and Palynology to prevent further spread of pollen-related allergies influenced by human-induced environmental changes. Our disciplines now have wider implications and applications relevant to the modern society than ever. The main theme “Palynology and Palaeobotany in the Century of the Environment” is thus timely for the IPC/IOPC 2012 meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Please visit our website (http://www.wsoc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/) for more detail information. Also, you can download the First circular from our website.

The joint meeting of IPC and IOPC will be composed mainly of plenary sessions, poster sessions and oral sessions, as well as of symposia for special topics (see schedule).

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Also, attractive field trips and social events will be proposed.

For details on tourism in Japan, see the web sites of JNTO (http://www.jnto.go.jp/) and TCVB (http://www.tcvb.or.jp/). Why don’t you make plan for IPC/OPCC 2012?

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Willem Arnold (Wil) Casparie (1930-2009)

Dr. Willem Arnold (Wil) Casparie died peacefully at home in Groningen on 7 August 2009, aged 79. His death marks the loss of an exceptional archaeologist who specialized in peat, pollen and wood studies. Born on April 22, 1930, Wil’s 50-year long scientific career started and ended in the raised bogs of Southeast Drenthe in The Netherlands. His work initially focused on peat studies that culminated in his thesis in 1972. Later an archaeological dimension was added to his experience by his studies of wooden structures and artefacts. The trackway of Nieuw Dordrecht remained a focus of his study interest throughout his career. In 1958 he became part of the Biological Archaeological Institute (now Groningen Institute of Archaeology/GIA). This University Department housed three very impressive creative and productive individuals: Wim van Zeist, Sytze Botema (deceased) and Wil Casparie. All of them have made a huge impact on the archaeobotanical world both within and beyond Europe. Wil managed his administration and archive very carefully; all his notes were hand-written. He worked on many archaeological sites in the Netherlands and abroad, and over time

Sciadopytis verticillata, endemic to Japan (Photo Takesha & Takahara)
his publications became more readable and light-hearted. His work included large-scale landscape studies but also small emotional gems such as the acrobat found in a Groninger cess pit, a ‘Steckengaukler’ from Oberammergau. In 1973 he was a team member advising the Directorate of the County Council (College van Gedeputeerde Staten) on the possibilities for a raised bog reserve in Bargerveen. One crucial requirement advice given for the stimulation of peat regrowth is the maintenance of the mineral underground water level at the base of the peat. This condition is still being implemented at present.

Wil had a natural flair for teaching and explaining things but this was not always possible during meetings and discussions. Therefore he joined Jan Streefkerk to write ‘The Hydrology of Bog Ecosystems’ (English translation 1989). This report is still being used by students today and has been very influential on the extensive research of raised bogs. Besides his palaeobotanical work, Wil was also interested in people, society and processes. In his view, social relevance in archaeology had to be taken into consideration. As such he was an active member of and advisor to a number of organisations. He retired from the GIA in 1995, during his exhibition on wood studies (with accompanying catalogue) in the Groninger Museum. After this, his nose was firmly turned towards the West.

Barry Raftery first invited Wil to come to Ireland with his wife Anneke in 1988, to visit and to give his opinion on the Mountdillon bog excavations in County Longford. It was love at first sight and without any doubt Wil had his finest hours in Ireland. A number of fine publications have resulted from his Irish work, including contributions to the Mountdillon book, the Lisheen Mine Archaeological Project 1996-8 and the Bog Body from Tumbeagh. Thanks to Wil’s detailed approach the word ‘bogburst’ has come alive as a reality in Irish palaeoenvironmental research and Wil is held in very high esteem throughout Ireland. His last publication focused once more on peat; a study on Bargerveen in Southeast Drenthe published in August 2008. ‘This is my swan-song’, Wil said. Wil knew he was ill since Easter 2008, yet he accepted his illness gracefully and without moaning. ‘I have had a good life’ he said, and he was very happy with Anneke and his two daughters Carolien and Piedie. Anneke and Wil were married 50 years on the 3rd of August. Wil was a great teacher and loved to share his knowledge in a friendly, quiet, yet determined way. Without doubt he was one of the most important founders of raised bog studies and bog regeneration in the Netherlands. Wil shared his knowledge and inspiration gracefully to the very end and he left an impressive list of publications. We will miss him very much. Yet he is permanently in our hearts, and his scientific legacy is available for everyone to enjoy. His footsteps in the bogs are now filled with moss but he has many friends who will continue his path.

