

7th International Congress on the Jurassic System, Kraków, Poland, September 6-18, 2006

Nicol MORTON

Chairman of ISJS, Le Chardon, Quartier Brugière, 07200 Vogüé, France; e-mail: NICOL.MORTON@orange.fr

The International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy (ISJS) has sponsored International Symposia or Congresses on the Jurassic System since it was re-established in 1977 – in Erlangen, Germany (1984), Lisbon, Portugal (1987), Poitiers, France (1991), Mendoza, Argentina (1994), Vancouver, Canada (1988) and Mondello, Sicily (2002). The 7th Congress was held in Kraków, Poland in September 2006. The Organising Committee, chaired by Andrzej Wierzbowski (Univ. of Warsaw), included representatives from the University of Warsaw, AGH University Kraków, Polish Geological Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Jagellonian University Kraków, University of Silesia Sosnowiec, Polish Oil and Gas Company, Geosfera Kraków and Comenius University Bratislava (Slovakia). The Congress was sponsored by ISJS, the Ministry of the Environment of Poland, the Orlen Group, the Polish Oil and Gas Company and Warsaw University Foundation. Four days of oral and poster presentations were held in AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków and five Congress Fieldtrips demonstrated the extremely varied Jurassic geology of southern Poland and northern Slovakia. 195 participants from 29 countries, representing 6 continents, registered for the Congress (Fig. 1).

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The Congress began with an ice-breaker reception in the Wawel Castle Restaurant in Kraków on 10th September. Scientific sessions were

held in Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza (AGH) – University of Science and Technology, Kraków, from 11th to 14th September. The abstracts are published in *Volumina Jurassica* vol. 4 (ISSN 1731-3708), which contains 226 abstracts involving 398 different authors. During the opening ceremony participants were welcomed by Tadeusz Słomka (Vice Rector of AGH), by Jacek Matyszkiewicz (Dean of the Faculty of Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Protection of AGH), by a representative of the President of the City of Kraków and by Nicol Morton (Chairman of ISJS). Keynote talks were then given by Felix Gradstein (Chairman of the International Commission on Stratigraphy) on *ICS on Stage*, and by Andrzej Wierzbowski (Chairman of Organising Committee) on *Jurassic of Poland: review and current research*.

Presentations of scientific communications by oral communication (133) or by poster (93) were arranged by the scientific programme convenor Ewa Główniak (Univ. of Warsaw) into nine topics:

- Geodynamics and evolution of different areas;
- Facies analysis and reconstruction of palaeoenvironments;
- Palaeoecology, palaeobiogeography;
- Integrated stratigraphy;
- Jurassic organisms in space and time;
- Geoconservation and geological heritage;
- Organic geochemistry;
- IGCP 506: Marine and non-marine Jurassic: global correlation and major geological events;
- IGCP 458: Triassic/Jurassic boundary events.



Fig. 1. Participants of the Congress before the conference gala dinner in the 900 years old the "Wieliczka" salt mine.

Submitted papers will be subject to peer review and those accepted after referees' reports will be published as the Congress Proceedings in a future issue of *Volumina Jurassica* (this volume), edited by Faculty of Geology of the Warsaw University.

of preferred candidate followed by formal proposal for three others (Hettangian [which is also the Triassic/Jurassic boundary], Callovian, Oxfordian).

FIELDTRIPS

For the fieldtrips an extremely well-illustrated Fieldtrip Guidebook with 235 pages was prepared

MEETINGS OF STAGE GSSP WORKING GROUPS

Four of the eleven Jurassic Stages have ratified GSSPs (Sinemurian, Pliensbachian, Aalenian, Bajocian) and the remaining seven Working Groups held discussion meetings during the Congress in order to make progress with preparation of GSSP proposals. Details of two proposals (Toarcian, Kimmeridgian) were published in *Volumina Jurassica* vol. 4) together with the Congress Abstracts. Although no formal decisions could be taken during the meetings (these must be by postal/email vote), consensus was reached over three proposals (Toarcian, Bathonian, Kimmeridgian) and timetabled plans with deadlines were agreed for selection



Fig. 2. Trzy Korony Mts in the Pieniny Klippen Belt at the Polish/Slovakian border: white limestones of the maiolica type of the latest Jurassic – earliest Cretaceous age.

and published. This contains reviews of the Jurassic geology of Poland and northern Slovakia and a vast amount of detailed information, much of it new and previously unpublished. It includes material provided by 47 contributors, from 13 institutions in 2 countries, and features contributions by many young researchers. The bibliographic reference for the volume is:

Wierzbowski A., Aubrecht R., Golonka J., Gutowski J., Krobicki M., Matyja B. A., Pieńkowski G. and Uchman A. (Eds) 2006. *Jurassic of Poland and adjacent Slovakian Carpathians. Field trip guidebook, 7th International Congress on the Jurassic System, 6-18 September 2006, Kraków, Poland*. Polish Geological Institute, Warsaw. ISBN 83-7372-909-7.

