

PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists



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PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists

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FROM THE EDITOR

Results of the Ballot for Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Forty-nine ballots have been returned to date. Twelve of these were against one or more of the changes suggested by the Revision Committee. Accordingly, the Constitution of the International Association of Meiobenthologists, as printed in issue number 49, August, 1980, is adopted.

However, Article 6 and Bylaws 1 and 5 appear to be troublesome and some serious thought about these issues seems appropriate.

Trying to conduct business within the Association is an arduous task at best and still more difficult when only two of the seven members of the Executive Committee are in attendance at the international conference held every three years by the Association. Including those four out of the nine members of the Board of Correspondents that were present, the Council numbered only six when it met in Columbia. Thus, in order to conduct a more fruitful executive session, several past-chairpersons were invited to meet with the Council. This resulted in the suggestion that this practice be continued, that past-chairpersons be included as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

True, as some have pointed out, this may result in an unwieldy group after several years. The merits of having this continuum of past leadership available to the Executive Committee are, hopefully, sufficient justification. However, a suggestion has been made that past-chairpersons be non-voting members.

Bylaws 1 and 5 are another problem it would appear. In the first instance there is a provision for "Income exceeding the annual dues rate per member for a given year shall be placed in the Swedmark Fund." And, in the fifth Bylaw: "Additional monies shall be deposited by the Treasurer from special membership categories, provided all necessary expenses for the Association have been met." These two statements conflict in part and might, as several have suggested, be resolved by changing that portion of Bylaw 1 to read: "Income exceeding the operating costs of the Association at the close of the calendar year shall be placed in the Swedmark Fund" and eliminate the redundant second sentence of Bylaw 5.

The last sentence of Bylaw 5 received the most comment and is an issue which is not satisfactorily resolved. This sentence reads: "A primary use of the Fund shall be the financing of a get-together at the beginning of each international conference of the Association."

In the May, 1980 issue of PSAMMONALIA (p.2) the suggestion of a Swedmark Award was introduced. Those suggesting this favored the production of a suitable certificate or plaque to be given annually or triennially to a member for his or her outstanding contribution (either in the form of service or publication) to meiobenthology, as determined by the Council. Opponents to this favored a cash award, not just a certificate or plaque. The counter-argument was that there were not sufficient funds in the Swedmark Fund to provide both a

meaningful and continuing award of this nature.

A third group was opposed to the entire idea of an award on the basis that it would create an "elitist" philosophy within the organization that was founded on a "non-elitist" principle. Thus, a compromise was agreed to and this led to the current wording of the last sentence of Bylaw 5.

Several members expressed sentiments that are best typified in a letter from Alasdair McIntyre:

"The two 'disapprove' notes on the Bylaws are connected with the use of the Swedmark Fund. If I understand the words in your editorial correctly - 'a social gathering of members' - the idea which comes across is that the fund will be used for a party at the Conferences. I feel strongly that if this fund is to be used for the benefit of members it should benefit all members or at least should not discriminate in favour of those fortunate enough to attend the Conferences. With the present financial difficulties which are affecting most scientists, I'm afraid that travel possibilities are badly hit, and that this situation will be with us for a long time. Thus, many people will be able to attend the International Conference only very occasionally, and others will perhaps never have the prospect of attending. There must be better uses for the fund. For example, one way that it could be used to benefit all members would be to apply it to financing PSAMMONALIA or some other meiofauna publication. I would like to urge the Fund Committee to think again about this and I hope that it can be fully discussed in the pages of PSAMMONALIA before any decision is made."

In retrospect, we might have provided a better forum for discussion before proceeding with the balloting on any amendments. A change in Article 15 to require that any recommendation for changes in our Constitution or Bylaws be included in PSAMMONALIA two issues before the appearance of a ballot, thereby allowing the membership access to an intervening issue for comment or substitute amendment, deserves our consideration.

If any member wishes to comment or provide any other amendments to strengthen our Association, there will be ample space provided in the next issue of PSAMMONALIA.