Some important publications of Willem Arnold (Wil) Casparie:

1984: The three Bronze Age footpaths XVI(Bou), XVII(Bou) and XVIII(Bou) in the raised bog of Southeast Drenthe (the Netherlands). Palaeohistoria 26, 41–99.

In 1946, he passed the German school leaving examination in Berlin where he started his studies in Geography, Geology and Botany at the Humboldt University. Later, Burkhard Frenzel continued his studies at the University of Bonn where he did his PhD about the vegetation of the Allgäu Alps, Germany, in 1952 (Dr. rer. nat.). After being an assistant for two years in Bonn and after having a national grant for two years, he moved as assistant to the University of Marburg. In 1960, Burkhard Frenzel became Reader (“Privatdozent”) at the Botanical Institute of the Agricultural Faculty of the Technological University of Weihenstephan (Munich). Later in 1967, Burkhard Frenzel became full professor of Botany at the Agricultural University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart), where he worked also after retiring in 1996 and until his dead on February 6th 2010. Professor Frenzel’s main scientific interests covered Quaternary flora and vegetation history, as well as the climate history of the Ice Age. His

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Burkhard Frenzel (1928-2010)
Burkhard Frenzel, one of the most important scientists researching Quaternary vegetation and climate history of Europe and Central Asia, was born on January 22th in Duisburg (Germany). During World War II, Burkhard Frenzel became Russian prisoner.
first important books dealt with the climate oscillations of the Ice Age (Frenzel 1967) and with principles of Pleistocene vegetation history of Northern Eurasia (Frenzel 1968). Burkhard Frenzel organized extended excursions to Central Asia, China and Tibet where he collected a huge number of palaeoecological key data on the Quaternary (Frenzel 1994 a-b, Frenzel & Liu Shijian 1994, Frenzel 1995, Frenzel et al. 1995). Besides being Editor of the series “Paläoklimaforschung/ Palaeoclimate Research” (Fischer, Stuttgart-Jena) and collaborator of the series “Progress in Botany”, Burkhard Frenzel was member of the climate council of the German government since 1991, and acted as climate council president since 1994. Apart other functions at the University (head of department, Dean of the Faculty) he supported strongly the Botanical Garden of Hohenheim, establishing a special section including plant species important for Quaternary vegetation history since the Late Glacial. Also as emeritus Burkhard Frenzel was continuously supporting the Botanical Garden.

Professor Frenzel was honoured through numerous national and international scientific associations. He was awarded Dr. h.c. of the University of Zürich, Switzerland, was member of the Academy of Sciences and Literature of Mainz and honour member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Some important publications


For a complete list of publications of Burkhard Frenzel: see https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/1597.html?typo3state=allPublications&institution=106

Conradin A. Burga (conradin.burga@geo.uzh.ch), Department of Geography (Biogeography), University of Zürich-Irchel, Winterhurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Thomas van der Hammen (1924-2010)

Geologist and palaeo-ecologist Thomas van der Hammen died at his home in Chia, Colombia, on 10 March 2010, following a long struggle with cancer. His studies have fundamentally changed our perception of the dynamic history of tropical ecosystems in South America.

Born in the Netherlands in 1924 Thomas developed a great interest in the enjoyment and protection of nature: by 1939 he already had his first publication in a popular Dutch journal with the focus on vegetation science. After the second World War he studied geology at Leiden University. He was trained as a palynologist by Professor Frans Florischütz and he had regular contacts with other founding fathers of the discipline of palynology such as Johannes Iversen and Robert Potonié.

