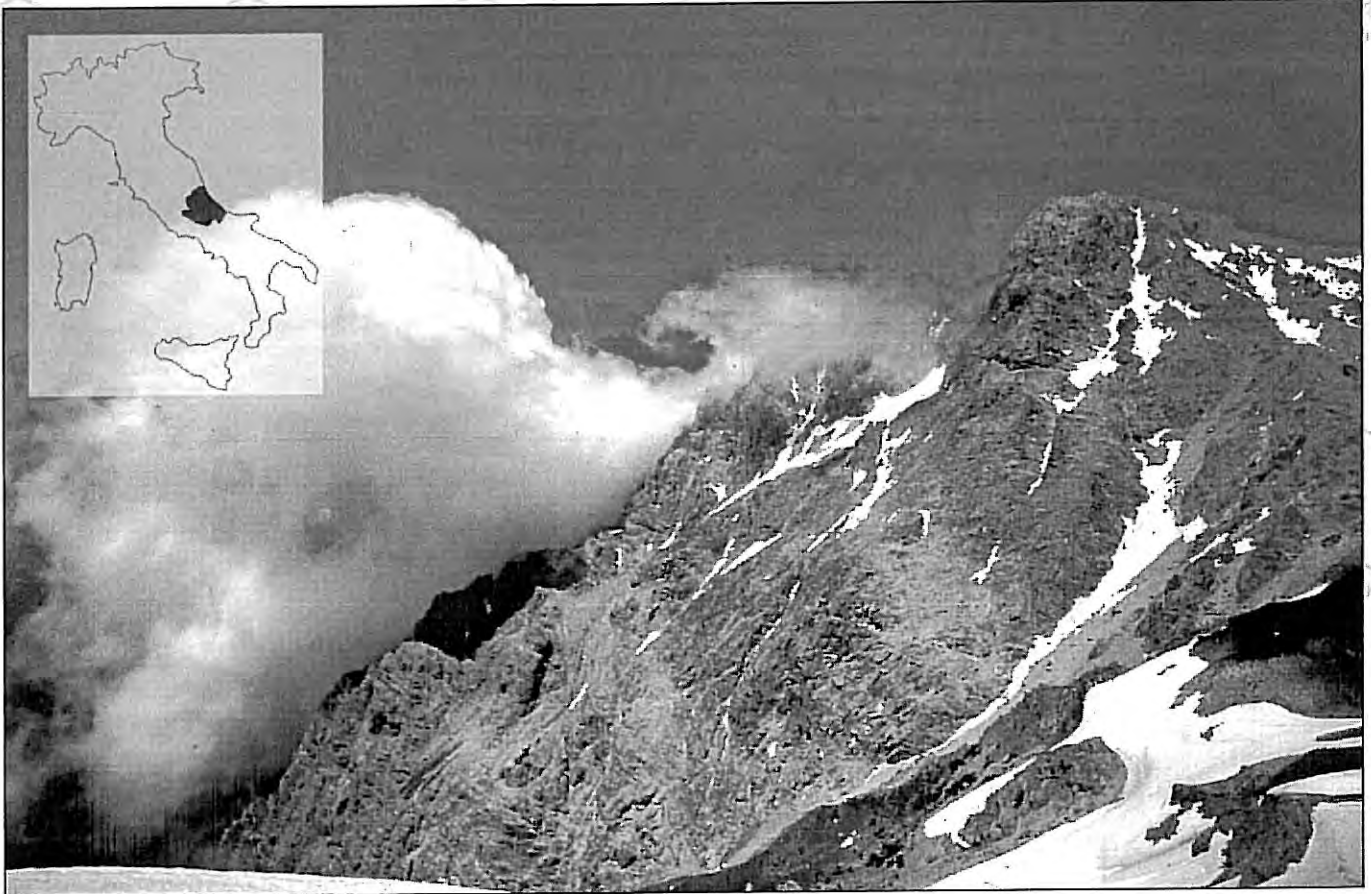




No. 3

1996



West side of the Corno Grande (2950 m), the highest peak in the Apennines: for tectonic reasons we have Lias massive limestones which cover a 700m Cretaceous-Tertiary stratigraphic sequence.



ITALY

Important geosites in Abruzzi

The Abruzzi Region shows geological features mainly related to sedimentary, tectonic and geomorphological cycles. From the stratigraphic sequences (i.e. carbonatic shelf, arenaceous-argillitic turbidites, continental deposits) to the Apennines orogenesis, and from the erosion-karstic processes to the natural hazards features, the re-

gion exhibits a wide range of geosites. Several of them are included in the numerous preservation areas of Abruzzi, considered an European "green region": 3 national parks, 1 regional park and 13 natural reserves.

All the four large parks are of a "mountain" type:

1- Parco Nazionale degli Abruzzi: one of the "old" Italian National Parks established in 1923. Not very large (33000 ha), but very important for wildlife (brown bear, wolf, Abruzzi chamois) and for woods. It is not particularly rich in geosites (Scontrone vertebrate fossils, Barrea canyon).



S. Stefano de Sessanio mountain plain, a typical Apennines tectonic-karstic depression, with its small lake, cultivated for mountain legumes from many centuries.

