

PREFACE

In May 2008, the Department of Paleontology began to prepare a series of papers on the holotypes stored in the extensive collection of the Geological Survey of Austria. The principal objective of these papers was to document the scientifically more important parts of the collection – essentially, the holotypes, isotypes, lectotypes, syntypes and paratypes. Originally, it was planned to publish individual papers immediately after their completion in the yearbook of the Geological Survey. However, in the end, the manuscripts have been combined into a special volume, dedicated to Herbert STRADNER, the former Head of the Department.

Due to the lack of paleontologists and stratigraphers with the required expertise at the Geological Survey, the publication of a distinctive and representative volume need the collaboration of additional scientists from other institutions. Thus we are grateful to our colleagues Marie-Pierre AUBRY and Monique BONNEMAISON (Rutgers University, USA), Barbara MELLER (University of Vienna) and Milos SIBLIK (Czech Academy of Science, Prague) who agreed to help with the project by contributing important manuscripts.

The volume comprises eight papers, each dealing with a different fossil group. In the first paper, Herbert STRADNER, Marie-Pierre AUBRY and Monique BONNEMAISON present a taxonomic and stratigraphic revision of the 103 species and 13 genera of calcareous nannoplankton taxa described by Herbert STRADNER since 1959. As a by-product, these type specimens are now inventoried and have become a proper part of the collection.

Ilse DRAXLER, in the second paper, documents 33 spore holotypes from the pioneering work undertaken by Wilhelm KLAUS in Upper Permian and lowermost Triassic strata in Italy. These important specimens are also now properly inventoried within the Geological Survey collection, after being re-discovered during the preparation of this volume at the Department of Palaeontology, University of Vienna.

Both papers written by Barbara MELLER deal with leaf assemblages originally described by Constantin von ETTINGSHAUSEN. Altogether, 127 species from the lower Oligocene of Bad Häring and the Miocene of the Vienna Basin, represented by their holotypes, isotypes and syntypes, are documented in these excellent publications, which for the first time combine new photographs of the type specimens with the original drawings.

Helga PRIEWALDER, in the fifth paper, presents 21 chitinozoan holotypes from the CRAMER collection, an important collection acquired by the Geological Survey in 1990. Identification of the holotypes was difficult since information concerning the sample numbers was frequently incorrect or missing and the figures are often of poor quality in CRAMER'S original publications. The new photographic documentation of the retrievable holotypes will contribute to a better understanding of the original definition of the species.

The paper by Holger GEBHARDT lists and illustrates 193 holotypes, 108 lectotypes, and 8 syntypes (total 309) of foraminiferal type specimens previously described in several historical and more recent publications by various authors. The material of D'ORBIGNY (1846), with its 108 lectotypes and 7 holotypes, is certainly the most important portion of the foraminiferal type collection stored in the Geological Survey.

Irene ZORN, in the seventh paper, reports on the 44 ostracod type specimens in the collection, ranging in age from the Carboniferous to the Miocene. Details of the type specimens, their current classification, as well as original pictures, are presented. As in the paper of GEBHARDT, the original figures have been scanned and, where possible, digitally improved, to save the specimens from further handling.

For the last paper, Milos SIBLIK presents an inventory of the 44 Triassic and Lower Jurassic brachiopod holotypes established by Alexander BITTNER in a number of publications. This contribution is the first part of a planned catalogue of all Mesozoic brachiopod holotypes deposited in the collections of the Geological Survey. The second part is in preparation and will be published in autumn in the next issue of the yearbook.

Thanks are due to all the authors of this volume for their excellent contributions and to Hugh RICE who improved the English of several manuscripts. I am grateful to the entire staff of the Department of Paleontology for their technical assistance during the preparation of the volume, in particular, to Ilka WÜNSCHE who did a large part of the photography. I am indebted to Markus KOGLER and Stephan PRIBITZER for their patience and diligence in preparing scans and figures and to Monika BRÜGGEMANN-LEDOLTER for her help in preparing part of the plates.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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