

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SDS BUSINESS MEETING

July 7, 2016, Het Pand, Ghent, Belgium

Attendance: The Chairman (J. MARSHALL), Vice-Chairman (C.E. BRETT); SECRETARY (L. SLAVÍK)

TMs: T. BECKER (NEWSLETTER EDITOR), C. CORRADINI (WEBMASTER), U. JANSEN, E. SCHINDLER, J.I. VALENZUELA-RÍOS

CMs: A.-C. DA SILVA, L. FERROVÁ, S. HARTENFELS, J.-C. LIAO, M. MERGL, A. NAZIK, M. STREEL,

GUESTS: A. BANCROFT, J. BAS, Q. CHEN, A. DESROCHERS, D. DE VLEESCHOUWER, S. HELLIG, J. C. GUTIERREZ-MARCO, A. HUŠKOVÁ, P. McLAUGHLIN, J. LU, T. MEIDLA, J. NAGEL-MYERS, D. PAS, D. RAY, A. SÁ, N. SENIKOV, T. SÖTE, T. STEEMAN, S. STICHLING, D. STRUSZ, T. VANDENBROUCKE, J. VERNIERS, C. WAID, N. WALASEK, G. WITTON-MACLEAN, Ž. ŽIGAITÉ

41 people

1. Introductions and apologies for absence

The meeting began at 4:45 pm in the former refectory of the historical convent at Het Pand, University of Ghent.

At the beginning, the International Subcommissions on Silurian and Devonian Stratigraphy met jointly for a brief time to consider issues of common interest because the two subcommission meetings were scheduled simultaneously.

At this session José Ignacio Valenzuela-Ríos (hereafter 'Nacho') introduced an upcoming meeting of ICOS (International Conodont Symposium).

ICOS will be held in June, 2017 in Valencia, Spain; Monday through Friday - June 20 to 25, will be pre-meeting field trip to Spanish Central Pyrenees; the technical meeting will be in Valencia, June 25-30th; this will include mid-meeting fieldtrips on Wednesday with options for Devonian or Triassic sections. The format of the meeting will be paper presentations and annual business meetings for both Silurian and Devonian sub-commissions. Hopefully this format will be broadened to include topics other than conodont paleobiology and biostratigraphy. The organizers will try to keep registration fees as low as possible.

The post meeting excursion will have two parts. July 1st the participants will move to Prague for a three-day field trip to the Prague Synform, Czech Republic, July 2-4, will be led by Ladislav Slavík and other colleagues with a focus on Silurian-Devonian biostratigraphy. Then the fieldtrip participants will move to Venice to join the second part of the trip led by Carlo Corradini and Thomas Suttner in the Carnic Alps (to include Cellon and Grüne Schneid; Ordovician to Carboniferous) from July 6-8, 2016. There are cheap flights from Prague to Venice and it is possible this would be included to the total cost of the post-Symposium FT. The field trip will conclude at Venice Airport on July 9.

There is already a promise of a published symposium book with abstracts due April 1st (no joke, in Spain 8th December is "1st April fools day equivalent")

A website of the meeting will be set up soon by Carlos Martínez Pérez.

Following this discussion the joint meeting concluded and ISSS members adjourned to another room.

Minutes SDS Meeting

SDS Chair JOHN MARSHALL called the main meeting to order. He started with the introduction of himself as the SDS Chair, Vice-Chair CARLTON E. BRETT, Secretary L. SLAVÍK, Newsletter Editor T. Becker and SDS Web Master C. CORRADINI.

Apologies were received from:

TMs: A. BLIECK, J.-G. CASIER, N. IZOKH, J. OVER,

CMs: G. BAIRD, P. BUDIL, S. GOUWY, L. CHADIMOVÁ, J. HLADIL, S. KAISER, D. PLAX, O. OBUT, J. TALENT, T. UYENO, C. VER STRAETEN, A. YAZIKOV, J. ZAMBITO

Minutes from the SDS meeting in Brussels 2015 were approved

Chair's Business: JM reported, with regret, the loss of former SDS members:

CHEN XIUQIN ("SUISIE"), from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, a major Devonian brachiopod worker and former TM (see obituary by John Talent)

ELZBIETA TURNAU from Krakow, Poland. Elzbieta was a long time SDS Member and worked on Devonian palynology. There will be an obituary in the forthcoming newsletter.

HORST BLUMENSTENGEL, a long time member of the German SDS, an ostracod worker from the University of Jena

GERTRUDE LEN, brachiopod worker from Poland

RICHARD LANE: former director of Geology and Paleontology at NSF and an important Carboniferous conodont worker and strong supporter of stratigraphic palaeontology.

