

FOREWORD

The great biostratigraphic value of conodonts and rapid advances in research on their paleobiology call for close interactions among specialists and frequent international meetings. An informal association organized by conodontologists, *The Pander Society* – named after the discoverer of conodonts, Christian Pander – holds annual meetings in North America. Moreover international conodont symposia are organized irregularly in other continents.

The European conodont symposia (ECOS) were held in Marburg (1971), Vienna-Prague (1980), Lund (1982), Nottingham (1985), Frankfurt (1988) and Warsaw (June 30 – July 6, 1986). The last meeting was organized by the Institute of Paleobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in cooperation with several Polish geological institutions. All of the European conodont symposia had worldwide attendance. In the Warsaw symposium, 64 specialists from 20 countries of four continents participated (Fig. 1). Before the meeting, an abstract volume and excursion guide were published. The meeting began with a four day field trip to the Holy Cross Mountains and the Cracow Upland in southern Poland. Ordovician, Devonian, Carboniferous and Triassic outcrops of the regions were visited. During the following three days of scientific sessions, in Warsaw, over 50 oral contributions and about 30 posters were presented. The contributions were primarily devoted to biological, evolutionary, paleogeographic and stratigraphic problems.

In this volume some of the results of the ECOS VI, in the form of larger articles, are published. For various reasons, only 18 out of 30 originally submitted manuscripts, were accepted for publication. The selection was primarily based on the recommendation of reviewers. Thanks to their competence, and gratuitous work, we were able to avoid many errors and many of the articles were significantly improved. Moreover, apart from essential comments, they also made many linguistic corrections.

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We hope that the mutual efforts of all of us, authors, reviewers and editors, resulted in a useful volume that provides new contributions to the extensive field of conodont research and will prove helpful to the readers.