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Membership in the Association is open to anyone who wishes to join. There are no pre-requisites. Annual dues of 4 US Dollars, payable in Deutsch Mark (12,00 DM), include subscription to PSAMMONALIA. Payment for one year in advance is acceptable. Payment should be made to Dr. A. Faubel, International Association of Meiobenthologists by international money order or draft in Deutsch Mark on a West-German bank. I.A.M. account no. is 1238/124844 at Hamburger Sparkasse.

PSAMMONALIA is issued quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Dear Friends,

this is an appraisal of methods, of impulses to meiobenthology through introduction of new extraction techniques. Usually some meager words in the introductory chapter of a paper indicate which method has been used, not foreshadowing how influential they were on meiobenthos research. And it is just here that invention of new methods stimulated new studies, characterizing whole 'periods' in the short history of meiobenthology. Particularly the younger among us, who were educated at the universities without knowledge of the history of science, may not be aware of this close inter-relationship between method and development of a scientific discipline.

When Remane in the late twenties recognized the "Mikrofauna des Küstengrundwassers" (micro-fauna of the coastal ground water) to represent an ecologically well definable community, it was the application of a specific, simple method ('washing out' with a fine net the ground water pool in holes dug in the beaches) which led to the discovery of so many new species and whole animal groups.

Later, decantation of sediment was widely introduced. During many years it was, and often still is, the procedure even for quantitative evaluation: simple, convenient and, if done carefully, effective - ideal for field work. It determined meiofauna work up to the sixties and is still to date the method of choice just in places where sophisticated laboratories are not at hand.

The sixties brought the laboratory refinement of the decantation method - the elutriation, invented by Boisseau 1957, but simplified and widely propagated by A.D. McIntyre and his school in Aberdeen. Due to its reliability and effectivity, today there is hardly a lab for meiofauna studies where the typical glass ampoule and the pertinent tubing is not set up. Now, quantitative evaluation of whole areas and large-scaled base-line studies became possible, often a prerequisite for pollution research. No wonder that it was the elutriation method which was rated best among all other methods in the 'meiofauna extraction contest' on Helgoland 1972.

Well, the backside of the medal (as we use to say in German): elutriation and decantation are rather rough methods, too rough for soft meiofauna. Here, it was Uhlig's invention of the seawater ice-method which opened up quantitative studies on ciliates, turbellarians etc. (by the way, try to record the salinity in the last-melting ice, then you know what expells the animals).

So far, everything was fine with the psammologists among us - all the above methods were made for sand and sand fauna. However, the mud diggers had still to use the stoneage-method: picking out the delicate creatures one by one, hour by hour. It was not before the late seventies that the breakthrough came even here, abandoning this slavery in meio-fauna work: The Ludox-flotation method. Now, even the muddiest mud could be quantitatively evaluated in a very short time (the wealthier among us can even keep the tiny creatures alive if they use Percoll).

It is with this set of modern methods that we now can achieve e.g. comprehensive size spectra, leading to corroboration of an old 'credo' (in which we all secretly believed or at least hoped for) that meiofauna is a truly biological entity, more than just the gap between macro- and microfauna. So, as long as we don't grow tired of trying out new methods, we will open up new areas of meiofauna research. Who knows, what the new microwave fixation, perfect in many respects, will bring about, e.g. if applied to total sediment cores?

So, let's play around with all available sophisticated devices, let's look into our neighbouring disciplines - I am sure it's worthwhile for meiobenthology!

Sincerely yours,



Olav Giere

SECOND REMINDER FOR YOUR VOTES

I would like to draw your attention to the current voting on an important change in the constitution of the International Association of Meiobenthologists (see last PSAMMONALIA No. 66): Extension of the term of the Executive Committee Members from three to six years. We have already received an encouraging number of ballots, but still think that there are too many members who have forgotten to mail their ballot. There must be more of you interested in our organization and its future structure! So, although the deadline will not be before May 1st, why don't you mail your ballot on this matter (PSAMMONALIA 66, p. 3) right now? Don't put this issue away and forget again about it!