2- Parco Nazionale Gran Sasso - Laga: established in 1991. A very large park (about 150000 ha) with a very high richness in important geosites (Corno Grande, the highest peak in the Apennines, Campo Imperatore karstic-glacial area, Voltigno polje, Salinello canyon).

3- Parco Nazionale della Maiella: established in 1991. The park is wide (80000 ha) and rich in geosites (Orfento valley, Val Cannella, anfiteatro Murelle).

4- Parco Regionale del Sirente - Velino: established in 1989. The park is wide (62000 ha) and rich in geosites (Monte Velino, Balze del Sirente, Celano canyon).

The following six important geosites are Nature reserves and here indicated with their town, province and extent in hectares:

- 1 Sorgenti del Pescara (springs) - Popoli (PE) - 49 ha
- 2 Zompo lo Schioppo (spring and cascade) - Morino (AQ) - 1025 ha
- 3 Voltigno e Valle d'Angri (karstic area) - Ofena, Villa S. Lucia (AQ) - 5172 ha
- 4 Gole del Salinello (canyon) - Civitella del Tronto (TE) - 800 ha
- 5 Calanchi di Atri (clay erosion) - Atri (TE) - 380 ha
- 6 Grotte di Pietrasecca (karstic caves) - Carsoli (AQ) - 110 ha

Many other geotopes lie out of these areas, thus being at



Gran Sasso National Park: at Camp Imperatore, an intermontane plain (altitude 1800m), the Corno Grande (Lias limestone) is reflected on a karstic small lake.

risk, and need protection in short times. In addition, the existence of peculiar geotopes, not easily "perceptible" as geomorphological monuments, such as a cascade, a pinnacle, a rock arch, is to be outlined. These can be represented by a particular stratum, a rare soil profile, a palaeontologic outcrop and are undoubtedly of great scientific value.

All the above geotopes need a regional project for their characterisation, listing and protection. Moreover, we suggest the introduction of the "geosite concept" (IUGS-UNESCO) in the Abruzzi environmental legislation.

Raniero Massoli-Novelli



President's square

At the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, China, less than three months after successful ProGEO '96 in Rome, we met colleagues from almost all continents at the 30th International Congress. Some of them represented geoscientific nature conservation, with different background, experiences and attitudes. There were valuable exchanges of information and ideas, and many good contacts. (See our special report in this issue.)

The special symposium and expert workshop strengthened our opinion that a systematic and holistic approach to get a representative network of European Geosites. The biological and cultural aspects of IUCN *must* be completed and backed up with geoscientific ones. This is also the opinion of nature conservationists in Sweden who work with *World Heritage Sites*.

It is a responsible task to select, limit, document, and conserve geosites, especially candidates for the World Heritage List. We can get more inspiration by good examples of geosites like the excellent one presented from Slovenia in this issue of ProGEO News. Lars Erikstad and I have discussed how to arrange a competition such as *Geosite of the Year*. All ProGEO members are welcome to contribute with candidates well presented in our newspaper.

Good, inspiring examples of planning, conservation, documentation, and information are always welcome, and so are discussions how to get our tasks performed. ProGEO News and ProGEO WWW Homepage are important fora for information, opinions and contacts with other organizations such as the Malvern Task Force on Earth Heritage Conservation. Take the chance to contribute to ProGEO News and the ProGEO WWW Homepage. Information Technology is on our side, so to say. It does not make everything for us, but it helps to promote better communication. ProGEO, its News and Homepage are what we all make them.

I am glad to state that the preparations of ProGEO '97 in Estonia are in good hands, and on a good way. We owe a great many thanks to Rein Raudsep and his colleagues for accepting to arrange the meetings and excursions. The cooperative planning proceeds very well.

From May 1996 I am retired with pension from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, but not quite tired. I have still much to do with the Agency and others. My contact address (home) is Carl Erik Johansson, Växthusvägen 51, S-178 34 EKERÖ, Sweden, Tel. (home) + 46 8 56033379, Fax (as previously) +46 8 6981042. Soon I have my own modern PC, e-mail, Internet and fax. Welcome to call and see me!

Carl Erik



Debate

ProGEO-What sort of Organisation? -1

Digne Declaration:

Lars Erikstad, thanks for starting the debate on ProGEO!

Firstly, to my opinion there is no doubt about the right of existence of ProGEO, as long as geoconservation is not a respected, general excepted and applied aspect in na-

ture and landscape conservation. And even then, earth-scientific knowledge should be handed over, sites should be classified, compared, evaluated, selected, arranged and managed. This is an activity that only can be done by earth-scientific experts. And ProGEO assembles them (all?). Nowhere you can find so much experience in geoconservation! Of course every geoconservationist has hers/his own speciality and field. In some countries the conservation accent was focused on geology (s.s.), exposures, etc. In the flat Netherlands with a few exposures, geomorphology has maybe some more attention than exposures with geological and pedological phenomena, but they are certainly not forgotten. However, together we are the strongest expert group.

