

THE 3RD NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE 12TH CONVENTION OF PALAEOONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHINA HELD IN SUZHOU (APRIL 16—22, 1979)

Fifty years have elapsed, since the founding in 1929 of the Palaeontological Society of China. With the aim to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Society, to review the research fruits of palaeontology gained in the past fifty years, especially following the founding of new China, and to organize the nation-wide palaeontologists for realizing the modernization of the country, the Palaeontological Society of China held from 16th—24th April in Suzhou the 3rd national congress and the 12th convention simultaneously. About 287 voting representatives and 216 nonvoting representatives, coming from research institutes, universities, geological colleges and geological prospecting units, etc. took part in the historical and splendid palaeontological meeting. Among them are old, middle-aged and young scientists, who happily got together, showing a vigorous, promising and flourishing scene.

The meeting lasted for a week, with 3 main tasks on the agenda.

1. Summing up thirty years' achievements in palaeontology of China and carrying on academic exchange in four sessions.
2. Revising the constitution of the Society and electing a new council.
3. Drawing up the work plan and setting up organizations of PSC.

Mr. Wang Bing-shi, Vice-Chairman of Jiangsu Provincial Revolutionary Committee, Mr. Zhao Bei-ke, Depute Secretary-General of the Chinese Academy of sciences, Mr. Deng Bo-mu, who is in charge of Society Administrative Division of the National Association of Science and Technology, participated the opening ceremony and delivered their congratulatory speeches to the meeting. Besides, Prof. C. Teichert, the President of International Palaeontological Association, Prof. O. H. Walliser, the Secretary-General of IPA, Prof. F. Takai, the President of Asian Branch of IPA and British Vertebrate Palaeontologist Delegation headed by Prof. T. S. Westoll also attended the meeting and offered their warmly congratulation.

In his visit to native-town, Ge Ding-hang (Koh Ting-pang), an oversea Chinese now in the United States, who was an old member of PSC, was invited to attend the meeting. He donated a fossil specimen of *Santaisaurus* to the Chinese Academy of Science, a curiosa which he has carefully kept for more than 40 years. His patriotic spirit has won the great admiration of the people present at the meeting.

In the convention, Profs. Lu Yan-hao, Zhou Ming-zhen, Li Xing-xue Hao Yi-chun made their reports on "Thirty Years' Study of Invertebrate Palaeontology in China", "Thirty Years' Study of Vertebrate Palaeontology in China", "Thirty Years' Study of Palaeobotany in China" and "Thirty Years' Study of Micropalaeontology in China" respectively. They counted lots of facts to demonstrate what gigantic achievements have been obtained in the realm of palaeontology since the founding of new China. Taken for example, before the liberation of this country, less than thirty persons were working on several kinds of fossils. But today the palaeontolo-

gists have greatly increased to about 2000 in number. Noticeably, talented persons have emerged in large number and research fruits have brought forth in great quantity. And what is more, the Chinese palaeontologists have caught up with the international advanced level in studying some kinds of fossils, and thus won many colleagues' admiration from abroad.

The convention has received 152 scientific papers and 200 abstracts (in addition, about 379 papers dealing with micropalaeontology and palynology have been read in the micropalaeontological meeting and palynological meeting held last March in Changsha and Tianjin respectively). Of these papers, some were written by the veteran palaeontologists, but most by the middle-aged and the young scientists. These papers, involving comprehensive contents and important materials, deal with 1) palaeobotany, 2) invertebrate palaeontology and 3) vertebrate palaeontology and palaeoanthropology, including the following special topics: evolution and classification, provinciality, palaeoecology, palaeogeography, biostratigraphy and palaeontological investigation in Tibet etc.. In recent years, came the reports on the finding of a considerable number of fossils from various corners of the country, which greatly enrich the collections of the palaeontological store-house of China. Basing on their systematical study of certain kinds of fossils, many Chinese palaeontologists, one after another, have put forward new assemblage successions and detailed zonation for stratigraphical subdivision. They have also made faunal or floral comparisons in world-wide or regional scope, and promoted new recognition in the geological history of ontogeny, phylogeny, classification, origin, prosperity-decline-extinct, migration, ecological environment and palaeogeography. Besides, in using new technique and filling the blanks in palaeontology, good results have been accomplished. All what have been doing indicate that the palaeontological study in China have been raised to a much higher level than ever before. Furthermore, the palaeontological evidences, undoubtedly, provide scientific bases for geological prospecting, exploration of oil, coal and various metals, inquiry of underground resources and engineer construction. The papers received in the convention will be reviewed by the editorial committee of the Society and then handed over to the press for publication.

Of the seven-days meeting, five and half days were allocated to academic activities. The convention, full of free atmosphere, followed from beginning to end the policies that letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend, and employed various effective measures to serve the purpose that every scientist, whether same or different views, could benefit from the convention.

During the meeting-time, an exhibition was held for the members of the Society to visit. On display are about 130 selected fossil specimens obtained from the Ordovician to the Miocene of the Tibetan plateau and many books, monographs and periodicals published since the founding of the Society. Apparently, these exhibits show substantial and significant achievements in the study of biostratigraphy and palaeontology of this country, and therefore greatly attract the visitors' interest both at home and abroad.

In the convention, Prof. T. S. Westoll, a fellow of the British Royal Society, Prof. D. L. Dineley, Secretary-General of Devonian Subcommittee of International Stratigraphical Committee, Prof. O. H. Walliser, Secretary-General of IPA, delivered

lectures on their recent research results. The foreign guests also attended various academic activities and exchanged their views with Chinese colleagues. In this regard, it may be said that the convention marks the fruitful international exchange of ideas in the history of the Society.

Through a cordial and friendly talk with the leadership of IPA, the leadership of PSC came to an agreement with them that the final affiliation of the Palaeontological Society of China with IPA will be confirmed by the consent of other members of the executive committee of IPA.

At the close of the meeting, a new council of PSC was elected, the organizations of PSC were set up simultaneously and a discussion of the future activities of the Society was also made.

(Chen Jin-hua)

During the time of the 3rd National Congress and the 12th Convention of the Palaeontological Society of China, a new council of PSC was elected:

President:	Yin Zan-xun
Vice-Presidents:	Lu Yan-hao
	Zhou Ming-zhen
	Yang Zun-yi
	Mu En-zhi
Secretary-General:	Yu Chang-min
Chief editor of "Acta Palaeontologica Sinica":	Wang Yu
Chief editor of "Palaeontological Translation":	Yang Zun-yi

Secretariat of PSC