

## NOTICE

Because of the present, quite critical, financial situation of the Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, and its very bad housing situation<sup>1)</sup> which has now lasted for over 25 years, all the scientific and curatorial activities of that institution will be very much limited during the next few years.

As regards the Warsaw mollusc collection (large and of great international scientific value): I am curator of the collection since 1950 (I have worked at the Museum since 1949, in 1989 retired). I started my work with ordering and arranging the collection – still among the ruins – after the damage and rapid (!) evacuations of 1944/45. I managed to complete only the preliminary stage of this work; as my duties at the Museum extended, less and less time was left for curatorial and scientific work. At the same time from the very beginning till today I have been trying to make the collection available to native and foreign scientists and to provide information on the collection<sup>2)</sup>.

The possibility to use the mollusc collection of the Warsaw Museum will be – starting 1999 – drastically limited for the reasons that are entirely beyond my control. Likewise, access to literature (our Library and reprints accumulated by me in the malacology department library) and archives (notes, files, correspondence etc.) will become exceedingly difficult. Please, forgive me, in case I am no longer able to provide you with information and/or specimens.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that as of now I have no successor at the Museum – a junior curator-malacologist. I hope, however, that soon such a malacologist will appear in “my” institution to continue the scientific and curatorial work.

[This notice has been approved by the Director of the Museum and Institute of Zoology, PAS, Warsaw]

Prof. ADOLF RIEDEL

PS. In this connection, concluding my scientific and, unexpectedly, also my curatorial work, I kindly request all the persons to whom I loaned types, voucher specimens and also other, undetermined, materials that are property of the Warsaw Museum, to return them as soon as possible in order to place them back in the collection.

<sup>1)</sup> In 1972 a great majority of zoological collections (ca. 90 %, including nearly all the mollusc collection except the Zonitidae, native fauna and materials collected after 1971, the latter being also successively moved) was moved from the Museum building in Warsaw to temporary storage rooms in a town of Łomna, ca. 30 km from Warsaw, there being no regular commuting facilities! A basic, but only limited curating was organized there and it still functions. However, access to the collections has become very difficult.

<sup>2)</sup> I can add that in over 80 malacological publications by foreign authors after 1950 (probably many more; I have not kept a regular record) there are mentions of the Warsaw mollusc collection based on specimens an information provided by me.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Riedel Adolf

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