To spread the message we need statements, like a declaration. Such a message is important, especially to awake policy makers, politicians fellow earth scientists and the public. As Lars stated it is important that the message comes across. And that brings me to the Digne declaration.

I agree fully with the arguments of Lars that we all accept the intentions of the Digne message. But the message can only be received if it is written in the 'cultural language' of the country. As there are many cultural differences in Europe, something I welcome warmly (the reason for visiting other countries, eating their food, enjoying their art and way of life), we have to give every country their own 'translation' of the Digne declaration. Of course there is only one original declaration, the French one, flavoured with a French sauce. But not everybody appreciates this Provencal sauce. Some prefer a mince sauce or even a straight steak. The steak is essential, but the sauce is just flavour, important, but a question of taste. Let us not discuss any longer the national preference of sauces, but concentrate on the quality of the steak.

ProGEO-What sort of Organisation? -2

Activities!

In Rome we noticed that a lot is done in the various countries. That is excellent and it helps the ProGEO-members, because we learn from each other. But is it good for ProGEO? I should not be misunderstood. The meeting in Rome was very good for ProGEO! The question is, that besides drinking and eating together, working together is one of the main activities to transform the 'me-and-you-feeling' into a 'we-feeling'.

The eating and drinking input in ProGEO seems well developed to me. The common project input is in my opinion rather underdeveloped. Of course it is not easy. For common projects you need money. And money should come from supranational organisations or from several acting countries. We have to work on that, because there is money enough, however the point is how to get it! I should appreciate, if members who are successful, will share their experiences with us all in ProGEO-NEWS.



A small river system, partly rather untouched and typical for the Pleistocene part of the Netherlands. In the Holocene part and the hilly southern part of the country the river systems differ strongly. Therefore Geoconservation should be based on a classification, and evaluation system that involves the geological history as the leading guide within homogeneous geological landscapes.

Manual

One of the projects that is not expensive and can have impact, is the Manual Project: 'The state of the art in geoconservation in Europe'. Even after a slow start there are still members who did not send their contributions. Please do not wait to long (until the 27th October).

Geotrip

In ProGEO-NEWS no. 3 1995 I have reported the results of Geotrip '95 in the frame of the European Nature Conservation Year. In several countries it was a successful happening, not only because of the number of activities, but mostly because of the enthusiastic reactions of the 'public'. And that is in fact the reason we do Geotrip, isn't it?

As we agreed in Rome we will continue with the Geotrip every other year, spanning two weekends in the third week of September. That means that in 1997 a second geotrip will be organized in the period 20-28 September. It seems still far away, but organizing such an event as Geotrip takes a lot of time. For those who want some guidelines, I will produce a list of possible activities in the next ProGEO-NEWS. If information is needed before December please fax or E-Mail me:

(fax: ++31.317.424988,

E-mail: G.P.Gonggrijp@IBN.DLO.NL)

Gerard Gonggrijp



"Geosite of the year"

Potočka zijalka- Important cultural and natural monument in Slovenia

Prehistoric sites, particularly those being some ten thousands years old, appeal to numerous amateurs, yet, unfortunately, also do tempt various "collectors" and "profiteers" dealing with everything one might still find on these localities. In Slovenia, 40 sites of that kind have been discovered and among them, Potočka zijalka is regarded as one of the most outstanding high mountain sites of the Aurignacian hunters.

Along the Slovene-Austrian border a 2000m high ridge of the Olseva mountain, built of Dachstein limestone, stretches over a distance of 10 km in the east-west direction. The Paleolithic station Potočka zijalka lies on its southern slope, at 1700 m above sea level (fig. 1). The cave is 115 m long, 20-40 m wide and, at some places, even 10 m high. Previously to the diggings, the cave entrance was 17 m wide and 6,20 m high. Systematic excavations carried out by S. Brodar (1939) showed that the walls in the depth shift apart producing, thus, a much greater size of the cave.

As a subterranean cave Potočka zijalka has been known for ages. As an Pleistocene man habitation, however, it was discovered by Srečko Brodar, in 1928. By the year 1935 he had been systematically searching in its front and back part having explored no more than 1/4 of the cavity space.

The excavations revealed 10 layers with three cultural horizons belonging to the Aurignacian. The major part of the sediments must have been - judging by the cultural assembly (Aurignacian), bits of charcoal (*Picea excelsa*, *Pinus cembra*) and fauna (such as cave bear, wolf, lynx, alpine marmot, bovidae, red deer) - deposited in the warm intermission (WI/II) when a colder thrust (WII + WIII) was still to follow (S. and M. Brodar 1983, 96).

