



NEWSLETTER

European Association of Aquatic Sciences

Libraries and Information Centres

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EURASLIC 2005

First Announcement

Dear colleagues, we have the pleasure to invite you to the

11th Biennial EURASLIC Conference
Split, Croatia, 4-7 May 2005

Venue and Accommodation: HOTEL MARJAN

<http://www.hotel-marjan.com/index2.html>

Obala kneza Branimira 8, 21000 Split, CROATIA

We are hoping for a successful meeting where we'll all exchange ideas and experiences to help us improve our work and knowledge. The town of Split, situated on the Croatian coast, will be the perfect place for you to discuss the issues of aquatic science libraries, as well as to see the beauty of the Adriatic Sea and thousands of islands! More information will be provided soon at the Conference Website. *Sofija Konjevic, Institut Rudjer Boskovic, Croatia.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

The last four years as President of Euraslic have been a very interesting and rewarding time for me. Two Conferences have been successfully organised and implemented, and significant progress has been made in a number of projects, including the Black Sea Library Cooperation Project (BLICOP), the ECET Libraries Union Catalogue and the European Directory of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres Project. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of Unesco and the International Association of Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) are to be thanked for their continued support of our activities, and most recently for the grants they awarded to the BLICOP and Directory Projects. Interestingly, we did not receive any applications for a Euraslic Equipment Grant this year, so I can only assume that you are all fully equipped ☺. In addition to supporting the above ongoing projects, this year we will also be investing in the re-design and re-development of our website, and work will begin in earnest towards our 2005 Conference in Split for which the venue has now been booked (see details in this *Newsletter*).

We have endeavoured during the last twelve months to raise the profile of Euraslic with other European aquatic networks and initiatives, and with international organisations such as the IOC. This rather rebounded on us, in that it put into question the whole status of our relationship with Iamslic, and Euraslic/Iamslic relations continue to be the subject of ongoing [friendly] discussions. These discussions may well continue for many months, primarily because of the implications of the eventual

outcomes for other Iamslic Regional Groups. Whilst I do not want to go into great detail about the discussions at this time, one good outcome to date is that the Iamslic Board is looking favourably upon ECET members becoming members of Iamslic at the reduced developing country rate of US\$20, however a not so good potential outcome is a suggestion that Iamslic grants to Euraslic may in future be *pro rata*, i.e. based upon the number of Euraslic Members who are also members of Iamslic. Euraslic Members can certainly help obviate the impact of this. If you are a member of both Iamslic and Euraslic and do not already pay a joint membership fee via Euraslic, please consider doing so. And if you are currently a member of Euraslic only, please think about taking out joint membership.

Perhaps the most significant change that has taken place in the last few months has been the situation with regard to the IOC. We have long been favoured with a biennial grant from IOC to sponsor members to attend our Conferences. This situation has now changed. In future, the allocation of IOC funding must be more closely aligned to jointly beneficial projects. To this end, a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IOC and Iamslic is currently under discussion. Once agreed and in place, this MoU will provide the umbrella agreement under which Iamslic and its Regional Groups can initiate agreements for joint projects (including Conferences) with IOC.

I had hoped that the issues above would have been resolved before the end of my Presidency, but time is now short, so that is not to be. I have every confidence, however, in Jan and the new Board taking these matters forward to satisfactory conclusions.

As you will all be aware, Jan Haspeslagh will be assuming the Presidency of Euraslic from 1st May 2004, and I would like to wish him and all of his colleagues on the new Board the very best of luck in their various endeavours and deliberations in the future.

I cannot finish without expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those who have served on the Euraslic Board with me, Barbara, Elisa, Ian, Jan, Jean, Margaret, Maria, Michelle, Olga, Snejina and Sofia, for their continued support, advice, encouragement and hard work. I would like to single out Michelle for a very special thank you from all of us for continuing as Euraslic Treasurer long after her retirement. We couldn't have managed without you.

Finally, many thanks to Snejina for the production and distribution of this *Newsletter*, and to all those who have contributed items.

Best wishes

Joan Baron Varley, Euraslic President 2000-2004

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WELCOME to

- ❖ the Euraslic new members. Let them feel comfortable and useful for the professional community, make a lot of friends and enjoy the creative spirit of our association.
- ❖ the Euraslic new Board. Good luck in keeping and developing the policy of raising the profile of the association.