SDS observed a moment of silence for the passing of these individuals.

Note of appreciation: JM expressed his sincere thanks to Bernard Mottequin and others for an excellent job running the joint IGCP-SDS meeting in Brussels, September, 2015 and two associated outstanding pre- and post-meeting field trips.

ICS Matters: The leadership of ICS is changing; Stan Finney is stepping down as chair and DAVID HARPER will take over at the Cape Town, 35th IGC with new Vice Chair: BRIAN T. HUBER and Secretary-General: PHILIP GIBBARD.

GSSPS:

Pragian-Emsian:

A brief report on Pragian-Emsian boundary was made by the SECRETARY LADISLAV SLAVÍK (LS). Four people including himself, TM NACHO VALENZUELA-RÍOS, TM NADYA IZOKH, and Ladislav's student Aneta Hušková took part in sampling the GSSP section at Zinzilban Gorge. Ca 150 kg of samples were split into three parts and sent to labs of Ladislav, Nacho and Nadya. All samples have been received and processing has commenced; Ladislav says this is underway but unfortunately not completed. Nacho has picked some conodonts; no word from Nadia as yet. The group is expecting preliminary results before the end of the year.

Comments:

TM Thomas Becker (RTB) suggests again that the Khodzha-Kurgan Gorge in Kitab State Reserve would be a reserve GSSP section if the Zinzilban section fails to meet requirements.

LS, however, notes that this section is highly tectonized with only a short uninterrupted interval; he visited the section in 2015 again but did not sample; it would not be adequate for a GSSP.

RTB: also notes that C. Klug has sent samples of well preserved ammonoids from mountainous sections near Zinzilban; perhaps these would be a better stratotype sections

JM: The problem with this is that it would set back the timing of the approval of stratotype even more as access to these new and ?better sections remains difficult. If this current investigation of the GSSP fails then the SDS needs to consider other section. We do want the GSSP to remain in Uzbekistan but must make progress.

LS: Also, the Kitab State Reserve is under more security now because of the military protected border area that was established there few years ago.

JM: It may turn out that this is not an accessible section anymore, so no good for consideration as a GSSP.

RTB: would welcome a two-page write up on the status of the Zinzilban project for the newsletter. He also announced a new comprehensive paper on Pragian-Emsian conodonts from Morocco (Aboussalam et al. 2015) in Bulletin of Geosciences and another report on the Emsian of South China has appeared with some some new correlations.

Devonian-Carboniferous (D-C) Boundary

Announcement of the upcoming special meeting on September 21-22, 2016 in Montpellier, France organized by Marcus Aretz. Stan Finney will cover the cost of the meeting if people

can get there. One day of talks considering merits of various boundaries and aimed at picking a new section. A field portion will visit classic GSSP sections.

SDS members were directed to the recent paper by Carlo Corradini et al. (2016, Geol. Mag.) that discusses the advantages and disadvantages of various positions for the boundary

RTB notes that three papers on the D-C boundary in upcoming special volume of Geological Society of London, including reviews by Jon Lakin on Gondwana glaciations and S. KAISER on the Hangenberg event.

Devonian Stages and Substages

MAURICE STREEL distributed a handout on miospore zonation of D-C boundary sections and there was a brief discussion of uppermost substage of Famennian based on miospore biostratigraphy.

Substage Boundaries. JM: Again, Stan Finney has tabled no further discussion of substages until all needed redefinitions and other issues (e.g., Pragian-Emsian and D-C boundary) are resolved. Therefore, further discussion of the subdivision of seven stages was postponed to future meetings.

RTB discussed the Famennian zonation: For the uppermost Famennian substage there is a problem with the *ultimus* Zone if this is used as a marker. Dieter Weyer will come to Münster in August to work on this issue with Thomas.

Sven Hartenfels: A major study is underway on conodonts of the Beringhausen Tunnel section and may have a new morphotype that will help in refining this boundary.

RTB: Unless we have a fixed *ultimus* zonation there will be problems.

JM: It is important to keep in perspective that the boundaries we propose will be reviewed by other subcommissions including representatives from the Mesozoic who will want to see many supplemental lines of evidence. For example, in Cretaceous (Aptian/Albian boundary) as many as 29 datum levels are present around the GSSP boundary, not a simple biostratigraphy. We must be careful how we define these boundaries as they will be scrutinized by all ICS voting members.

RTB. Must first work to carefully define *ultimus* zonation and then work on other taxa and supplemental markers.

Membership

Proposal of new members:

SDS welcomed ATIKE NAZIK (Turkey) an ostracode worker as a new CM (actually she was already proposed at Brussels meeting, but somehow this was not included in final minutes).