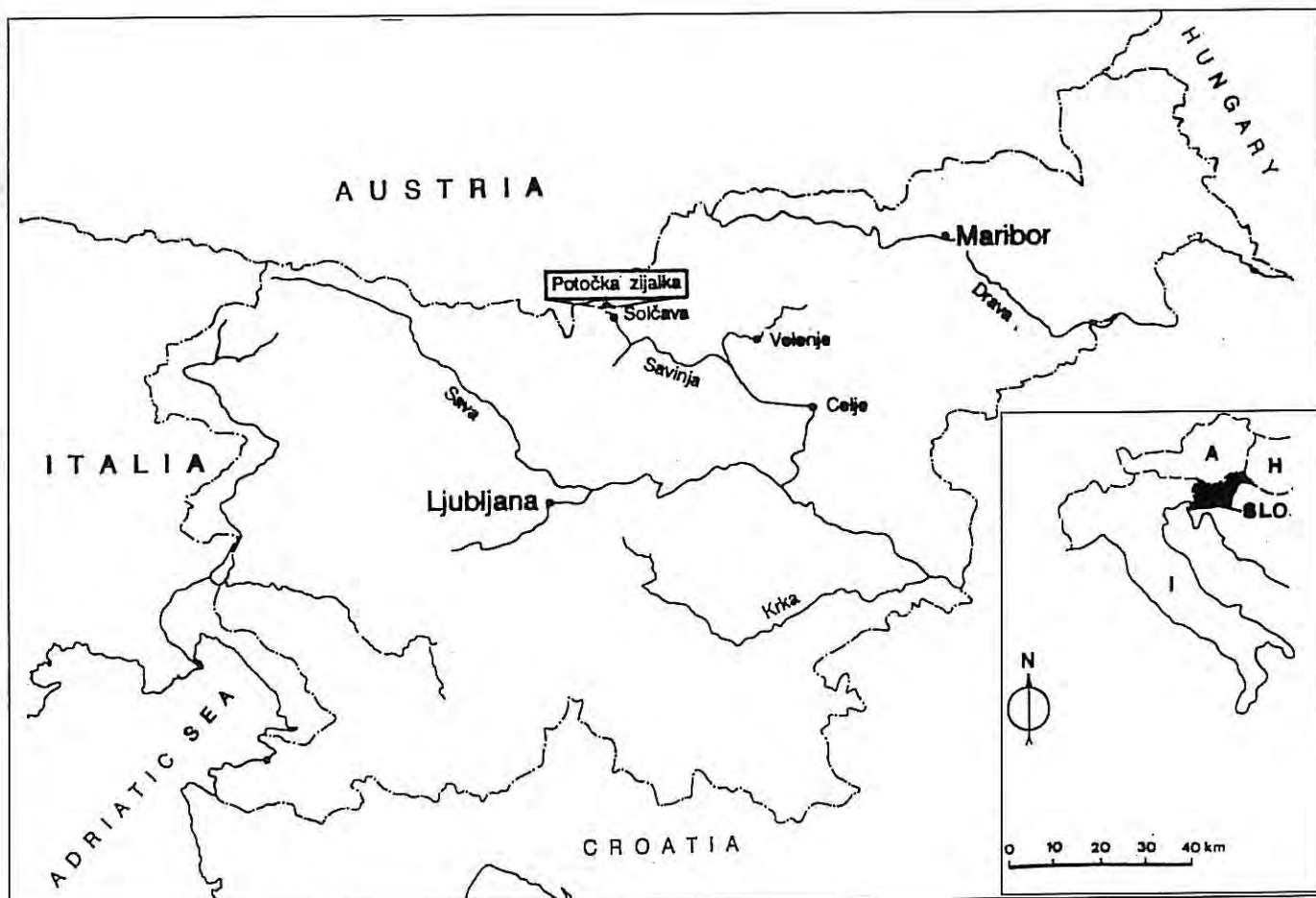
Due to its great lot of bone points (130 pieces) Potočka zijalka is today regarded as one of the wealthiest Aurignacian findings in Europe. In 1928, however, the discovery of the cave stirred up several polemics aroused by the fact that the Aurignacian used to be, following the French pattern, attributed to Würm glacial, at the time. Namely in France the Aurignacian cultural assemblage appeared together with the cold phase fauna. Thus, Potočka zijalka located at 1700 m above the sea presented an unsolved puzzle. It was only some time later, through the studies of Soergel (cf. S. and M. Brodar 1983, 164), that the division of the Würm glacial into three stadials and two interstadials was put forward. According to this theory in vigour, S. Brodar (1960, 117) classified Potočka zijalka in the most warm interstadial WI/WII, while the West-European Aurignacian was set in the second Würm glacial (WII and WIII, respectively), according to the West-European division of the Würm glacial (F. Bordes 1968, 158).

Nowadays the conceptions about the course of the Würm glacial are again being modified, Potočka zijalka and Mokriška jama lying only 200m lower, with numerous hearths and fossil remains of cave bears demonstrate, on the other hand, that there must have been a forest in the vicinity and, therefore, a climate, at least as warm as it is today. On these grounds, therefore, testing excavations should be carried out in the cave, as soon as possible, and charcoal items assembled for the determination of the absolute age of this site.

As a palaeontological and archaeological locality and according to the Slovene law on natural and cultural heritage, Potočka zijalka has been proclaimed a cultural monument, it has moreover been proposed a natural monument. However, considering the fact that unauthorized excavations are being effectuated in the cave, it should be protected, arranged and given the status, similar to the one enjoyed by other Palaeolithic stations all over Europe.

