

# Meetings

## The Last International Congress of Zoology?

The 17th International Congress of Zoology met 24 to 30 September 1972 at Monaco under the presidency of Professor Raymond Vaissière, professor at the University of Nice and director of the Department of Biology of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. Zoological congresses are among the oldest of all international congresses, the first one having met in Paris in 1889, and they have met continuously, first at 3-year, and later at 5-year, intervals, unless prevented by war or international crises. The postwar congresses held in Paris (1948), Copenhagen (1953), London (1958), and Washington (1963) were very popular, the last two being attended by up to 2500 members. This very popularity, however, created problems. The president of the Washington congress, Professor Alfred S. Romer, and the chairman of the division of zoology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), Professor Jean Baer (Neuchâtel), solicited in vain for many years an invitation for a 1968 congress. No one wanted the responsibility for organizing such a large meeting. Finally, 9 years after the Washington congress Professor Vaissière succeeded in organizing a congress of limited size.

The decision not to abandon zoological congresses altogether but to hold at least one last one, had not only scientific and sentimental reasons but also an administrative one: The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature derives its authority from the congress and requires a vote of the congress to confirm (or reject) its decisions. Even if there were to be no further congresses of zoology, there had to be at least a final one charged with the task of adopting a more flexible constitution of the commission that would safeguard the continuity of its work.

The Monaco congress, in contrast to previous ones, did not schedule individual papers, only symposia. The organizing committee felt that the special role of congresses of zoology—to inte-

grate the findings of the many specialized subdivisions of zoology—was best served by such an arrangement. The scientific program of the congress consisted of seven symposia:

- 1) Biogeography and intercontinental connections during the Mesozoic (chairman: Th. Monod)

- 2) The characters of the higher taxa, their origin and biological significance (chairman: Ernst Mayr)

- 3) The biological effects of interoceanic canals (chairman: O. H. Oren)

- 4) Physiological adaptations to special environmental conditions (chairman: M. Fontaine)

- 5) Molecular studies of differences between species (chairman: F. J. Ayala)

- 6) Ecological aspects of behavior (chairman: W. Wickler)

- 7) Role of the protozoa in some ecological problems (chairman: J. O. Corliss)

The section on nomenclature was chaired by Professor D. S. Farner.

Between 8 and 25 speakers presented the subject matter of each symposium; these speakers had been invited by the respective chairmen with particular attention to balance, international representation, and diversified expertise. It is planned to publish as many of these symposia as can be arranged. The drastically reduced travel support for international meetings kept attendance down to about 240. Fortunately, this included a large number of younger zoologists for whom this international contact was particularly important.

The congress adopted certain revisions of the Constitution of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature that will permit the commission to carry out its functions even if there should be no further congresses. In that case the decisions of the commission will be ratified either by the general assembly of the IUBS or by some component or other body designated by the IUBS.

The congress also adopted some modifications of the rules of nomencla-

ture. The most important one is that the statute of limitation (Article 23b) was repealed in its present automatic form and its provisions incorporated in Article 79, which deals with the plenary powers of the commission. It was, however, clearly stated in this revision of the code that the law of priority is not to be applied in such a way as to disturb the stability of nomenclature. How this compromise solution will work out in practice remains to be seen. In addition, a number of minor changes in the code were adopted, in order to make the intent of existing provisions clearer and to help in stabilizing existing nomenclature. Since, on the whole, the code adopted at the London congress (1958) has worked extremely well, it does not seem to require major revision.

The congress and the symposia held at the congress permit a number of interesting conclusions. The old division between zoology and botany has in many ways become irrelevant at our period. Biological science has now become specialized in a different way, as is indicated by such terms as genetics, ecology, physiology, cellular biology, and behavior. Most of these specialized areas are served by their own international congresses. What is missing on the international scene, however, are organized endeavors that counteract the extreme specialization and atomization of biological science. An interdisciplinary congress such as the International Congress of Zoology continues to have a constructive function. It permits scientists to establish contact with specialists in adjacent areas and study problems at the interface of their respective specializations. It also forces one to take a more distant look at one's own field and see to what extent its generalizations fit in with those of other specialized fields.