The topic of his PhD dissertation ‘Late-glacial flora and periglacial phenomena in
In 1951 he started working for the Geological Survey in Colombia and did pioneering research on Cretaceous and Cenozoic sediments by integrating geology and biology. Through his trade mark of multi-disciplinary approach, he unraveled the stages of tectonic uplift of the Andes. Later, he and his co-workers were able to make a link with the evolution of the montane forest and páramo vegetation of the Northern Andes.

In 1959 Thomas van der Hammen returned to the Netherlands to work at the Department of Geology of Leiden University. He developed a research line in palaeoecology and climate history in the eastern part of the Netherlands where ice-pushed topography and aeolian cover sands dominate the landscape. At the same time he extended his research in tropical palynology with exploratory studies in Guyana, Surinam and in the Amazon Basin. Geologist Lex Wijmstra was involved in many of Thomas’ research projects.

In 1966 Thomas moved to the University of Amsterdam where he was appointed as a professor in Palynology and Quaternary Ecology. He was based at the Hugo de Vries-Laboratory and under this banner he developed many research projects. A dozen of Colombian PhD students came to visit Amsterdam and graduated under the supervision of Thomas. They were trained in topics such as geology, biostratigraphy, climate history, vegetation analysis, and vegetational and geological mapping. Most field work areas were located in Brazilian and Colombian Amazonia, the Colombian Andes, and Venezuela. Employing his ability of getting people to work in teams he designed the large ‘Ecoandes Project’ and in the 1980s the ‘Tropenbos Colombia Programme’ in the 1970’s. The Ecoandes Project focused on integrated palaeo/actuo-ecological research of transects across different sectors of the Colombian Andes. These unprecedented studies resulted in 7 volumes of the book series Studies of Tropical Andean Ecosystems published at Cramer/Borntraeger in Germany. In the Tropenbos Colombia Programme studies focussed on wide variety of subjects, ranging from fishery, plant systematics, floristic inventories, sociogeographical studies, archaeology, anthropology, palaeo-ecology, and tropical vegetation ecology. These studies resulted in 20 volumes of the book series Studies on the Colombian Amazonia published at the Tropenbos-Colombia Office in Bogotá. In 1973 with the aim of promoting the distribution of scientific results among Colombian institutes and colleagues around the world, he started the series El Cuaternario de Colombia / The Quaternary of Colombia, which he edited up to volume 20 (1995).

Perhaps his most valuable scientific contributions were his studies on the understanding of the history of Pleistocene climate change. Trained in climate history issues of Western Europe he showed that the neotropics had also experienced a dynamic history of climate change. Thomas van der Hammen discovered the immense value of the pollen archives in the deep intra-Andean basins. He studied the first deep bore holes in the Bogotá Basin and the Fúquene Basin and developed the basis of
later studies on continental pollen records from Colombia showing long-term change. He lectured at Amsterdam University for two decades and inspired generations of Dutch students. He was on the advisory board of the natural history museum *Natura Docet* in Denekamp for a long time where he guided the establishment of the nature reserve *Het Molenven* as a key forest reserve. He played an active role in developing international structures for nature assessment studies.

After his retirement in 1989 he lived in Chia, a village near Bogotá. Using the pollen spectra in fossil pollen records he reconstructed two hectares of high plain forest near his house. This initiative attracted the attention of many officials and was an inspiration to nature conservation in a wider area. With his enthusiasm he inspired a large number of Colombian students. He promoted many collaborative studies in collaboration with national research institutes such as the *Instituto de Ciencias Naturales* (ICN) of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the *Geographical Institute* (IGAC), the *Geological Institute* (Ingeominas), the *Archaeological Institute*, and the *Von Humboldt Institute for Biodiversity*, all in Bogotá.

Thomas van der Hammen published over the extraordinary long period of 71 years: from 1939 to 2010. In Colombia he also published major papers in Spanish to serve the Latin American community. Five newly described Andean plant species were named after him. He published over 140 articles after his retirement in 1989 which is almost as many as the ca. 160 papers published before his retirement (the complete list of publications is available at [http://www.science.uva.nl/ibed-ple](http://www.science.uva.nl/ibed-ple)). His contributions to the training of Colombian scientists and giving a scientific basis for land use and nature conservation in Colombia was highly valued. Thomas's enthusiasm, charisma, vision and ability to make people cooperate made him a most inspiring person and a true leader.