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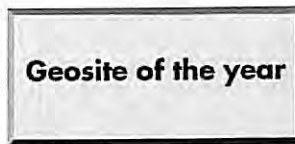
Map of Slovenia with marked locality.

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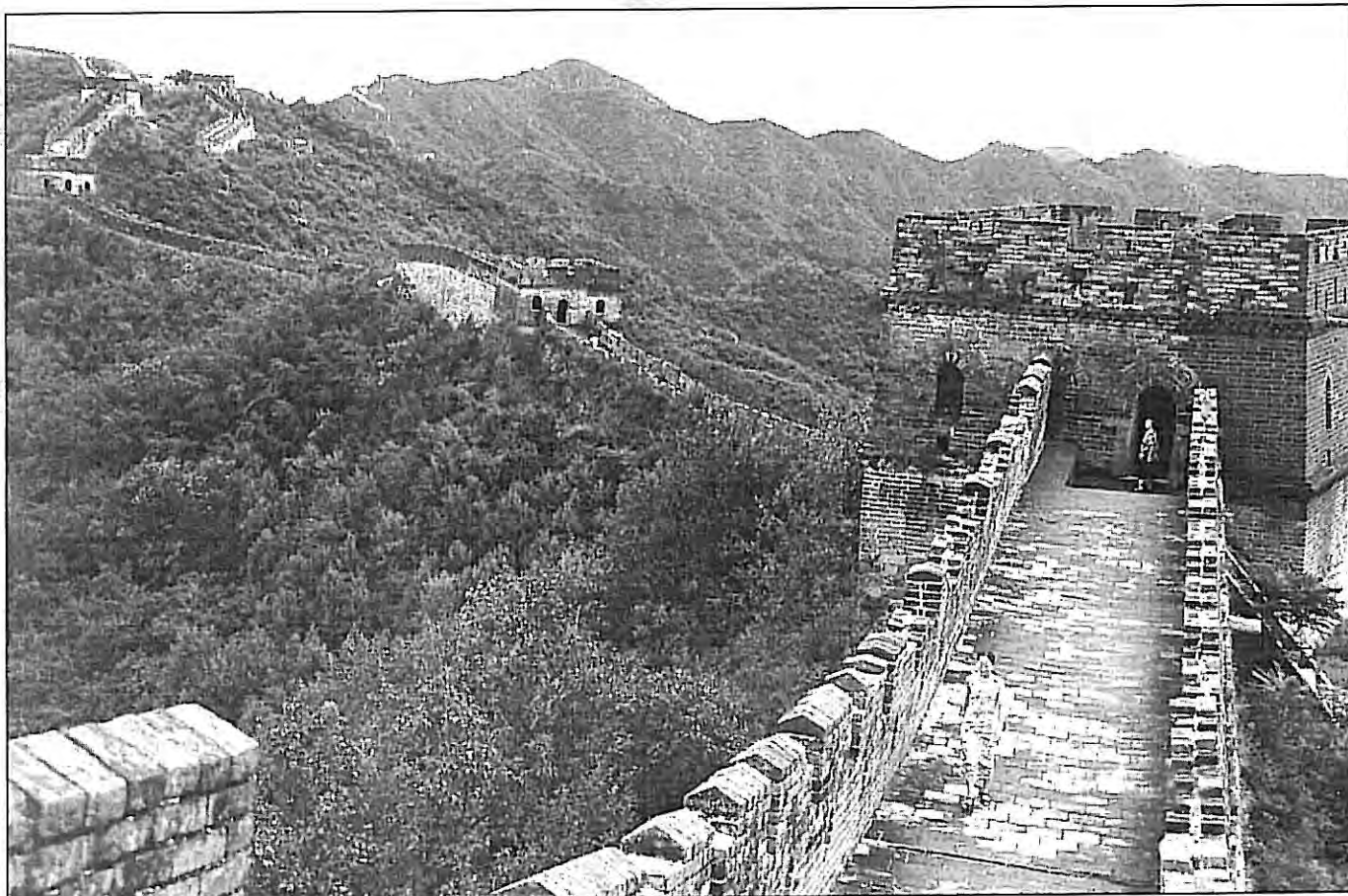
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Vida Pohar



As the President states in his column in this number of ProGEO NEWS, it is important to bring forward information of outstanding geotopes. Therefore we suggest a competition **"Geosite of the year"**. All ProGEO members are welcome to contribute with candidates presented here in ProGEO NEWS. The presentation may be historical, scientific or popular. Photographs are welcomed! The contribution in this issue are included under this heading and are worthy of opening the competition. Then it is up to you to provide us with more suggestions. We will be open for ideas of how the contributions should be evaluated and rewarded. Good luck!

ed.



The Great wall at Mutianyo, North of Beijing. Photo: Carl E. Johansson



China

Magnificent 30th IGC in Beijing, China

The 30th International Geological Congress was arranged by IUGS in Beijing August 4 - 16 with more than 6,000 participants, a majority of them from the Chinese People's Republic, but many from the Russian Federation. ProGEO was represented by Carl Erik Johansson and Bill Wimbledon, Irene Drandaki and Todor Todorov in symposia and workshops. Guy Martini and Patric Jacobs represented the Malvern Task Force on Earth Heritage Conservation. The arrangements were performed excellently by our kind Chinese hosts. The programme was

very comprehensive, as shown by substantial abstracts of lectures (3 books, together ca 6 kg!) and a great many posters.