The scientific program of the Monaco congress was of such great scientific interest and the discussions engendered by the symposia so stimulating that many regrets were expressed that this should be the last such interdisciplinary international congress. As a result the congress adopted a motion, proposed by Professor L. Gallien of France, that the principle of the perennial nature of the international congresses of zoology be confirmed and that an ad hoc committee be appointed to examine with the secretariat of IUBS possible means for organizing future congresses. The following 12 zoologists were appointed to this committee: B. L. Astaurov

(U.S.S.R.), J. Baer (Switzerland), J. M. Cei (Argentina), J. M. Denuce (Netherlands), D. S. Farner (United States), L. Gallien (France), J. Godaux (Belgium), H. Lemche (Denmark), H. Manelli (Italy), E. Mayr (United States), W. Wickler (Germany), and C. D. Wright (Great Britain). It is hoped that this committee can adopt definitive proposals within 1 year, to be communicated to interested zoologists throughout the world. The experiences of the past 9 years make it quite evident that the most important factor in determining the future of zoological congresses is the availability of a national group that is willing to accept the responsibility for the organization.

Such an endeavor, however, will be successful only if there is a powerful international leadership in zoology, as was formerly supplied by the permanent committee. Unless the division of zoology of the IUBS is revitalized and furnished with new bylaws, there is little prospect that the rejuvenation of international zoology, so promisingly manifest at the Monaco congress, will be of a lasting nature.

ERNST MAYR

*Museum of Comparative Zoology,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138*

## Forthcoming Events

### June

25-28. American Soc. for **Engineering Education**, Ames, Iowa. (L. B. Williams, ASEE, Suite 400, 1 Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036)

25-28. International Conf. on the **Origin of Life**, 4th, Barcelona, Spain. (J. Oro, Dept. of Biophysics Sciences, Univ. of Houston, Houston, Tex. 77004)

25-29. **Information Theory**, intern. symp., Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (Information Theory Group), Ashkelon, Israel. (Symp. Cochairmen: A. Wyner, Room 2C-357, Bell Labs., Murray Hill, N.J. 07974, or J. Ziv, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Technion-Israel Inst. of Technology, Haifa)

25-30. International Congr. of **Psychotherapy**, Oslo, Norway. (F. Magnussen, Box 26, Vinderen/Oslo)

25-1. **Aeronautical Technology**, American Inst. of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation, Moscow, U.S.S.R. (P. D. Schaub, AIAA, 1290 Sixth Ave., New York 10019)

26-28. Institute of **Navigation**, St. Louis, Mo. (R. E. Freeman, IN, 815 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005)

26-28. **Product Evaluation for Consumer Satisfaction and Benefits**, 76th symp., American Soc. for Testing and

Materials, Philadelphia, Pa. (R. S. Shane, Natl. Materials Advisory Board, Natl. Acad. of Sciences, Washington, D.C. 20418)

27-1. Society of **Women Engineers**, 23rd, San Mateo, Calif. (E. H. Williams, 2390 W. Middlefield Rd., Mountain View, Calif. 94040)

28-3. Perugia Quadrennial Intern. Conf. on **Cancer**, 5th, Perugia, Italy. (L. Severi, P.O. Box 327, 06100 Perugia)

### July

1-6. Conference on **Maintaining Professional Systems**, Engineering Foundation, Henniker, N.H. (K. Preston, Jr., Perkin-Elmer Corp., Norwalk, Conn.)

1-6. National **Education** Assoc., Portland, Ore. (S. M. Lambert, NEA, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)

1-6. Conference on **Maintaining Professional and Technical Competence of the Older Engineer—Engineering and Psychological Aspects**, Engineering Foundation, South Berwick, Maine. (H. R. Shelton, Engineering and Science Education Div., Sandia Labs., Albuquerque, N.M.)

1-6. **Urology**, 16th intern. congr., Amsterdam, Netherlands. (Holland Organizing Center, 16 Lange Voorhout, S-Gravenhage, The Hague, Netherlands)

1-6. **Viruses in the Water Environment**, Engineering Foundation, Henniker, N.H. (G. Berg, Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio)

1-7. **Biochemistry**, 9th intern. congr., Stockholm, Sweden. (G. Aulin-Erdtman, Svenska Kemistsamfundet, Wenner-Gren Centre, 6 tr., S-113 46 Stockholm)

2-6. Association Internationale de la **Couleur**, 2nd congr., York, England. (W. D. Wright, Applied Optics Section, Imperial College, London, SW7 2BZ, England)