Heartfelt thanks to

the Euraslic President, Joan Baron-Varley and the Euraslic Executive Board 2000-2004 for their continuous efforts and achievements in expanding the Euraslic boundaries and ensuring its progressive development.

The complete Euraslic Membership List is available on the web site. Any members who wish to receive a paper copy should contact Sofia Goulala:

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<http://knjiznica.irb.hr/hrv/index.html>

The Adriatic Sea is an area that has always been attractive to scientists. One of the main reasons is the vicinity of many continental universities. There are few institutes whose main task is research of the Adriatic Sea. One of them is the Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries, with divisions in Split and Dubrovnik, and two departments of the Ruder Boškovic Institute: Center for Marine Research in Rovinj and Center for Marine and Environmental Research in Zagreb that are collaborating in marine investigation. Beside marine research CMER is also involved in freshwater research of Croatian continental regions. The aim is to give new scientific knowledge for environmental management, water quality management and water use in Croatia. The institute in Rovinj was founded in 1891. as the field station of the Berlin Aquarium. Since then the Institute changed name and sovereign states many times but always remained of great importance. The station has always been involved in studies of the Adriatic Sea especially in its northern part. It contributed much to general knowledge of oceanography, physics and chemistry of the sea and above all to marine biology. The scientific work is organized in five research units: Laboratory for Ecology and Systematics, Laboratory for processes in sea ecosystem, Laboratory for Ecophysiology and Toxicology, Laboratory for Ecotoxicology and Laboratory for Marine Molecular Biology. Basic research activities cover a wide range and include studies of hydrography of the northern Adriatic, marine flora and fauna, ecology of benthic communities, primary productivity, phytoplankton, eutrophication processes, ecophysiology, biochemistry and molecular biology of marine organisms. International collaboration and applied research was always favored. At present, CMR is involved in a national project of monitoring the Adriatic Sea and some other international projects supported by universities, foreign institutes and government. The scientists have at their disposal three research vessels with sophisticated equipment.

The Center also maintains a library specializing in marine sciences. It has a collection of approximately 16000 volumes (mainly journals) from all over the world. The CMR's library is especially rich in original old expedition reports: Challenger Report, Plankton Expedition, Campagnes Scientifiques Monaco... Regarding its rich collection this library was considered to be one

of the biggest on the Mediterranean - just behind the Neapolitan library.

Nowadays CMR library is part of the Central RBI library and is involved in its projects. It has databases of electronic journals that considerably facilitates searches for information, online joint catalogue in which are participating all Croatian scientific libraries involved in the System of Scientific Information – Natural Sciences.

The library is primarily assigned to meet needs of employed scientists, but open to everyone interested in this particular matter.

Spain has visited EurOcean

The National Representative for Spain has visited EurOcean (Lisbon, <http://www.eurocean.org>), on March 26, 2004.

At the time, the EurOcean Director and Webmaster (Laurent d'Ozouville) has produced his EFARO, 30-31 January 2004 Power Point presentation showing the distinctive features of the new home page of the system.

http://www.efaro.org/taf_01_index.php

The very fruitful exchange of views improved communication, particularly on the benchmarked production of information. The explanation encompassed an insight into the research vessels database, an overview on the present status of the underwater vehicles database, and a virtual course through the information system model adopted. Other than appreciating the trees and subtrees of categories and links maintained, the cross-reference value adding entries towards existing marine RTD programmes emphasised the policy promoting online standardised information. A book was recommended on the coverage of the home page: *Oceans: debates [of the] Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*. Edited by Sophie Jeleff. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 1999. 175p. ISBN 92-871-3876-1.

Enrique Wulff Barreiro. Cádiz, CSIC.

EURASLIC and ILL for ECET

The ECET libraries began joining the Association in 1994 when invitations to the EURASLIC conference held in Poland were sent to the Eastern European countries to attract new members. I have good memories about David Moulder and Henrick Ganowiak, the friendly and tactful supervisors of our group. Poland was the right choice in many aspects including financial. For example, the travel from Sevastopol (Ukraine) to Gdynia (Poland) cost only 30 USD. When I informed David of my travel expenses by train, it astonished him so that he had

asked if I had lost another zero. Thanks to that fact also concerning other participants, EURASLIC could pay for the attendance of many librarians from the Eastern European countries. During the conference days, we made friends with many European librarians and our friendship has been growing since.