In his opening address *honorable Premier Minister Li Peng* stated that China's economic growth will lead to a greater demand on mineral resources, which will result in the expansion of the scope of geological exploration and mineral exploitation. The Chinese Government has decided that it will attach importance to the transformation of the mode of economic growth by following the path of sustainable development in the future economic development. It will give an important strategic position to strengthen protection and rational exploitation of natural resources and the protection of environment and the maintenance of eco-balance.

Exploration and exploitation had much space in the congress (for instance under the themes Orogenic Belts, Basin Analysis,



Energy and Mineral Resources for the 21st Century, and New Technology for Geosciences), but also environmental problems.

In an interview in the daily congress paper *IGC NEWS* the new President of IUGS, Robin Brett (USGS, Washington), declared that we have come to understand that Earth is a complete system and that different phenomena are interconnected with this. We are increasingly aware that it is a fragile planet in need of protection. Here geology has a role to play. Brett mentioned the importance of knowledge of plate tectonics and prediction of earthquakes. Through geology man will learn to plan cities more intelligently and to keep waters pure.

New Secretary general is Professor Attilio Carlo Boriano, University of Milan (whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Rome) and Executive secretary as previously Hanne Refstad, NGU, Trondheim, Norway (who works with the IUGS data base and cooperates with the NW Europe ProGEO group). She was very busy making the minutes of a great many meetings during the congress. New Treasurer is Johan Zdenek, France. The 31st Congress will be arranged by Brazil in 2000.

The Special Symposium B 5 *Geological sites for the World Heritage List* (17 lectures) was chaired by Professor Pan Jiang (remembered from Digne) and Dr Wolfgang Eder of UNESCO. Greek geosites were inspiringly presented by Irene Drandaki with contributions by Anastasia Kousoveli and Chrysanthi Ioakim. Todor Todorov gave a constructive review of the Geological Heritage of Bulgaria and its conservation. The symposium revealed many geosites of international importance and different strategies to protect and manage them. There were excellent papers given by Dr Fritz Steiniger (now Seckenberg Museum, and Messel Pit, Germany), and Dr Shin Wang from Taiwan. Key discussions of China's heritage came from Drs Liu Huarin, Ji Shu'an, Li Liwu, and Liang Yongning.

In Symposium 22.1 *History of Geology and international communication of geoscience ideas* Patric Jacobs presented the paper 'Earth Heritage Conservation: a new branch of geoscience', with Guy Martini, Anna Spiteri and Chris Wilson (all Malvern Task Force) as co-authors. Guy Martini showed 'Art, cultural and economic development for the promotion of a new concept in Earth sciences: Our Geological Heritage'.

An Expert Workshop and Business Meeting on 'World Heritage Convention: Natural Heritage and Geological Sites' was lead by Wolfgang Eder. The World Heritage and its criteria was presented. National and Regional activities on conservation of geological and geomorphological important sites - criteria, threats, strategy, international cooperation etc. - were shown. C.E. Johansson gave glimpses from the Northwestern Europe ProGEO cooperation with framework draft, geosite selection and conservation.

Bill Wimbledon presented ProGEO and its intentions briefly. Patric Jacobs showed the ideas of the Malvern Task force on Earth Heritage Conservation. While ProGEO operates in Europe, the Malvern group has earth conservation in the rest of the world as its task.

The UNESCO/IUGS/ProGEO joint work on GEOSIES was demonstrated by Wimbledon and ways to select and limit Geological Sites for the World Heritage List by IUCN specialist R.T. Wells (Australia) and Bill Wimbledon.

The work on GEOSITES and the ideas of ProGEO were approved in the discussions. The recommendations of the business meeting apostrophized the importance of cooperation and operation.

In an interesting poster (there were many!) Dr Fanfang Zheng, Stockholm University, showed that the Caledonian and Variscian orogenic movements affected the proterozoic Bohus Granite of W Sweden and produced mylonites, thrusts, faults, dikes etc. This is of much interest for the NW Europe ProGEO group.

The pressing time-schedule just permitted excursions to the Great Wall N of Beijing and the Forbidden City in Beijing, two of China's excellent cultural World Heritage Sites. The Great Wall is reputedly 3,000 km long on the very scenic hill and mountain ridges in N. China. Parts of the wall are restored.

Carl Erik Johansson and Bill Wimbledon



The Malvern international task force for earth heritage conservation

The Task Force was established at the 2nd Conference on Geological and Landscape Conservation held in Malvern, UK in July 1993. The conference was attended by 150 delegates from 30 countries. They supported the following resolution:-

The Malvern International Conference '93:-

- believes that there is a need for an international Earth science conservation convention
- recognises that the justification for, potential scope of, and objectives of such a convention should be examined in depth
- supports the establishment of an international task force which will pursue, and report back on, these opportunities.