O. Giere

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1984 (see table below)

We have started the year 1984 with the substantial sum of DM 10,270.10 which was remitted to me by the ex-treasurer, M. Vincx from Belgium. The resulting new deposits toward the issues no. 62 to 65 are indicated in the table below. In 1984, we received subscriptions to PSAMMONALIA to the total amount of DM 2,158.04. This sum includes interests, but also quite some smaller or larger donations made to I.A.M. from various members. I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of I.A.M. all donors for their generosity. Subtracting the expenses of DM 3,704.17 the balance is now DM 8,623.43.

Here, I remind the USA-members that Susan Bell (address see p. 1) has agreed in collecting the subscriptions from members living in the USA in order to send us the entire amount in one money order rather than remittance of single cheques. Considering these very expensive international money orders or drafts, we here offer you three much cheaper possibilities for sending your dues:

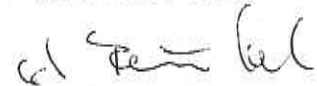
either make a 'postal order' to the treasurer (account no. 9386-209, Hamburg), or take a 'postal remittance', issued in your domestic currency!, for 'post office transfer' to Hamburg, Dr. Anno Faubel, account no. 9386-209, or send a cheque to the treasurer, issued in your domestic money as well.

It is, however, of prime importance that the equivalent in DM exceeds the minimal sum for the annual dues of DM 12.00 by at least DM 0.50 (charge per cheque). In the future we can't accept cheques which do not cover this minimal sum because of wrong calculation of bank charges.

There is another important point I should like to mention here: During the past year it happened several times that I was unable to subscribe the payment to the respective remitter because he/she had forgotten to mark his/her name and address. In future, please, do send money cheques etc. only with your name clearly indicated!

Here is the last of these 'Ufos' (unidentified financial objects): In Dec. 1984 I received an order cheque from England (post-mark: Berkshire, Slough, 18.12.84 - C.A.B. World Services to Agriculture - amounting to DM 12.00 from Barclays Bank PLC (cheque no. DT 496 981). Information please! Who is the shy member? Or is this an anonymous donation?