Dr. Lydia Vasilievna Rovnina (1927-2010)

One of the eminent leaders of Russian palynology, the Chairman of the Soviet Palynological Commission and of the Russian Palynological Commission (1989-2002), the honourable Chairman of the Russian Palynological Commission (since 2002), the Doctor of geology-mineralogical Sciences Lydia V. Rovnina passed away on April 6th, 2010.

She was born 11.14.1927 in the village Turki of the Saratov region. In 1951 Lydia Vasilievna has graduated from biology-soil faculty of the Saratov State University majoring in Botany. After the graduation she taught at schools (the Tyumen region, village Ievlevo and village Pokrovsk). Since 1953 L.V. Rovnina worked in the palynology group of the Central laboratory Glavytumen-geology (Tyumen). In 1965 she finished
L.V. Rovnina was awarded by medals: “For labour difference”, “In memory of the 850 anniversary of Moscow”, “The Veteran of Work”, A.A.Borisjak’s medal “For Palaeontology development”, signs “Honorary Oil industry worker”, “The Honours pupil of the Ministry of Petroleum industry”, “The Honours pupil of the Ministry of Gas industry”, “The Drummer of the 11th five-years period”, a memorable sign on “300 years of Mountain-geological Survey of Russia”, and she appropriated an honorary title “The Honored worker of Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Russia”.

Lydia Vasilievna Rovnina was a kind of loving mother and grandmother, a modest, kindhearted, fine person. Blessed memory of Lydia Vasilievna Rovnina – an outstanding scientist, genuine intellectual and committed to her scientist-palynologist profession, an indefatigable organizer of palynological conferences – will forever remain in the hearts of her colleagues and friends.

Some important publications


We are sorry to announce that Prof. Yrjö Vasari passed away on January 5th, 2010, at an age of 79. He was born in Kuopio, Central Finland. His studies in biology at the University of Helsinki started immediately after the matriculation in 1948. Botany was the main subject, while the studies in Geology and Palaeontology were also essential for his career. Yrjö Vasari’s attachment for the vegetation of NE Finland led to a meritorious doctoral thesis (A study of the vegetational history of the Kuusamo district, North East Finland, during the Late-Quaternary period) in 1962. Eastern Finland, Karelia and Kuusamo, remained his favourite regions, and that is where he led several excursions, both for his students and for international groups of colleagues. Yrjö Vasari started his academic career as an assistant at the Botanical and Geological Institutes of Helsinki University. He also worked as a researcher at the Academy of Finland. In 1962 he moved to Oulu as a professor in Botany till 1981 when he was nominated professor of Botany for Swedish speaking students in Helsinki. Yrjö Vasari retired in 1993. His remarkable production of publications in botany, palaeoecology and palaeobotany consists of investigations in several countries, the vegetational history of Scotland being one of his interests. Yrjö Vasari was also known as a popular teacher and colleague. His kind character and his interest in history were reflected in his way of lecturing which was called “biohumane” by the students. The international personal contacts of Yrjö Vasari were extensive, especially to the Scandinavian countries. Among numerous confidential posts, his membership on the board of CPS, and his chairmanship at the Professor Association should be mentioned. Colleagues and friends both in the East and in the West miss him.

Some important publications


Vasari, Yrjö 1974. The vegetation of Northern Finland - past and present. Inter-Nord (13-14), 99-118.


Vasari, Yrjö; Koivula, Leena 1996. Type region SF-d, the Lake District of Finland (Central Finland). In: Palaeoecological events during the last 15 000 years : regional syntheses of palaeoecological studies of lakes and mires in Europe. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 310-315.