Pre-Congress Fieldtrip A – From Tethyan to platform facies was convened by Jan Golonka and Michał Krobicki (both AGH University, Kraków) and covered a traverse of the Outer Carpathians, through the Pieniny Klippen Belt (Czorsztyn, Niedzica and other units) (Fig. 2), the Carpathian Flysch Belt (including Magura and Silesian units, Štramberk-type olistoliths) to the Kraków Upland on the European Platform (especially Upper Jurassic bioherms).

Post-Congress Fieldtrip B1 – Biostratigraphical framework from Bajocian to Oxfordian, convened by Andrzej Wierzbowski (University of Warsaw), demonstrated the biostratigraphy and sedimentology of the Middle Jurassic and Oxfordian of the Polish Jura Chain between Kraków and Częstochowa, including the Bajocian and Bathonian black clays of the Częstochowa and Wieluń areas (Fig. 3) and the Oxfordian cyanobacteria-sponge bioherms (Fig. 4) and carbonates along the whole chain.

Post-Congress Fieldtrip B2 – Upper Jurassic shallow-water carbonate platform and open shelf facies, convened by Jacek Gutowski (Polish Geological Institute, Warsaw) and Bronisław A. Matyja (University of Warsaw), focussed on the sedimentology of Late Oxfordian to Early Kimmeridgian progradation of shallow marine carbonate platform facies over open shelf sponge facies in the Holy Cross Mts. and Polish Jura Chain, between Bałtów and Częstochowa.

Post-Congress Fieldtrip B3 – Inside Tethys, convened by Roman Aubrecht (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia), Michał Krobicki (AGH University, Kraków) and Alfred Uchman (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), demonstrated the Jurassic of different palaeogeographic units in the Inner Carpathians of Poland and NW Slovakia, from the inner Carpathian Križna unit (Stražovské Mts., Slovakia and Tatra Mts, Poland) to the Pieniny Klippen Belt, including the Rogoźnik lumachelles (Poland) and Vršatec coral limestones (Slovakia) (Fig. 5).



Fig. 3. Bathonian, Callovian and Lower to Middle Oxfordian succession at the Ogródzieniec quarry, Polish Jura Chain.



Fig. 4. Cyanobacteria-sponge biohermal limestones (Oxfordian) at the Olsztyn Castle, Polish Jura Chain.

Post-Congress Fieldtrip B4 – Lower Jurassic marginal-marine and continental deposits: sedimentation, sequences and ecosystems, convened by Grzegorz Pieńkowski (Polish Geological Institute, Warsaw), demonstrated the alluvial, deltaic, barrier-lagoon and nearshore successions of Hettangian, Sinemurian and Pliensbachian age on the northern slopes of the Holy Cross Mts., with special reference to use of sequence stratigraphic analyses for marine to non-marine correlation.

OPEN MEETING OF JURASSIC SUBCOMMISSION

The final afternoon of the Congress was devoted to an open business meeting of the International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy. Agenda items included:

Brief reports by the Working Group Convenors on the results of their Group discussions during the Congress and their future plans;

Mechanism (nominations committee) for election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee for 2008-2012, and subsequently for renewal of Voting Membership;

Location and preferred dates for next International Jurassic Congress (see below).

FUTURE PLANS: 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE JURASSIC SYSTEM

Following presentations, discussions and a vote by participants present at the open meeting of the Jurassic Subcommittee, it was decided that the next International Jurassic Congress, due to be arranged for 2010 in accordance with our four-year



Fig. 5. Rogoża Klippes built of ammonite Rogożnik lumachelles (Tithonian-Berriasian) in the Pieniny Klippen Belt. Michał Krobicki and Andrzej Wierzbowski are explaining the section.

cycle, should be held in China, in Suining City and Shehong County. There was some discussion over preferred dates, because the traditional September period has become less suitable for a significant number of potential participants, and August emerged as the preferred option.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND IMPACT

Great help in organisation of the Congress given by various public bodies was obtained. This included special permission for entrance to protected areas in Ojców National Park, Pieniny National Park and Tatry National Park, free access to other places of interest related with Jurassic System (Bałtów Park dinosaur reconstructions, Krzemionki Archeological Museum and Reserve Neolithic underground flint mine). Help was

obtained also from other institutions (Lhoist SA Poland, "Jurajska" Natural Mineral Water) and from many private persons.

Short reports about the Congress were given on television (TVP 3 – programme of Kraków) and radio (Polish Radio – Programme 1, Academic Radio "Campus", local stations such as Kraków Radio and Silesia Radio). Polish Radio 1 and Academic Radio "Campus" also gave one-hour broadcasts presenting interviews with the organisers and the Chairman of ISJS. These popularized the scientific problems of the Jurassic System, presented the purposes of the Jurassic Congress, and the tasks it had to complete. Advance information about the Congress appeared in Polish geological journals – *Tomys Jurajskie (Volumina Jurassica)*, and *Przegląd Geologiczny*, as well as on many websites in the world.