The European colleagues help us to raise professional standards and improve technical levels, to receive free copies and literature. I am grateful to Barbara Schmidt and Sofia Goulala for the numerous duplicate literature they have sent to our library.

On behalf of the ECET librarians, I express deep gratitude to our colleagues from Western Europe who generously supply us with copies free of charge. Barbara Schmidt and her fellow workers from Germany as well as the French, English and Canadian colleagues have been the most active.

My special thanks are also to Brit Scotheim. Some of you might have noticed that the libraries of IBSS and PINRO are rarely not found on the mailing list (among libraries asking for copies through the EURASLIC Discussing List), though our requests have not vanished as yet. The fact is that Brit Scotheim, this wonderful woman, suggested that our orders should be directed immediately to her library through BIBSYS used by the Norwegian. Dear Brit, many thanks for your kindness and understanding of our venture success.

Olga Akimova

Institute of the Biology of the
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On the Web

IAMSLIC

IAMSLIC Membership

Euraslic is a Regional Group of IAMSLIC - the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Sciences Libraries and Information Centers. Membership of Euraslic does not automatically award membership of Iamslic, rather a separate membership fee of \$35 is payable, however Iamslic do also offer a reduced fee of \$20 for institutes in developing countries, and they also offer sponsored memberships. A joint Iamslic/Euraslic membership fee can be paid through Euraslic. Benefits associated with IAMSLIC membership include: Quarterly IAMSLIC Newsletter; Membership Directory (in PDF, updated quarterly); Access to the searchable online IAMSLIC Membership Directory; Voting privileges (one voting member per Institutional Membership); and IAMSLIC Z39.50 Distributed Library and interlibrary loan

program. For further information go to: <http://www.iamslic.org/join/en.html>

IAMSLIC Z39.50 Distributed Library

The IAMSLIC Z39.50 Distributed Library is a project aimed at facilitating international resource sharing among marine and aquatic science libraries. This was developed as a joint project of the IAMSLIC Resource Sharing Committee, the California State University, Monterey Bay Library and the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. It is modelled on the Coastal Information Library developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and utilizes the PHP/YAZ open source Z39.50 protocols. Read more at: <http://library.csumb.edu/cyamus/ill/>

WEB RESOURCES

EurOcean Internet Portal

<http://www.eurocean.org>

EurOcean has a new home page which has been designed to better facilitate access to and the search for information in the portal. EurOcean welcomes feedback, so please take a look at the site and if you have any comments, please send them to: webmaster.eurocean@fct.mces.pt. Please also remember that, as part of our ongoing collaboration with EurOcean, that Euraslic members are requested to send details of any new national policy documents relating to the marine environment and details of other significant documents, projects, events etc. to: eurocean@fct.mces.pt

Wonders of the Seas

Short lessons with images of selected sea creatures including sponges, cnidarians, mollusks, echinoderms, arthropods, sperm whales, manatees, and sharks. From the Oceanic Research Group. <http://www.oceanicresearch.org/lesson.html>

The Library Web Manager's Reference Center

A large collection of links "selected to be of possible use to library Web managers". The topics include getting connected, Web page authoring and design, site management, and public access measures.

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Web4Lib/RefCenter/>

Web Log Washing

Instructions, a Perl programming script, and sample log files for "log washing," which is "the process of removing information from your web access log that can be traced to a specific individual, in order to protect the privacy of the users of your web site." From librarians Roy Tennant and Devon Smith.

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Web4Lib/RefCenter/logwashing.html>

Managing Information Weekly Newsletter

ManagingInformation.com has a weekly newsletter with the latest news stories, event listings, employment vacancies and more, brought to you directly by email. This service is completely FREE. <http://www.managinginformation.com/newsletter.htm>

E-LEARNING

Joint Briefing Paper Promotes Information Support for e-Learning

SCONUL and UKUniversities Worldwide have published a briefing paper entitled Information support for e-learning: principles and practice.

http://www.sconul.ac.uk/pubs_stats/pubs/Information_Support_for_eLearning_Final.pdf

ORGANISATIONS

Marine Information Centre (MIC)