Vasari, Yrjö; Kuznetsov, Oleg L.; Lavrova, Nadezhda B.; Shelekhova, Tatyana S.; Vasari, Annikki 2007. Alinlampi, a late-glacial site in the northern...
Satish K. Srivastava passed away at the USC University Hospital Thursday, June 17, 2010, after a long and dignified struggle with diabetes. Satish was born June 28, 1935, in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, northern India, the only son of Hazari Lal and Sheopyari Srivastava. As a child, Satish showed an insatiable curiosity for botany, chemistry and zoology that eventually led to a Bachelor of Science degree in these subjects in 1954 from Agra University, Uttar Pradesh, India. Satish first saw pollen through a microscope while employed at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, northern India, where he worked from 1954 to 1957 under the direction of the distinguished Indian paleobotanists H.S. Rao and G.S. Puri. From 1957-1968, he worked at the fledgling Indian Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), also at Dehradun. At ONGC his duties included examining both rock-samples and modern pollen samples used to study the annual pollen-rain of Dehradun. His initial training came largely from studying the texts of Erdtmann, Faegri and Wodehouse, but later in 1957, the Soviet palynologist N.D. Mtchedlishvili visited the ONGC. During her stay, she generously taught Satish pollen extraction techniques and acquainted him with Cretaceous pollen and spore identification. In addition to Mtchedlishvili, while at ONGC, Satish met Robert Potonié, Gunnar Erdtmann, Basil Balme and Pierre Legris.

The Palynologist-In-Charge at ONGC was A.K. Gosh, whom Satish assisted in several co-authored publications, and by 1963 Satish was author of a dozen papers. His first independent palynological investigation was of the Siwalik Formation of Punjab, northern India, published in 1958.

Though a successful palynologist, Satish felt the need to bolster his credentials with a post-baccalaureate degree, and was advised to contact Charles R. Stelck at the University of Alberta. Stelck replied by inviting Satish to apply to the U of A, with a stipend of $167.50 per month (Canadian). Satish completed a Masters Thesis on the mammal-beds of the Edmonton Group in 1965 and his Ph.D. in 1968 on the same formation and in 1968 he accepted a Killam Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. Also in 1968, Satish attended the first Annual AASP meeting in Baton Rouge - he's number 41 in the group picture, standing next to Al Traverse. His fellow palynology students at the University of Alberta were Gerhard Bihl, Pier Binda, Byong Il Chi, Rex Harland, Len Hills, Chaitanya Singh, Bob Snead, Bindra Thusu and Anan Yorke. By 1970, when his
Killam Fellowship ended, Satish had finished 40 publications. His fellow students at the University of British Columbia included Rolf W. Mathewes and Ken Piel. In 1970, at the invitation of Lucy M. Cranwell, Satish came to the Geochronology Laboratory at the University of Arizona as a visiting scientist. While there, Ken Piel and Harry Leffingwell invited Satish to visit Union Oil, in La Habra, California, to present his Ph.D. thesis. And, while in La Habra, Satish visited Warren Drugg and Al Loeblich, Jr. After an informal interview, Al invited him to work for Chevron (COFRC).

His future then comfortably secure, his focus changed to the love of his life, Rosalind Catterall, whom he had met five years earlier. In 1970, she was teaching in Horsefly, B.C., 540 miles north of Vancouver. They were married July 14, 1970, and during the time before his Visa was awarded, and he was officially employed, Satish was paid under contract to Chevron. During the 1970's Satish developed a deep understanding of the paleo-biogeography of Aquilapollenites pollen in a series of publications emphasizing plate-tectonics. These were among his 28 publications during the 1970's. In the 1980's Satish shifted interest to dinoflagellate cysts. In 1981 & 1982, Satish studied with Bill Evitt at Stanford University and in 1984 Satish published on Barremian dinoflagellate cysts from Southeastern France, followed in 1992 by a monograph on dinocysts of Cenomanian–Coniacian of the Southern United States. Also, in the 1970s and 80s Satish published a series of papers on the K/T extinction impact-hypothesis. Satish studied the Scollard Formation, central Alberta, Canada. True to his academic independence and honesty, he concluded "The floral extinctions were selective and gradual across the KTB in Scollard ... The source of the Ir anomaly does not appear to have affected the flora catastrophically" (Rev. Palaeob. Palynol.1994, 83:137-158.).

