

Report of the Callovian Working Group

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The Callovian Working Group was established in 1983, and since then John Callomon its convenor. Annually, he reported on the state of play at the proposed GSSP in Albstadt or about the latest research in the Callovian (“news from the front”). After John’s death in 2010, the group is without guidance, and also Gerd Dietl did not want to be convenor. At the invitation of the new Chairman of the Subcommittee, Steve Hesselbo, I agreed to act as convenor of the Working Group.

First, I have compiled all the documents that exist regarding the Callovian Working Group and the base of the Callovian. These are correspondence, publications, manuscripts, excursion guides, photos, working group reports, *etc.* I will complete these documents in January with Gerd Dietl and then it will be sent to the members of the group and other colleagues. This type of correspondence will also give an idea of who is interested in participating the working group.

The GSSP: for those who are not so well versed in the Callovian here is a short tabular summary:

- 1850 First definition of the Callovian Stage by d’Orbigny: “Je fais dériver ce nom de Kelloway (Calloviensis) qui, en Angleterre, a été le premier point où l’Étage ait été bien défini.”
- 1857 Opel (p. 504) defined the Callovian Stage in terms of three successive constituent Zones: Macrocephalus, Anceps and Athleta.
- 1967 Colloque du Jurassique Luxembourg. Definition of the Callovian Stage: the base is now defined by the Macrocephalus Subzone of the Macrocephalus Zone (since 1989 Kepleri Subzone of the Herveyi Zone) with the horizon of *Keplerites kepleri* as base (J.H. Callomon *in* Morton, ed., 1971).
- 1983 Callovian Working Group (WG) was set up. J.H. Callomon agreed to act as coordinator.
- 1984 First meeting of the working group during the Jurassic Symposium at Erlangen and first report of the Callovian Working Group: statement of the status of definition of the Callovian Stage and its boundaries, and review of major developments and problems in Callovian stratigraphy (Callomon, 1985).
- 1990 Meeting of the Working group in Albstadt-Pfeffingen, Swabia (16–21 Sept. 1990). Eighteen members were present: Callomon, Cariou, Dietl, Galacz, Geczy, Gygy, Krishna, Mangold, Marchand, Melendez, Mönnig, Niederhöfer, Pavia, Prozorokaja, Tarkowski, Thierry, Vörös, Zeiss. The deliberations and decisions reached at the meeting, and the proposed type section across the Bathonian-Callovian boundary near Albstadt-Pfeffingen were described in a report circulated among the members of the WG and available on request.
- 1991 Summary of the working group meeting 1990, its proceedings and the decision, by John Callomon, ISJS NEWSLETTER 20: 5–9 (1991). The proposed section of Albstadt-Pfeffingen was presented to the German Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy in May 1991. After that, Dr. Reiner Jordan (a member of the German Jurassic group, not of the Callovian WG) pointed out that the proposal did not meet one of the critical

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- requirements of the *Guidelines* (of 1986), namely that the stratotype should be chosen in a section that was “complete” and not “condensed”. This objection to the 1990 proposals was submitted directly to the Chairman of the ISJS (unpublished manuscript, in German).
- 1993 English translation of the objection from R. Jordan: ISJS NEWSLETTER 21: 18–22 (1993).
- 1997 The convenors of the WG were informed by a brief retrospective review of the ISJS over the previous seven years that the proposals adopted at Stuttgart were not acceptable, as not meeting the ICS requirements, and that the case would have to be reopened. “1.2.3. Callovian GSSP... does not satisfy the requirements defined in the Guidelines of the ICS. The procedure must be reopened.” No explanations were given as to why and how. ISJS NEWSLETTER 24: 7 (1997).
- 1998 The proposals were revived and presented at the 5th Jurassic Colloquium in Vancouver, published in the volume of its proceedings (Callomon, Dietl, 2000). The arguments of 1990 remained unchanged but were amplified to the developments during the previous decade.
- 2001–2008 Annual reports of the Callovian Working Group by John Callomon: “Writing up the formal proposal is still in progress.” ISJS NEWSLETTER 32: 14 (2005).
- 2008 REPORT OF THE CALLOVIAN WORKING GROUP, by John Callomon: “The typological definition of the time plane marking the basal boundary of the Callovian Stage, was essentially solved 17 years ago. And no-one has complained or contested the choice since. The choice of locality for the primary standard GSSP, at Albstadt-Pfeffingen, was considered and then ratified *nem. com.* by a Working Group of 18 members at the time. The matter came up again for debate at the Krakow Symposium in 2006 and the question of possible alternative sections to be considered for the GSSP was raised. One proposal has since been put forward, that at the settlement of Prosek in the region of Nizhny Novgorod, on the Middle Volga, described by Dmitry Kiselev and Michail Rogov (2007).” ISJS NEWSLETTER 35/2 (see also Guzhikhov, Pimenov, Malenkin, Manikin, Astarkin, 2010).
- 2009 Callovian. Research by the Working Group, Convenor John Callomon: “Unfortunately, the paperwork leading to a formal proposal was never completed at the time, but is now under way. At the Working Group meeting during the 7th International Jurassic Congress in Kraków some minority reservations were expressed and it was agreed that a possible alternative section on the Russian Platform should be examined. A proposal for discussion has been submitted to the Working Group.” ISJS NEWSLETTER 34/2: 2 (2009).
- 2010 The convenor of the Callovian working group, John Hannes Callomon died on 1 April 2010.
- 2010 Poster and abstract concerning the ostracode fauna of the Albstadt section on the 8th International Congress on the Jurassic System (Beher *et al.*, 2010).
- 2012 Matthias Franz has completed a paper on the Foraminifera of Albstadt profile (Knott, 2010; Franz, Knott, 2012). Vasili Mitta and Gerd Dietl work on a description of the *keppleri* Horizon.

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