
THE RECENT MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL CONGRESS

R. O. WHITENTON, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater

The Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology met at the Sorbonne in Paris July 21 to July 27, 1948.

Registration for the Congress took place Tuesday, July 20, on the second floor of the Sorbonne in the quarters of the General Secretary, M. Fischer-Piette. Of the 570 registrants more than 200 were from France, 63 from the U. S. A., 55 from England, 45 from Belgium, 33 from Italy, 28 from Switzerland, 16 from Denmark, 15 from Holland and the others were scattered among 37 other countries, with 10 or less from each.

At the time of registration each delegate was given a badge of identification, a printed program and a resumé of as many papers as were available. Unfortunately, only about one-fourth of these were ready. We were given the opportunity of purchasing reservation for the excursion to the Palace of Versailles and for the final banquet.

The official languages were French, English, and Spanish although a few of the papers were in Italian and at least one in German.

All meetings were held in amphitheatres in the Sorbonne. Of these the Richelieu Amphitheater was the largest and most beautiful.

The first meeting was at 10:00 a. m. Wednesday, July 21. The address of welcome to the foreign delegates was given by M. Caullery, President of the Congress, in the Richelieu Amphitheater. That afternoon a general session was held there at 2:30. The first report was given by Professor Boyden on the Serological Museum at Rutgers University. After the discussion of this report, Professor Ranzie of Milan, Italy, gave a report in Italian on Proteins and Embryonic Development.

The Congress was divided into ten sections which started at 9:00 a. m. Thursday, July 23.

SECTION 1: GENERAL ZOOLOGY. Milne-Edwards Amphitheater. The first report was given by Professor Emil Witschi of the University of Iowa, on the

Physical and Chemical Agents of Experimental Sex Determination in the Lower Vertebrates (Amphibians). There was a prolonged discussion of this paper but it was all in French. There were a total of 25 papers read in this section, most of them on sex differentiation.

A sub-section of this section on Animal Pigments was held in Amphitheater Turgot. Sixteen papers were presented there.

SECTION II: EVOLUTION AND ANIMAL GENETICS. This section was combined with Section I.

SECTION III: CYTOLOGY AND PROTOZOLOGY. Section III was held in the Chemistry Amphitheater. Professor Kirby, of the University of California, was the first of 22 who presented papers in that section.

SECTION IV: COMPARATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL EMBRYOLOGY. This section met in the Physics Amphitheater. Of the 25 reports in that section there was none from the U. S. A.

SECTION Va: COMPARATIVE VERTEBRATE ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY. Section Va was held in the Physiology Amphitheater. Twenty-four papers were given in this section.

SECTION Vb: CLASSIFICATION AND ECOLOGY OF THE VERTEBRATES. This section met in the Geology Amphitheater. Dr. Ramond Hall, of the University of Kansas, gave two reports entitled, "How Species Are Formed in the Mammalian Genus *Mustela*", and "Speciation in the American Weasel". There were 28 other papers in the section.

SECTION VI: INVERTEBRATES, EXCEPT INSECTS. Amphitheater Cauchy. Professor R. Bolln, of the Hopkins Marine Station, California, gave one of the 23 reports in this section.

SECTION VII: ENTOMOLOGY. Mochelet Amphitheater. Only 8 papers in the section.

SECTION VIII: APPLIED ZOOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY. Guizot Amphitheater; 20 papers.

SECTION IX: ZOOGEOGRAPHY AND PALEONTOLOGY. Physics Conference room; 22 papers.

SECTION X: NOMENCLATURE. Louis-Liard Amphitheater. Professor Z. P. Metcalf, of North Carolina, discussed Static vs. Dynamic Nomenclature. Only 9 other reports were presented.

A reception for the members of the Congress was given at the City Hall (Hotel de Ville) at 5:00 p. m., Thursday, July 23. It was raining and those who went found champagne abundant and free.

The excursion to the Palace of Versailles the afternoon of July 24 was the highlight of the meeting. The entire afternoon was spent going through the Palace and getting acquainted with many people from the different countries represented at the Congress.

The visits to the Botanical Gardens (Jardin des Plants), the Vertebrate Museum, and the Zoo nearby made the entire trip well worthwhile.

The banquet on the evening of the last day, July 27, was expected to be a champagne dinner par excellence. Unfortunately, I had to catch an early boat train in order to reach London in time for the Olympics which opened July 29, so that I was unable to attend.