Satish retired from Chevron in 1986, but retained an active consulting service until the time of his death. During that period he also served as an Adjunct Full Professor at USC, and trained petroleum palynologists for PETROCI (Petroleum Company of Ivory Coast). He continued actively publishing, eventually totaling over 143 peer-reviewed publications. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in 1980, Councilor of the Indian Association of Palyno-stratigraphers in 1979, 1980 & 1983, President in 1984 and Fellow in 1985, and President of the Southern California Palynological Society in 1991.

At its 2006 annual meeting, the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists bestowed upon Dr. Satish K. Srivastava its Medal For Scientific Excellence, the highest honor given by AASP for palynological research. In making the award, Sharma Gaponoff, Past President of AASP, Satish's his "Comprehensive Contributions in Taxonomy, Paleoeology, Stratigraphic Palynology, and Continental Paleogeography. She said, "He will always be remembered for his standards of excellence, his thorough and meticulous research and his cross-disciplinary assimilation of thoughts and ideas."

We are saddened by the passing of this great palynologist. He will be missed by many, but especially by our community.

Owen Davis (odavis@email.arizona.edu) and Sharma Gaponoff (sharma.gaponoff@sbcglobal.net).
Based on materials on the AASP History Page http://www.palynology.org


Bill Watts, botanist, palynologist, ecologist and senior academic administrator, died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in Dublin as he neared his 80th birthday. During his long and productive life, his interest in, and enthusiasm for, palaeoecology and especially palynology never waned despite heavy and varied administrative undertakings, especially in the later part of his academic career.
Bill Watts was one of three children born into a family of modest means in Dublin. Scholarships enabled him to complete his secondary schooling and to study at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) where he read French and German and subsequently Natural Sciences. He graduated from TCD with First Class Honours in both Arts and Natural Sciences (1952 and 1953). After a two-year stint as a Lecturer in the University of Hull, he returned in 1955, initially as a Research Assistant to G.F. (Frank) Mitchell and shortly afterwards he obtained a Lectureship in Botany at TCD. From the beginning, his research interests focussed on pollen and plant macrofossil analyses. In this, he followed in the illustrious footsteps of Knut Jessen (Professor of Botany, Copenhagen; Jessen researched in Ireland during the 1930s at the invitation of the Royal Irish Academy) and Frank Mitchell who was a graduate of TCD and served as assistant to Jessen.

Bill Watts’ early papers dealt with interglacial (Gortian/Holsteinian) and Late-glacial sequences from Ireland (Watts 1959, 1963, 1964, 1967). These are characterised by comprehensive primary data (both pollen and plant macrofossils; the latter meticulously documented). His subsequent synthesis papers on these topics and also the Holocene are characterised by clarity of expression and well-rounded, critical overviews (Mitchell and Watts 1970; Watts 1977, 1985). They continue to serve as important sources of information for both the specialist and those with a general interest in Irish flora and vegetation history and climate change.

Bill Watts’ research endeavours and achievements extended far beyond the shores of Ireland. In his early scientific career, he benefited from good contacts with some of the leading laboratories in Europe and especially Cambridge (H. Godwin and R.G. West) and Copenhagen (K. Jessen and S.Th. Andersen). Close contact and long-term cooperation with Herb Wright in Minnesota followed and with it came major involvement in, and contribution to, Quaternary research in the US and especially Florida, the Mid-West and the Pacific Northwest (e.g. Watts 1980; Watts and Hansen 1994; Grimm et al. 2006). An unexpected spin-off from the expertise gained in North American plant-macrofossil identification was his success in determining an up-to-then ‘unknown’ seed in Irish interglacial (Gortian) material (Nymphoides; probably N. cordata) and thus highlighting the importance of the North American element in the Irish and European interglacial floras (Watts 1971).

