

Proceedings of the
11th International Cretaceous Symposium
August 22–26, 2022, Warsaw, Poland



Participants of the 11th International Cretaceous Symposium in the interiors of the Old Library Building, University of Warsaw.



Poster of the 11th International Cretaceous Symposium in front of the Old Library Building, University of Warsaw.

Preface

The 11th International Cretaceous Symposium (11th ICS) was held in the Old Library in the central Campus of the University of Warsaw, Poland, from August 22nd to 26th, 2022, accompanied by a series of pre- and post-conference field-trips, constraining the entire event between August 18th and August 29th. The Symposium was mostly an in-person event, however, for the first time in the history of the Cretaceous Symposia, an online live streaming service was offered to those who could not come to Warsaw, but expressed the will to join the event. Almost 200 participants from 43 countries attended the meeting.

Two important dates coincided in 2022 providing good reasons to organize the Warsaw meeting.

Firstly, it was the time for the next (11th) event in a row of the International Symposia on the Cretaceous. This idea, which started in the mid-1970s by the German Subcommission on Cretaceous Stratigraphy, is a strong attraction for the Cretaceous community from all over the world. It was initially focused on Germany; after the opening symposium in Münster in 1978, the next symposia were in: München (1982), Tübingen (1987), Hamburg (1992), and Freiberg (1996). Subsequently, however, the idea crossed the borders and next symposia were hosted by institutions and communities in adjacent countries: Vienna (Austria) in 2000, Neuchâtel (Switzerland) in 2005, Plymouth (UK) in 2009, Ankara (Turkey) in 2013, and Vienna again in 2017.

Secondly, the year 2022 was the 200th anniversary of the Cretaceous System; it was 1822 when the Belgian aristocrat, and geologist, anthropologist and politician Jean Baptiste d’Omalius d’Halloy (1783–1874), produced the first geological map of France, on which he designated the *Terrains Crétacé* as represented by the Chalk with associated tuffeau and clays.

Organizing this symposium has its own story, as you all well know. Firstly, the COVID-19 pandemic, which was the reason why the event was postponed for a year (the Warsaw Symposium was scheduled originally for 2021), and then this horrible war started by the Russians in Ukraine. The organizing committee of the Warsaw Symposium had to consider whether or not the event should be postponed again.

The present *Acta Geologica Polonica* Proceedings Volume of the 11th International Cretaceous Symposium gathers 14 papers from 23 authors, spanning the vast areas of Cretaceous palaeontology, biogeography, tectonics, palaeogeography, and palaeoenvironments. The volume opens with an ‘Autobiography’ and ‘Complete bibliography’ of William James Kennedy, Oxford Emeritus Professor and one of the greatest figures in the world of ammonite taxonomy and stratigraphy of the Cretaceous System. These two accounts commemorate the ‘Recognition Ceremony’ organised for Jim during the opening morning of the Symposium, as an appreciation of the entire community represented (person and online) at the Warsaw Symposium to Jim’s enormous devotion to and work on the Cretaceous System.

Worth of note is that a parallel Proceedings Volume of the Warsaw Symposium is being published in *Cretaceous Research*, edited by Irek Walaszczyk, Eduardo Koutsoukas, Marcin Machalski, John W.M. Jagt and Elena Jagt-Yazkova, with most of the contributions already available on the journal website.

The organisation of the Symposium and the publication of the present Proceedings Volume was possible thanks to the generous financial support by the University of Warsaw (through an IDUB grant) and the Ministry of Education and Science (a grant for the organisation of the event). The grant from the Ministry of Education and Science also helped us with the organisation of the Golden Spike ceremony for the base of the Coniacian Stage in Salzgitter-Salder Quarry (Lower Saxony, Germany) which took place in September 2023.

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