RTB proposed DAVID DE VLEESHOWER, a Devonian cyclostratigrapher, as CM; seconded by C. BRETT.

JM reminded membership that TMs need to be contributing reports to newsletters and corresponding members are meant to correspond (as the title suggests!).

At the Brussels meeting we reviewed all members and considered their status. There are several TMs whose term of 8 years has expired and they will either be extended, or replaced and thanked for their service. There was a strict 8 year limit on TM status but this has been relaxed where TM's are active on particular problems or can't be replaced. But ICS insist on a rotating membership for all subcommissions.

Terms Expired

A. BLIECK (France) replaced by C. CRONIER
J.G. CASIER (Belgium) replaced by A.-C. DA SILVA
R. MAWSON (Australia) replaced by K. TRINAJSTIC
C. Perri (Italy) replaced by C. SPALLETTA
J. DAY (US): thanked for his service; not a need for replacement
E. SCHINDLER (Germany) replaced by R. BROCKE
V. Tsyganko (Russia) replaced by Y. Gatovski
X. MA may stand in for CHEN XIUQIN (deceased)

Continuations

R. THOMAS BECKER, Germany, ammonoids, conodonts
CARL BRETT (Vice Chair), Eastern U.S., sequence and cyclostratigraphy
CARLO CORRADINI, Italy, conodonts
NADYA IZOKH, Siberia, Russia, conodonts
ULRICH JANSEN, Germany, brachiopods
JEFF OVER, U.S., conodonts
GRZEGORZ RACKI, Poland, brachiopods, event and sequence stratigraphy
LADISLAV SLAVÍK (Secretary), Czechia, conodonts
NACHO VALENZUELA-RÍOS, Spain, conodonts
HUAICHENG ZHU, Nanjing, China, palynology

The updated TM's list will be formally approved in the 35th IGC in Cape Town, South Africa

Publications:

RTB reminded that the Special Volume of Geological Society of London is just about ready to come out, and the editors have already sent in the introductory paper, it still requires a cover photo and text for the advertisement.

Printing is expected in 2-3 weeks. Contributors get 1/3 cost discount; main volume will cost \$100.

The next major publication is the Belgian Field Guide from the 2015 pre-meeting trip which came out in March (Denayer, J., Mottequin, B. & Prestianni, C., eds, Strata, vol. 17).

The German field guide (2015 post-meeting trip) is awaiting one more chapter and will be a 250 page book scheduled to come out in September 2016 and will include more data than in the original field guide, at a price about ~35 Euros it will be a bargain.

Another volume is now underway for IGCP 596; this will be published as a special volume of Senckenberg's P-2 (Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironment) with PETER KOENIGSHOF, BERNARD MOTTEQUIN and LADISLAV SLAVÍK as editors. Contributions are due by the end of July, 2016.

SDS Newsletter: RTB wants all contributions in by end of August and wants to do editing quickly. TMs and CMs must all make contributions; if there are local guidebooks or other publications please send details. Please update e-mails.

Future Meetings

2016

A) 35th International Geological Congress; Cape Town, South Africa August 27th to September 4th. The SDS must have a representative there. C. BRETT and L. SLAVÍK to attend. John asked if there were others planning to attend; no hands were raised. CB and LS will run a brief and informal meeting and will attempt to recruit new member from Africa.

B) Meeting on D-C Boundary, Montpellier, France, September, 20-22, 2016 (see details above).

2017

ICOS Meeting, Valencia Spain June 25-30 2017 and pre- and post-meeting field trips (see details above)

2018

5th International Palaeontological congress: July 9-13, 2018; Paris, France

2019

STRATI in Milano, Italy

2020

36th IGC in New Delhi, India

Financial Report:

STAN FINNEY received a grant from NSF; part of the money went to support of the Zinzilban fieldwork.

RTB saved money by not finishing the newsletter in 2015.

SDS received \$1800 this year for the newsletter and to support attendance at the Cape Town ICS meeting.

DC Boundary working group received \$2000 for the meeting in Montpelier; if you can get there the rest is covered.

Any Other business:

RTB: G. RACKI of Poland discussed re-sampling at Coumiac section.
The La Serre section has been destroyed and the section now filled in.

EBERHARD SCHINDLER: No one realized this was private land; farmer changed from goats to sheep, because sheep were falling into the pit so he filled it in. Some subcommissions have bought sites to protect them.

RTB: Germans have a new stratigraphic chart for Devonian which will be made public at the Cape Town meeting.

JM: Will it be on-line? (not sure)

Meeting was adjourned slightly before 5:45 PM so members could join the group going to the Ghent jazz festival.

Minutes by LADISLAV SLAVÍK, CARL BRETT with additions by John Marshall.