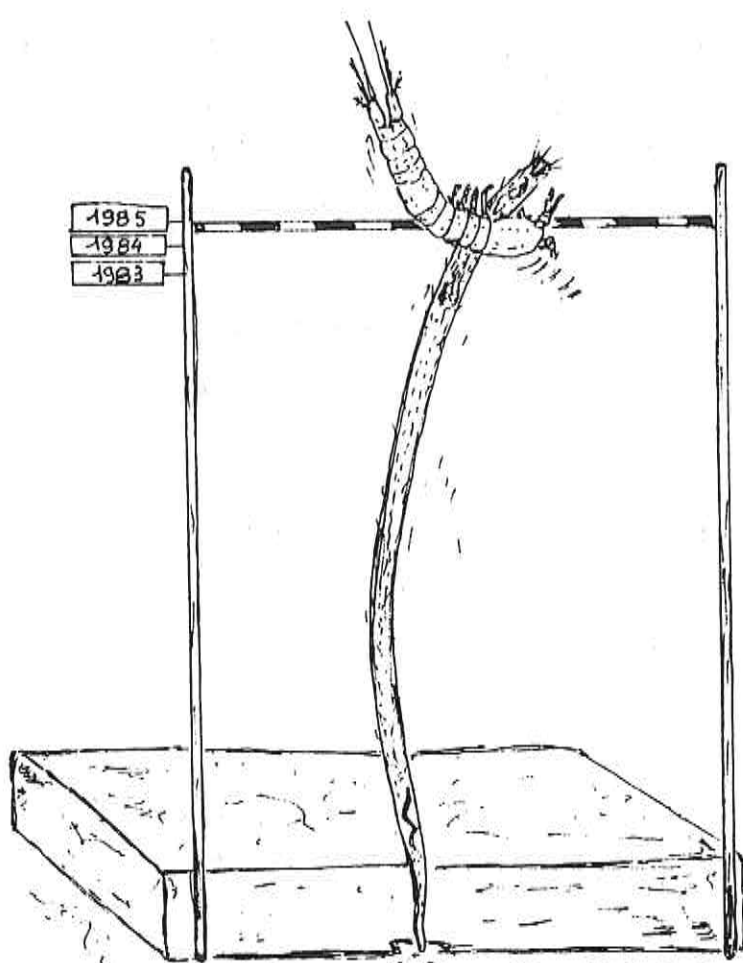
Cordially, yours



Anno Faubel

Treasurer's report, 1984

	* 63 2/ 1984	* 64 5/ 1984	* 65 8/ 1984	* 66 11/ 1984
Balance forward	2,493. -	1,777.14	8,948.83	9,042.78
Deposits	455.82	7,947.98	974.21	325.01
Interests				132.12
Total	2,948.82	9,725.12	9,923.04	9,499.91
Expenses:				
Journal	577.93	406.98	378.48	498.28
Postage and mail handling	564.30	333.21	473.05	355.40
Account dues	29.45	36.10	28.73	22.80
Total	1,171.14	776.29	880.26	876.48
Balance	1,777.14	8,948.83	9,042.78	8,623.43



Season's Greetings and
Best Wishes for 1985!

(thanks to Rudy L. Herman)

J.A.M.

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

Roberto SANDULLI
Marine Laboratory
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Scotland

I will be based in the Marine Laboratory for the next two years, while undertaking a study (M.Sc. course, Aberdeen University) on the effects of pollution (sewage sludge) on meiobenthos communities, with particular reference to harpacticoid copepods. The experimental set-up involves the use of small-scale sediment columns which will be subjected to different sewage sludge treatment levels.

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Sumru ÜNSAL
Karadeniz Universitesi
Deniz Bilimleri
ve Teknologisi Yuksekokulu

TRABZON
Turkey

I am Associate Professor at the Black Sea University in Trabzon. Since 1966 I was working on macrobenthos (Echinodermata), fishery and some pollution problems in the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Sea.

In the near future I want to begin with work on the meiobenthos of the Eastern part of the Black Sea (Turkish coasts). So far, no meiofauna research has been done in Turkey. My wish is to stimulate future meiobenthos investigations in this country.

NEW ADDRESS

Mitchell J. WEISS
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ADDRESS MISSING

We would like to know the present address of
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Can anybody (in the US) help us?

"Scientists are like wild geese:
If you try to domesticate them,
they will loose their sense of direction."
Peyrefittes, 1976

Arne NØRREVANG, Teacher's College of the Faroes,
DK-3800 Torshavn, Faroe Islands v/Denmark:

I decided to move from my position as a professor at the University of Copenhagen to the Faroe Islands. That means that I shall have to give up the main line of my former research and turn to some minor line of mine - the meiofauna. I already did some work on Gnathostomulida and on Psammodrilus (Polychaeta), but now I intend to study the meiofauna of the Faroes. There are very varied substrates from shell sands and gravel to mud, and practically nothing is known. I shall have to depend very much on colleagues for inspiration, identification, and - especially - for reprints, as there is no scientific library here.