In 1965, he succeeded D.A. Webb as Professor of Botany in TCD. In 1980, he was appointed Professor of Quaternary Ecology and, in the following year, ran for, and was elected, Provost (President) of TCD, a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 1991. For an insight into these exciting times, the challenges he faced within and outside TCD, and his many achievements as an administrator, we are fortunate to have his own autobiographical account in which the man and his times shine through (Watts 2008).

Retirement from Provostship enabled Bill Watts to become involved in a major way once again in palaeoecological research. As part of a European consortium investigating long-term vegetation and climate change in southern Europe, he contributed greatly to the pollen analytical investigations of long core sequences from Lago Grande di Monticchio, central Italy (e.g. Watts et al. 1996, 2000). He continued his long-term engagement with conservation matters, e.g. An Taisce (National Trust for Ireland), National Parks, Fota House and Gardens (Cork), and peatland conservation, and also contributed much in the medical sphere as chairperson of hospital and health boards.

His research achievements received fulsome recognition both in Ireland and abroad. He was conferred with a Sc.D. (higher doctorate by published work) by TCD in 1973, he served as President of the Royal Irish Academy (1982–85), and in 2008 he received the AMQUA Distinguished Career Award for his contribution to Quaternary research in North America.
The answer he provides in his autobiography to the question that he poses himself therein “What is the fascination of this type of study which has lasted throughout my life?” serves as a particularly fitting reminder of the person and his research, and indeed the powerful attraction of palaeoecological investigations for us all. It reads as follows:

*It is a combination of the intellectual and aesthetic pleasure of identifying pollen and fossil seeds and fruits. It requires a mind that has a large memory-bank for shape, decoration, and size, the sort of memory when, faced with an unknown, asks where did I see that before? Is it completely new to me, and what are the possibilities I should check? It involves field work, often in remote places, and can be almost anywhere in the world. It needs an experienced eye for landscape so that sites worthy of study can be identified. Above all the investigator must remember that there is no point in producing a huge volume of data for its own sake. What is important is the quality of the question being asked and its potential for an interesting answer. … There is the sense of buried treasure as one opens a core to see something quite new, a new volcanic ash, a dramatic change in sediment and perhaps, more romantically, the sheer pleasure of wild and beautiful places (Watts 2008, p. 82).*

References


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Directory of Palynologists

Please note that the 4th edition of this invaluable directory has been published as a pdf by Owen K. Davis in 2008. It is not available online, but only by request (odavis@email.arizona.edu) or as a copy through your membership in an IFPS affiliated society, please ask your IFPS councillor for it.

Jean Nicolas Haas, editor of PALYNOS
An impressive and fascinating exhibition on all aspects of pollen was prepared by Kari Loe Hjelle and colleagues (University of Bergen – Bergen Museum), so if you visit Bergen, have a look to it!

Address: Muséplass 3 in Bergen, Norway.

Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10-15 h (summer: 10-16 h), Saturday-Sunday: 11-16 h (summer: 11-15h). Monday closed. More information available at www.bergenmuseum.uib.no
The current list of the IFPS officers and IFPS councillors is provided below. The IFPS president (Thomas Servais), IFPS secretary-treasurer (Charles Wellman) and *PALYNOS* editor (Jean Nicolas Haas) should be informed of any errors or necessary changes (see email addresses below; postal addresses of all officers and councillors: see [http://www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/ifpscncl.html](http://www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/ifpscncl.html)).

The list of current IFPS councillors also includes information on website addresses for the various societies. Please inform the editor of possible website changes.

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### Societies on hold

- International Association for African Palynology (AIIPA/IAAP)
- Palynological and Palaeobotanical Association of Australia (PPAA)
- Philippine Palynological Society (PPS)
PALYNOS (ISSN 0256-1670) is published bi-annually and is distributed electronically to all IFPS Councillors for local distribution to individual members of their International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS) affiliate society. The newsletter is also posted on the IFPS website (see below).

We welcome news items, reports on society activities, reviews etc. and members should forward these to the editor:

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jean-nicolas.haas@uibk.ac.at

Please don’t forget to visit our IFPS web site at:

http://geo.arizona.edu/palynology/ifps.html