PSAMMONALIA by Air Mail

Those members wishing to receive their copies of the newsletter by air mail may arrange this through correspondence with the Treasurer. The minimum cost estimate for a supplementary payment for air mailing the newsletter is \$3.00 for 1981 and \$4.00 for 1982. Issues vary in number of pages and therefore their weight and postage rate. It is not possible to anticipate beyond a simple guess.

Bruce Coull Receives Fulbright-Hayes Research Scholarship

Congratulations to Bruce Coull, former Chairman of the IAM, for his recent success. Bruce will be working with John Wells for six months. His address from the first of January to the first of July, 1981 will be: Zoology Department, Victoria University of Wellington, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand.

New Dues Structure

The change in Bylaw 1 provides for a series of membership categories. Regular Membership, beginning in 1981, will cost \$4.00 per year. If you wish to contribute financially to the Association you may do so by changing your membership to Sustaining Member at a cost of \$8.00 per year. Patron Membership, for those who might wish to contribute even more, is \$20.00 per year.

Note that this same article of the Bylaws stipulates that income exceeding the annual dues rate per member for a given year shall be placed in the Swedmark Fund.

Nominations -- Time to Consider

By the first of July, 1981, nominations for new officers of the Association should be received by the Chairman. Two new members of the Executive Committee will be elected in 1981 to fill the expired terms of John S Gray and Eike Hartwig. The office of the Chairman of the Association (and Editor of the newsletter) will also expire at the end of 1981.

Nominations for any office may be made in writing by any two members of the Association.

Those wishing to submit nominations should provide the Council with copies of correspondence between the nominators and the nominee wherein the nominee agrees to serve if elected, and, in addition, the Council should receive a brief biographical sketch of the candidate.

The formal call for nominations will appear in the next issue of PSAMMONALIA in order to provide ample time for this process to be effective.

1980 Dues!

If "80" appears to the right of your name on the mailing label of this issue of PSAMMONALIA, you will not receive any further issues until the Treasurer receives your dues for 1981. Dues may also be paid for 1982 if you desire to pay one year in advance.

Bibliographies Needed

One of the most valuable services of this newsletter has been the occasional inclusion of a bibliography on a subject appropriate to the membership. These bibliographies come from members, not the Editor. If you have a bibliography of interest, please consult past issues of PSAMMONALIA to note the proper format and correspond with the Editor concerning this matter.

----- NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

Gunter Arlt Univ Rostock Sekt Biologie Freiligrathstrasse 7/8 25 Rostock GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	FC	Fred C Dobbs Inst Marine Science Univ Connecticut Noank, CT 16340 USA	82	G Pilorge 2 Rue V Moello Zueven Lorient Pal FRANCE	81
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----- NEW OR CORRECTED ADDRESSES

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THIRD SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC NEMATODES - PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Third Symposium on Aquatic Nematodes will be held at the Institute for Marine Environmental Research, Plymouth, England, from September 7-9, 1981. This immediately follows the 'Concepts in Nematode Systematics' symposium being held in Cambridge. Since many participants are likely to attend both symposia, and may well be mentally exhausted from the formal sessions in Cambridge, it has been proposed that the aquatic nematode symposium should take the form of a more informal workshop and have some practical content such as the examination of slides, demonstration of techniques and so on, as well as round-table discussions. Opportunity will also be given, however, for a series of short and more formal presentations of work currently in progress by individuals. A final program for the symposium has not been drawn up, and any suggestions would still be welcome.

It is hoped that a variety of types of accommodation can be arranged to suit most tastes, ranging from comfortable hotels, through student-type accommodation to free camping. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please complete the form below.

Richard Warwick
Howard Platt

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

I am interested in attending the Third Symposium on Aquatic Nematodes in Plymouth in September 1981, and wish to receive further communications.

The type of accommodation I would prefer is:

Hotel

Student-room

Camping

I would like to give a short presentation of my current research:

YES

NO

I would like to lead a discussion group/provide a demonstration:

YES

NO

(please give brief account of topic)

I will also be attending the Cambridge conference beforehand:

YES

NO

Please return this form to Dr. R. M. Warwick
Institute for Marine Environmental Research
Prospect Place, The Hoe
PLYMOUTH, U.K.

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