

**SHORT HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE
ON NORTHERN NEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY (RCNNS), 1959-1987**

by

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The previous history of RCNNS (Regional Committee on Northern Neogene Stratigraphy), which was founded in Paris 1980, is recorded. The start of this Committee was a logical consequence after conclusion of the IGCP Project 124 (1975-1981). Earlier (1959-1975) Neogene stratigraphical research in the North Sea Basin was coordinated by the Northern Neogene Colloquium ("Colloque pour l'Etude du Néogène Nordique"). A list of relevant bibliographical references is given.

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SAMENVATTING

Beknopt historisch overzicht en bibliografie van de Regional Committee on Northern Neogene Stratigraphy (RCNNS), 1959-1987.

Een kort overzicht van de ontstaansgeschiedenis van RCNNS wordt hier vastgelegd. De commissie werd in 1980 tijdens het 26e Internationale Geologische Congres te Parijs gestart, als een logisch vervolg op het IGCP project 124 (1975-1981). In eerdere jaren (1959-1975) werd het stratigrafisch onderzoek van het Neogeen in het Noordzeebekken gecoördineerd door het Northern Neogene Colloquium. Een lijst van relevante literatuur is aan dit overzicht toegevoegd.

NORTHERN NEOGENE COLLOQUIUM

In the late nineteen fifties activities of international cooperation started in some committees on Paleogene and Neogene stratigraphy. Initiated by Jean Roger (Orsay), at that time editor of the "Lexique Stratigraphique International", a first colloquium on the Mediterranean Neogene took place at Aix-en-Provence and Marseille (France) in 1958. There it was decided upon the foundation of a Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy (RCMNS), which was formally established at Vienna (Austria) in 1959.

In the same year Jean Roger also stimulated a first meeting of those stratigraphers who were engaged in the study of the northern European Neogene. A first symposium was organized by Karl Gripp, Ernst Dittmer and the present author. It took place at Kiel (F.R.G.) from 21-29 April 1959. An excursion visited outcrops in Denmark, Lower Saxony and the Lower Rhine District. Karl Gripp was elected the first president of this Northern Neogene Colloquium (Colloque pour l'Etude du Néogène Nordique) and Günther von der Brelie as its first secretary. Right from the beginning this group considered itself as the northern counterpart of RCMNS.

The Kiel symposium was followed in the next decade by three further meetings:

- 31 May-6 June 1961, at Ghent (Belgium), with an excursion programme visiting the greater part of the famous classical localities in Belgium, organized by Renatus Tavernier and Jean de Heinzelin (Ghent).
- 29 September-7 October 1965, at Orléans and Caen (France), with excursions in the Touraine, Anjou, Brittany and Normandy, under the leadership of Yves Milon and Suzanne Durand (Rennes).
- 31 March-6 April 1970, in East Anglia (U.K.) (Ipswich and Norwich), organized by Philip Cambridge (Norwich). Excursions visited the outcrops of East Anglian crags.
- A planned further meeting in Iceland (1973) could not be realized.

Although in the Colloquium nobody was particularly interested in formalities the practice was developed to elect the organizer of the last meeting as president for the next period. So the presidents of the Colloquium were:

1959-1961	Karl Gripp, Kiel
1961-1965	Renatus Tavernier, Ghent
1965-1970	Yves Milon, Rennes
1970-1975	Philip Cambridge, Norwich.

IGCP PROJECT 124 "THE NW EUROPEAN TERTIARY BASIN"

The lack of a formally established organisation at last led to financial problems within the Northern Neogene Colloquium. Philip Cambridge resigned as president in 1975, when it became manifest that the Colloquium could not continue its work.

So, a vacume arose in international cooperation which in the late seventies was filled in by the activities of the International Geological Correlation Programma (IGCP) Project 124 "The NW European Tertiary Basin. Structure and evolution of a platform basin and its economic implications". Project 124 was started in 1975, following a prior programme of the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft (German Research Association), running from 1972 to 1975, intended from the beginning to include IGCP Project 124.

Within the framework of IGCP Project 124 the following meetings were organized:

- "ad hoc" meeting at Mainz (F.R.G.), 11-12 December 1975, initiated by Heinz Tobien.
- 1st plenary meeting at Göttingen (F.R.G.), 17-18 March 1977, chairman Heinz Tobien.
- 2nd plenary meeting at Brussels (Belgium), 17-18 March 1978, chairman Reinhard Vinken.
- 4th plenary meeting at Noordwijkerhout (The Netherlands), 15-16 March 1979, chairman Reinhard Vinken.
- 5th plenary meeting at Edinburgh (Scotland), 20-21 March 1980, chairman Reinhard Vinken.
- 6th plenary meeting at Skive (Denmark), 14-16 May 1981, chairman Reinhard Vinken.
- final meeting at Frankfurt am Main (F.R.G.), 12-15 May 1982, chairman Reinhard Vinken.

Note: a 3rd plenary meeting never took place. Apparently in 1979 the "ad hoc" meeting at Mainz in 1975 was considered to be the first plenary meeting.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN NEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY

In 1979 Prof. Anders Martinsson (Uppsala), member of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (I.C.S.) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (I.U.G.S.) initiated the start of a Regional Committee on Northern Neogene Stratigraphy (R.C.N.N.S.), which was formally established during the 26th International Geological Congress at Paris (France) in July 1980. Winfried Hinsch (Kiel, F.R.G.) acted as its first president, D. Graham Jenkins (Milton Keynes, U.K.) as vice-president, and Henk J.W.G. Schalke (Leiden, The Netherlands) as secretary.

A second meeting of R.C.N.N.S. took place at the Geotagung at Hamburg (F.R.G.), 26 September 1984. Only two members attended this meeting, but there were a number of written communications. New officers for the term 1984-1988 were elected. Both president and vice-president were re-elected. Henk Schalke had already resigned as secretary in 1983. Arie W. Janssen (Leiden, The Netherlands) was elected as secretary in his place.

From 5 to 7 November 1986 the third meeting of R.C.N.N.S. was organized at Leiden (The Netherlands). This was the first meeting where a reasonable number of scientists assembled: some 40 participants were present. The proceedings of this meeting are printed in this volume of the Mededelingen van de Werkgroep voor Tertiaire en Kwartaire Geologie. During this meeting the foundation of a Regional Committee on Northern Paleogene Stratigraphy was initiated, with Chris King, Watford (U.K.) as president and Joost W. Verbeek, Haarlem (The Netherlands) as its secretary. Plans were made for a close cooperation between the two Committees in future, with a first joint meeting at Keyworth (U.K.) in 1987.

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