2-6. **Fuel and Fuel Elements for Fast Reactors**, Intern. Atomic Energy Agency, Brussels, Belgium. (J. H. Kane, Office of Information Services, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545)

2-6. International **Solar Energy** Congr., Paris, France. (W. Klein, Smithsonian Radiation Biology Lab., 2441 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, Md. 20852)

6-9. Buckeye Intern. **Rocketry** Conf., Columbus, Ohio. (G. M. Pantalos, BIRC, 1191 Shanley Dr., Columbus 43224)

3-5. Conference on **Scanning Electron Microscopy Systems and Applications**, Inst. of Physics, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. (Meetings Officer, IP, 57 Belgrave Sq., London SW1X, 8QX, England)

8-14. **Health Education**, 8th intern. conf., Versailles, France. (L. P. Aujoulat, 20 rue Greuze, Paris 16<sup>e</sup>, France)

9-13. American Soc. of **Civil Engineers**, Tulsa, Okla. (E. Zwoger, ASCE, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

9-13. **Illuminating Engineering** Soc., Philadelphia, Pa. (P. C. Ringgold, IES, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

10-12. **Electromagnetic Compatibility** Symp., Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, San Francisco, Calif. (Technical Activities Board, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

10-13. International Conf. on the **Regulation of Adipose Tissue** Mass, Marseille, France. (J. Boyer, Clinique Endocrino-

logique, Hôpital de la Conception, 136 rue St. Pierre, F-13 Marseille)

10-14. National Soc. of **Professional Engineers**, Chicago, Ill. (P. H. Robbins, NSPE, 2029 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006)

12-14. Czechoslovak **Surgical** Intern. Congr., Bratislava. (I. Kostolny, Slovak Medical Soc., Michiewiczova 18, Bratislava)

15-19. American **Medical** Assoc., 106th annual mtg., New York, N.Y. (E. B. Howard, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 60610)

15-19. American **Veterinary Medical** Assoc., Philadelphia, Pa. (M. R. Clarkson, AVMA, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60605)

15-20. American Assoc. of **Clinical Chemists**, New York, N.Y. (J. S. King, Jr., AACC, P.O. Box 15053, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103)

15-20. World Federation of **Culture Collections**, Rio de Janeiro, State of Guanabara, Brazil. (J. S. Furtado, Caixa Postal 4005, São Paulo, Brazil)

15-20. International **Diabetes** Federation, 8th congr., Brussels, Belgium. (J. Pirart, Belgian Diabetes Assoc., 234B Ave. Churchill, 1180 Brussels)

15-20. Institute of **Electrical and Electronics Engineers**, summer Power Mtg., Vancouver, B.C., Canada. (Technical Activities Board, 345 E. 47 St., New York 10017)

15-20. Conference on **Energy Research—Alternatives for Policy and Management to Meet Regional and National Needs**, Engineering Foundation, Henniker N.H. (W. C. Ackerman, Illinois State Water Survey, Urbana)

15-20. American Soc. of **Pharmacognosy**, joint with Pharmacognosy and Natural Products Section, Acad. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jekyll Island, Ga. (J. M. Cassady, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, Ind. 47907)

15-20. Conference on **Use of Shotcrete for Underground Structural Support**, Engineering Foundation, South Berwick, Maine. (J. R. Graham, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colo.)

17-19. Summer **Computer Simulation** Conf. Montreal, Canada. (L. Sashkin, SCSC, Aerospace Corp., P.O. Box 92957, Los Angeles, Calif. 90009)

18-20. International Symp. on **Acoustical Holography and Imaging**, 5th, jointly by the Sonics and Ultrasonics Group, Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Acoustical Soc. of America, and Stanford Research Inst., Palo Alto, Calif. (P. S. Green, Room K1088, Bldg. 30, Stanford Research Inst., Menlo Park, Calif. 94025)

20-23. Pan American Cancer Cytology Soc. and the World Assoc. for Gynecological Cancer Prevention, joint European assembly on **Cytology and Cancer Prevention**, Salzburg, Austria. (J. E. Ayre, PACCS, 150 Broad Hollow Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11746)

21. American Soc. of **Hospital Pharmacists**, Boston, Mass. (J. A. Oddis, 4630 Montgomery Ave., Bethesda, Md. 20014)

21-27. American **Pharmaceutical** Assoc., Boston, Mass. (W. S. Apple, APA, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037)