The Task Force Members believe that a crucial step towards achieving an convention is the establishment of an international organisation for Earth heritage conservation. To this end, it is establishing a network of contacts around the globe which will promote the need for Earth heritage conservation, and form the foundation on which an international organisation will be built. We do not wish to duplicate the activities of PROGEO, and so are concentrating our efforts on establishing contacts outside Europe.

Promotional Booklet

The Task Force has produced a booklet designed to promote Earth Heritage Conservation, and this was distributed to PROGEO members who attended the meeting in Rome last June. If you would like to receive a copy of the booklet, please send a request to MITF/Earth Heritage Conservation, c/o Earth Science Branch, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, UK (e-

mail: Ellis_N@jncc.gov.uk). Please use it to help persuade friends and colleagues outside Europe about the need for, and rationale of, this important area of conservation activity. An electronic version of the booklet is available on our Home Page (<http://exodus.open.ac.uk/malvern/Malvern.html>), which also provides news of activities being undertaken by the Task Force.

Contacts with UNESCO and IUGS

We have had two constructive meetings with these organisations at the former's Paris Office. At the first meeting, representatives of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (as well as the Earth Sciences division) attended, as did a representative from IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The purpose of the meetings was to co-ordinate activities relating to Earth Heritage Conservation. The discussions strongly reinforced the conclusion that we had already reached concerning the establishment of an Earth Science Conservation Convention. This is that a crucial step in achieving such a convention is the establishment of an international organisation for Earth Heritage Conservation. Without such a body, and active groups within countries on every continent, there is no way governments will be persuaded of the need for such a convention.

International Geological Congress, Beijing, August 1996

The Task Force was invited by UNESCO to present one of the keynote talks at Session B5 organised by its World Heritage Centre. The title of the talk was 'The scope and future of Earth Heritage Conservation,' and was presented by Patric Jacobs. Task Forcemember Guy Martini also attended the Congress.

The Third International Conference on Earth Heritage Conservation

We are determined that the venue for the next conference will be outside Europe. This is because Earth Heritage Conservation activities are well established here, and PROGEO already facilitates information exchange and arranges meetings.

Initially we were too ambitious, for we tried to move straight



to finding a venue for the conference. We now realise we need to walk before we can run: we must try to catalyse regional activities which will build towards organising a major conference.

Recently we met with the Jordan Environment Society and agreed to work together to:-

- hold a training workshop on Earth Heritage Conservation in Amman later this year to be attended by geologists, planners, water engineers, commercial and tourist interests etc. (it is likely that the workshop will focus on 'geotourism;'
- in the light of lessons learnt running the workshop, to consider jointly organising a regional meeting to promote Earth Heritage Conservation in neighbouring Arab countries;
- to continue to discuss the possibility of organising an international meeting, the theme of which would be 'Earth Heritage in the Arabian and North African regions.'

We hope that this step-by-step approach towards an international meeting will serve as a model to guide developments in other major regions of the world. So we are looking for potential partners in the Far East, Central/Southern Africa, Central/Southern America. If you know of potential volunteers, please send names and addresses to us.

Members of the Task Force (Name Address E-mail):

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**Tor Marancia area,
Roma**

Following the Rome symposium and our visit to the historical quarries of Tor Marancia near the Old Appian Way and the Catacombs of St Sebastian, the secretary wrote several letters to Italy, to the Environment Minister, the Regional administration, Mayor of Rome and others in the hope of influencing the future of the area, both as relatively untouched Roman countryside, now a great rarity, and because of its volcanic interest. We hope that our small efforts will lend support to the campaign run by Italian colleagues and Roman citizens. Recent contacts with the Environment Ministry and requests for information indicate that the case is being thoroughly investigated.

Executive secretary



News from Sweden

The 25th Swedish National Park, Tresticklan in Dalsland, 36 km², adjacent to Norway, was inaugurated by H.M. the King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in May. Tresticklan is a spectacular natural landscape of proterozoic quartzite ridges, lake- or mire-filled valleys.

Bedrock, Quaternary Deposits and Landforms in the Swedish National Parks are documented by the Geological Survey of Sweden with maps and brief descriptions in reports recently published by the Swedish Environmental Agency.

The bedrock, valley and boulder moraine area of Judarskogen in W Stockholm was inaugurated as a Nature Reserve in May. It is a classical site of de Geer moraine ridges. The Bornsjö area with the clear-water lake Bornsjön and the landscape-dominating esker Uppsalaåsen ca 20 km W of Stockholm is a new Nature Conservation Area.



Among 15 European candidates *the Lapponian Area* in N Sweden was the only site recommended for inscription as a World Heritage with acclamation by the UNESCO Bureau of the World Heritage at its session in Paris 1996. The area is 9,400 km² and contains the National Parks of Padjelanta, Sarek, Stora Sjöfallet and Muddus, the Nature Reserves of Sjaunja, Stubba and some additional areas as Mount Sulitelma and Lake Laidaure. The area is adjacent to Norway.

Carl Erik Johansson

Geoconservation Platform

On the initiative of the Organisation for Applied Physical Geography and initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, a reconnaissance will be done to inquire the possibilities for the foundation of a Platform for Geoconservation. The platform should support geoconservation as an independent body, with financial support from nature conservation organisations and private persons.