The Marine Information Centre (MIC), on the third floor of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology building, 80 Coleman Street, London, EC2R 5BJ, UK is the leading source of marine and offshore engineering information and offers traditional library services and specialised databases to both members of the IMarEST and the public. Enquiries are welcome from members and non-members in person, or by telephone, fax, post or by email. Literature searches are usually carried out using MIC's main bibliographic database, which contains abstracts from all key publications held in the library. Non-members are charged for literature searches. Charges are also made for photocopies of papers, which can be posted to any destination. <http://www.imarest.org/mic/>

EBLIDA New Contact Details

EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, moved house on 18th August 2003. New contact details are:

EBLIDA, PO Box 16359, NL-2500 BJ The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 309 05 51;

Fax: +31 70 309 05 58; <http://www.eblida.org>

Publications

History of oceanography : VII International Congress on the History of Oceanography. (Kaliningrad, September 8-12, 2003.)

General Editor V.L. Stryuk

Kaliningrad: Kaliningrad University Press, 2003, 458 pp.

[<http://vitiaz.ru/congress/en/thesis/>]. ISBN 5-8874-417-4.

The Crown and the scientific expeditions, the status and scientific recognition of oceanographic museums and journals, the challenges related with the polar regions explorations, the analysis of the space investigations associated with the navy, or the history of mining are all aspects under consideration in this volume concerning the past VII History of Oceanography Congress.

For the librarian the previously unpublished character of the contributions by the participants could support the reference work through a first global view on bathymetry, meteorology, and cartography (in finding the date, in reestimating a source, in evaluating a collection). The use of modern information technical devices is displayed with examples focusing on history of institutions like ICES, ICSEM. And complete examinations of journals (Journal of Coastal Research), and of books (Domestic Research Fleet) are offered.

The opportunity to fit the library readers' experiences into such less frequented spaces like laboratories and collections, as history of science learns, is most fortunate to be considered at this time of the revival of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

And the Deep blue sea waits for readers interested by such memories like this one: Russian colonies in Alaska resulted from the August 8, 1785, Imperial Decree fixing the scientific and political aims of an expedition, aboard the "Glory of Russia", under the command of former J. Cook third expedition associate astronomer Joseph Billings. Madrid nervously answered with the "San Carlos" packet boat inspection of the Shélijov-Gólikov Northeast Company factory, in June 1788. This "flood tide of empire" based the initial cartography of North latitude 57-59°. (See: A.H. Hull. Spanish and Russian Rivalry in the North Pacific Regions of the New World, 1760-1812: Dis. Ph.D. Univ. Alabama, 1966.)

The volume is completely produced as a web resource. And both substance and style are highly readable throughout a successfully adopted typographic criteria.

Review contributed by **Enrique Wulff-Barreiro**, Marine Sciences Institute from Andalusia (CSIC)

Exploitation et surexploitation des ressources marines vivantes, Académie des Sciences, RST n° 17, 2003.

"Cet ouvrage dresse le constat de la surexploitation des ressources marines afin d'en cerner les causes. Il met en évidence les phénomènes liés à la surpêche : capacités de capture excessives, détérioration des écosystèmes, récurrence des conflits... Le niveau de surexploitation est tel que la prévention d'un déclin continu du renouvellement des générations est désormais la priorité, au détriment de l'optimisation de la productivité des stocks. En effet, depuis 1950, la production mondiale des pêches maritimes augmentait de 6% par an; depuis 1970, ce taux est tombé à 2% et, depuis 1990, la production est stable..."

Contributed by **Maguy GUARY**

New book

The Black Sea, the Flood and the Ancient Myths

Petko Dimitrov, Dimitar Dimitrov
Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Science
Varna:Slavena, 2004. 92p. First Edition

The objective is to prove that the ancient myths about the Flood started off from the flood in the Black Sea.

Original geological, climatic, oceanographic and archaeological data from the western part of the Black Sea obtained by the authors are used.

The analysis of geological, climatic, oceanographic and archaeological data obtained during the last 20 years testifies to a disastrous natural event in the Black Sea.

