

EDITORS INTRODUCTION

This volume is dedicated to the participants of the XIIIth Congress of INQUA to be held in China, 1991. It largely contains the results of the investigations carried out by scientists of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin, and it is included into the publication series of Annales UMCS. A special attention has been given for many years to loesses by the team of research workers of our University engaged in paleogeographic and stratigraphic studies of Pleistocene. This results to some extent from the location of Lublin in the zone of occurrence of typical periglacial loesses — in the transitional area between East and West Europe, i.e. between the continental and maritime provinces of this zone. The evidence of the above specialization of our centre is, among other things, the volume 41 of Annales UMCS, sectio B, edited in 1987 on the occasion of the XIIth Congress of INQUA; the papers of “loessial” matter, which were published in the volumes 1–40 of this publication series, are listed on the cover of this volume.

Other aspects of our specialization in loess investigations are numerous and close cooperations with appropriate home and foreign centres, which can also be found in the present volume. Loess problems are presented in most papers published in this volume. Six of eleven papers directly deal with loesses: two of them were submitted by research workers of the Department of Physical Geography UMCS (item 4 and 9 in the table of contents), the next three were completed jointly with researchers from other home and foreign centres (item 1, 3 and 10), and the sixth comes from the Warsaw centre (item 7). In this group, we can mention papers related mainly to older loesses (“Stratigraphic-paleogeographic interpretation of the results of magnetic susceptibility investigations of loesses...”) and the oldest ones (“The oldest overtill and undertill loesses...”) occurring in SE Poland. It should be added that the problem of stratigraphy and paleogeography of Polish loesses is also presented in a collective monography which is to be published

at the same time by UMCS ("Main sections of loesses in Poland", UMCS, Lublin, 1991, 300 pp.).

Two of the remaining papers of the volume presented deal with the problems of stratigraphy, especially palynostratigraphy of Pleistocene in Poland. That entitled "Intersaalian organogenic deposits and forest soils in the Łęczna environs" was chiefly prepared in the Lublin centre, but with a great contribution of a researcher experienced in palynology of the State Geological Institute in Warsaw. She has been collaborating willingly and kindly with the Lublin centre for many years, thus she has decided to submit the paper entitled "Palynostratigraphy of the Pleistocene in Poland..." to be published in this volume. We can also mention the paper "Extents and chronology of stadial advances of the Saalian I ice sheet...", because it deals with a larger area of Europe and it has been prepared owing to the collaboration of researchers from the Lublin and Warsaw centre, as well as a specialist from the Kiev centre.

We hope that our papers can contribute to facilitate the correlation of stratigraphic schemes and paleogeographic interpretations on European scale.

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Lublin, April 1991