I will keep you informed!

Gerard Gonggrijp



News from the Netherlands

Selection of Geotopes

The first phase, a (geomorphological) classification and selection project in the frame of the Nature Policy Plan (1990), has been finished and published in 1996. It will be published in the "Nordic" proceedings. The follow-up of this project is the selection of geosites, with help of the classification and the criteria in confrontation with the geomorphological database programme GEOMORF. Two criteria, geogenetic representativeness and rarity, can be applied automatically, form representativeness and soundness should be introduced afterwards by hand.

Geotope management

An other project initiated by the foundation Landscape Management and payed by the ministry, has been started and is called "Geological Landscape Management" (Aardkundig Landschapsbeheer). The question to be solved is: how should geotopes be managed? In the first phase of the project an inventory of all activities, until now, will be executed. Further more a leaflet will be produced about Geological Landscape Management.

At the end of the project the management of selected geotopes will be described. The execution by the foundation will depend on financial contributions of the owners.



News from Greece

In the last 12 years a series of seminars on environmental and philosophical aspects is organised in Hermoupolis, capital of Syros island, Aegean sea.

On July 12 in the framework of these seminars, a three days meeting on the geological-geomorphological conservation was organised by IGME, as a continuity of other activities on geoconservation.

Regional and local authorities participated in the meeting, as well as Dr. Wolfgang Eder from Unesco and Dr. Branca Hlad from Slovenia, member of ProGEO.

The main topic of the seminar was to try to answer the questions of "what" we preserve, "why", and "how". Speakers and other participants, about fifty persons, discussed the problem of preservation of the geological-geomorphological heritage, as part of the preservation of the natural and cultural environment. They contributed in the establishment of a basis for activities in this direction, in Greece, where this idea is very new.

For this reason, the Hermoupolis Seminar was not simply successful, but proved a benchmark in this subject.



From the field trip

The first two days of the seminar were devoted to talks, while during the third day a field trip in the inland to examine interesting geological features were organised.

The impact of the seminar was great.

Various individuals, schools, environmental organisations have contacted us asking for further information. The response of various people and promises for financial support of this type of activities make us believe that the Hermoupolis Seminar was just the beginning.

Irene Theodossiou-Drandaki



In the last issue of ProGEO NEWS the Executive Secretary informed you about the change of plans - the next Annual meeting will be organised in Estonia. After the positive decision of the Executive Committee the local organising committee was formed. In this group there are represented several Estonian institutions of geological research as the Geological Survey, Institute of geology, Tartu University and others.

We planned to organise this meeting during the first week of June. The main tasks of the meeting could be as follows:

- conference on site selection/criteria; databanks; geotopes and architecture etc.
- general assembly / elections
- business meetings
- excursions to the famous Estonian geological sites.

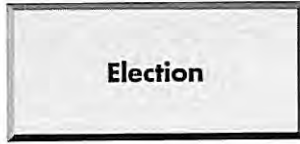
Draft programme of the meeting is the following:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday | Arrival and lodging of participants |
| Monday | Opening of General Assembly and scientific conference
Scientific conference
Excursion in the old Tallin - geology and architecture |
| Tuesday | Excursion in Lahemaa National Park
Scientific conference will be continued
Elections |
| Wednesday | Scientific conference, elections and business meetings
Excursion in North-East of Estonia - Nature contra Industry |
| Thursday & Friday | Postconference excursion on Saaremaa Island
Paleobaltic Silurian Reef Belt and other geotopes |
| Saturday | Excursion will be continued
Arrival in Tallin in the evening |
| Sunday | Departure from tallin |

Preparations, performance and documentations of the meeting will be carried out by Estonian specialists (using the good knowledge of Latvian and Lthuanian colleagues) in co-operation with the scientists from Sweden and other Nordic countries.

I hope the best!

Rein Raudsep



ProGEO Election procedures

The last number of ProGEO news contained a draft of the new guidance notes for elections. Essentially this document attempts to lay out the rules and procedures for elections in a form that can be easily digested. All members were asked to comment on the draft. In addition, a panel, of Drs Raudsep, Mijovic and Satkunas and Prof. Todorov, have acted as advisors on the usefulness, intelligibility and fairness of the guidelines. Their assistance and comments are gratefully acknowledged. An amended version incorporating suggestions will be put to the election committee for final vetting. Thereafter, a final version will be the one used for elections.

Executive secretary



Announcement

Athens Symposium: Engineering Geology and the Environment - June 23-27 1997 This international symposium is to be held in Athens, Greece just after our next annual meeting. It is being organised by ProGEO member Prof. Paul Marinos. Prof Marinos has kindly invited ProGEO to participate and to field speakers on suitable topics. If you wish to attend this excellent meeting, contact: Symposium Secretariat, PO Box 19140, GR-11710 Athens, Greece Telephone : 31 1 38139000 Telefax: 3467455

From no. 2 1996 you will find ProGEO NEWS on the net on the ProGEO Home Page:

<http://www.sgu.se/progeo/>

WELCOME!

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