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GY. VITÁLIS AND T. KECSKEMÉTI

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THE COLLECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PALEONTOLOGY, EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY, BUDAPEST

M. KÁZMÉR

The Department of Palaeontology of the University of Budapest was founded in 1882, then being the second special department of this discipline in Europe. M. HANTKEN, the world-famous specialist of Tertiary foraminifers was its first Professor. He established the collections for educational purposes almost out of nothing. From the Royal Hungarian Geological Institute, where he formerly served as director, he obtained a collection of more than four thousand items which contained specimens of all major invertebrate groups. Tertiary foraminifers formed the largest group in this material (more than 700 items), reflecting HANTKEN's interests. This group was arranged according to the system of REUSS. The larger foraminifers (Nummulitidae) were extremely finely prepared and stored in decorative wooden boxes one by one. An earlier version of this collection won the Gold Medal of the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 (KECSKEMÉTI, T. 1987).

HANTKEN prepared a separate collection for the students. Glass pipes were attached to small wooden tablets and foraminifers washed from the Tertiary clays of the Buda region were stored in them. Drawings of each species were placed at the end of the tubes.

A set of several hundred microscope photos of limestone thin sections was also prepared by HANTKEN in the early 1880s. At that time it was probably a unique collection of its kind and, although never published, can be considered as the first carbonate microfacies atlas.

After HANTKEN's death in 1894 A. KOCH, while being Professor of Geology, became also professor of Paleontology in a unified Geological-Palaeontological Institute. To complement the invertebrate collection of his predecessor he prepared a systematic collection of vertebrates and also created a collection of index fossils for teacher-trainees. For these purposes he used the still disarranged part of the material received from the Royal Hungarian Institute, supplemented by specimens from one of the very first collections of the University, which was obtained from Archduchess MARIANNA, a member of the HABSBURG dynasty back in 1781. He greatly developed the collection by

systematic collecting in the field, by gifts and by frequent purchases. (A beautiful, medium-sized *Ichthyosaurus quadriscissus* was his most valuable acquisition.)

The collection was stored and exhibited in a large hall with galleries together with the material for stratigraphy and historical geology. Within each palaeozoological class the material was arranged by geological ages. The whole collection was designed, arranged, described and prepared by Professor KOCH alone, sometimes with the help of an assistant.

After KOCH's retirement in 1915, Palaeontology became a separate Department again headed by I. LÖRENTHEY, and the collections have been divided. LÖRENTHEY, a world-renowned specialist of decapod crustaceans, enriched the collection with fine preparates of Recent crabs, of fossil brachiopods and echinoderms. These glass-covered boxes prepared by himself are spectacular and valuable items of the collection.

After the early death of LÖRENTHEY in 1917 no professors have been appointed for 30 years. During this extended interregnum K. PAPP, Professor of Geology was in charge. Though the Department remained an independent unit, its room was gradually shrinking and it survived the siege of Budapest in a single room of the university. Fortunately, it suffered almost no damages.

During the professorship of K. TELEGDI ROTH (1947—1955) donations from the Hungarian Geological Institute helped to form a new systematic collection and another arranged by localities. L. BOGSCH, the successor of TELEGDI ROTH added a general palaeontological collection.

In 1972 the former collections of the Department of Mineralogy and Geology of the Technical University of Budapest, organized by F. SCHAFARZIK in the late 19th century have been dissolved and the palaeontological material was acquired by our Department. These finely prepared specimens, among others a large number of vertebrates, attached to wooden tablets, excellently completed the existing collection.

Among the more recent collections lower and middle Jurassic ammonites from the Bakony and Gerecse Hills (B. GÉCZY, A. GALÁCZ) and Dogger ammonites from Villány (B. GÉCZY) are especially noteworthy.

Finally the oldest and most precious item of the collection of the Department of Palaeontology should be mentioned. It is a *Pterodactylus micronyx*, the earliest found flying reptile specimen coming from the lithographic shale of Solnhofen (for a detailed discussion see the paper of B. GÉCZY, this volume).

The collection today, in more than 800 drawers, houses important, mostly Tertiary and Mesozoic fossil material from the Carpathians and from the Pannonian Basin. Jurassic cephalopods and Tertiary molluscs are represented by the largest numbers of specimens; these are complemented by foreign com-

parative material. The history and main research fields of the Department are illustrated for visitors by a small exhibition, prepared for the centennial jubilee of the Department of Palaeontology of the University of Budapest in 1982.

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MIKLÓS KÁZMÉR

Eötvös Loránd University
Department of Palaeontology
1088 BUDAPEST
Ludovika tér 2.
Hungary