Franz RIEMANN, Institut für Meeresforschung,
Bremerhaven, F. R, Germany:

"The RIEMANN CUP for Popular Nematology"

awarded to H. Platt and R. Warwick

Prologue: At the 4th Symposium on Aquatic Nematodes, organized by Guy Boucher and Nicole Goubault in Roscoff, 1983, there was a dinner in a cosy restaurant on Isle de Batz. On that occasion, Franz Riemann donated a cup, "The Riemann Cup for Popular Nematology", and gave the following address which, we think, is still a very actual contribution:

Dear Friends,

a scientist is continuously trying to eliminate ignorance, a nematologist has another task too: He has to eliminate the perpetual aversion of other biologists against his objects. Doctor Nicholas from Australia was fully aware of this situation when he in 1975 wrote his book on the biology of free-living nematodes, beginning with the following words in the preface: 'This is a book written by an enthusiast for the unconvinced. Time and again the author has been impressed by the aversion of biologists to working with free-living nematodes. Though the free-living nematodes abound in soils, fresh waters, and the sea, they receive the most meagre attention in ecological and faunistic books.

We, of course, cannot understand the reasons for such aversion. Aquatic nematodes are easily to collect, to handle and to observe on slides. They can serve as convenient models for the investigation of general biological problems. Moreover, at all times prominent protagonists fortunately felt the necessity to compile their knowledge by writing reviews and synopses to facilitate our work.

What, then, is the reason for any aversion to working with aquatic nematodes? It might be that our gang behaves too much esoteric. This catchwork again appears in the respective preface of Doctor Nicholas when he writes: 'I can only hope that nematode taxonomists will not be unduly outraged at an incursion into their esoteric and difficult preserve.' I for one take these words as a reproach-

Susanna GRIMALDI De ZIO, Bari (Italy):

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

The 17th Congress of the Italian Marine Biology Society will be held in Ferrara (Italy) from June 11 - 15, 1985. According to the First Announcement, there will be organized a whole morning session on 'Meiobenthos and Interstitial Fauna'. Registration is open until 1st of March. For further information and registration write to: Comitato Organizzatore, 17th Congress of S. I. B. M. Istituto di Zoologia e Biologia Gen. Via L. Borsari, 46; I-44100 FERRARA, Italy (personal remark: Some knowledge of Italian is most helpful. O. Giere).

group. The word 'esoteric' is explained in the dictionary as: 'confined to a select circle; adapted exclusively for the initiated and enlightened few.'

For my feeling, to be considered as being esoteric, means a serious sin in the scientific world, where communication is so paramount. We must, therefore, take remedial measures in order to improve the image, the reputation of our doing. The practical background for our aims must be to secure employments for our colleagues by making our field of interest more popular, interesting, and desirable to be strengthened in future by the authorities and grant giving institutions.

Two years ago I became acquainted with a non-esoteric, good article - a genuine communication to the biological fraternity, that comes close to what I think we must aim at in future. Since my English is not good enough to give an adequate verbal commendation to the authors of that paper, I decided to give an appraisal in a more material form and bought a cup. The engraving is: 'The Riemann Cup for Popular Nematology, Roscoff 1983.' I award the cup to Howard Platt and Richard Warwick, the hosts of the Third Symposium on Aquatic Nematodes, held in Plymouth, 1981, for their article on: 'The significance of free-living marine nematodes to the littoral ecosystem.-

In: J. H. Price, D.E.G. Irvine and W.F. Farnham (eds.), The shore environment, Vol 2: Ecosystems, pp. 727-759. Academic Press, London, 1980.'

What is heavy?

Sea, sand and sorrow.

What is brief?

Today and tomorrow.

What is fragile?

Spring blossom and youth.

What is deep?

The ocean and truth.

Christina Rossetti

(courtesy of P.J.S. Boaden)

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(PART 3)

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At the end of each reference, the content of the respective paper will be indicated by capital letters in parentheses. These letters stand for the following subjects: (B) Biology, morphology, fine structure; (D) Distribution, biogeography, ecology; (G) General and review; (M) Methods; (O) Original descriptions; (P) Physiology, ecophysiology; (S) Systematics, taxonomy. Part 1 and Part 2 of this bibliography have been published in PSAMMONALIA No. 64 (May 1984) and No. 65 (August 1984).

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"What's wrong with the benthos?"

It doesn't fit the log-normal!"

(Lambshhead, 1984)