During the Quaternary, the Mediterranean Sea was in a constant exchange with the Atlantic Ocean through the straits of Gibraltar, while its connection with the Black Sea through the Bosphorus was interrupted and restored many times. At the time of continental glaciations, the Black Sea transformed into a sea-lake (largo-mare) and its level reduced under the Bosphorus sill. This made the waters become fresh and caused development of endemic fauna. In interglacial time, the connection of the Black Sea with the Mediterranean Sea was restored and it had catastrophic consequences on the Black Sea environment with the creation of geo-catastrophic type of sediments – sapropels.

An important proof of the flood on the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary are the old shorelines of the Black Sea which are located at depths of 90-120 m and are about 8,000-9,000 years old according to

absolute dating (¹⁴C). Regardless of the well-preserved old shorelines, the shelf periphery fixes pre-Holocene erosion plain that reflects the consequences of the flood.

Sapropel sediments with a thickness of 2 m are deposited along the deepwater Black Sea floor as a result of the flood. The age of the sapropel horizon that lies over lake sediments from the last glacial epoch is 7,600 BP according to latest data. The sapropel sediments are products of the ecological catastrophe that occurred as a result of the intrusion of ocean waters with salinity of 38‰ in the freshwater Black Sea Lake .

It is known that the Mediterranean Sea level was 30-40 m lower than the contemporary one, while the Black Sea level was located at -120 m, i.e. the difference was about 80 m which caused the break of the Bosphorus sill. It is possible that the event was accompanied by activation of seismic-tectonic process of the region.

As a geological event the flood is an irrefutable fact. In addition, there are artifacts of the same age as the event proving that the Black Sea region and the old shorelines were a centre of the oldest known civilization.

On the first place, is the Varna Eneolithic necropolis and the golden treasury – the oldest processed gold in the world.

On the second place, these are– the Neolithic necropolis in Durankulak, the Neolithic settlements in the Varna Lake, as well as the numerous Neolithic settlements on the shelf.

On the third place is the “Noah’s plate” which is a very debatable finding from the region of the old Black Sea shorelines.

During the explorations in Sinop region, artifacts were also found on the shelf.

We know from the Bible that one of the most prosperous cultures in the history of mankind was created by the Sumerians on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates. It was found to be that the Bible regarded as an original work of the Jews and inspired by God originates from Mesopotamian traditions. Many stories and details of the Mesopotamian myths and legends are retold in the Bible. This is not so strange having in mind that in the eternal circle of time, cultures and peoples flourish and become extinct, but their experience lives in the next generations supporting the creation of new and more mature cultures.

The above stated reveals the fact that a highly developed civilization existed in the Black Sea region before the time of the events described in the Bible and the Sumerian Epic.

Here comes the question about the place and importance of the Black Sea civilization. Is it possible that the Black Sea civilization preceded the Sumerian civilization?

There are a number of proofs of the geo-catastrophic event in the Black Sea that occurred 7,600 years ago

There are remains of ancient Neolithic culture along the coast and in the region of the old Black Sea shorelines.

The flood in the Black Sea is an indisputable fact. The negative ecological consequences of the flood caused a migration of a highly developed civilization that left permanent traces on the shelf. We are at the beginning of new discoveries that will completely change our ideas on the oldest history of mankind.

Click here to download the text of the book:

http://www.io-bas.bg/noahproject/BOOK_PETKO.pdf

Click here to download the illustrations of the book:

http://www.io-bas.bg/noahproject/Illustrations_BOOK_PETKO.pdf

Upcoming Meeting

The School of Library & Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, USA and the Department of Library and Information Sciences, “St. Kliment Ohridski” University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria will hold a bi-annual conference, which provides interested library and information science professionals the opportunity to discuss the many issues facing libraries.

Sofia 2004 is part of an international conference series hosted in Kansas City, Kansas (1995), Warsaw, Poland (1997), Sofia, Bulgaria (2000, 2002 & 2004). This series is designed to explore the impact of globalization and change on the development of libraries, information infrastructure, and society.

Sofia 2004 will bring together a wide range of experts in library and information science, infrastructure, technology, international development and policy.

<http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/sofia2004/index.htm>

The EURASLIC Newsletter is published twice a year, in April and October. The deadline for the April issue is 31 March, the deadline for the October issue is 30 September.

Please send all items for inclusion to the Newsletter Editor. If possible, send it as an email attachment. Most formats are acceptable, but rtf is preferred.