PREFACE

B.P. HAGEMAN

This special issue of "Geologie en Mijnbouw" contains all the lectures held at the combined meeting of the INQUA Subcommission on the Study of the Holocene and that on Baltic and North Sea Shorelines, held in the Netherlands in October 1968.

The 8th conference of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) will take place in Paris in August 1969. Most of the scientific tasks of INQUA are assigned to special commissions and subcommissions who are obliged to report on that conference. One of them is the "Subcommission on the Study of the Holocene", whose main subjects to be studied are:

1. The Pleistocene-Holocene boundary
2. The stratigraphy of the Holocene
3. The climatic optimum.

In order to prepare recommendations on these subjects for this next conference, the subcommission recently organised two meetings with excursions. The first one was held in Central Europe (DDR and Czechoslovakia), the second one in the western part of the Netherlands.

In addition, the subcommission issues a yearly bulletin for its members and corresponding members and promotes colloquies on the subjects concerned.

Another INQUA subcommission, the "Subcommission on Baltic and North Sea Shorelines" often encounters stratigraphical problems in Holocene marine areas that are similar to those investigated by the Holocene Subcommission. Therefore it was decided to organise their second meeting as a combined one of the two subcommissions, especially as the excursion was likely to evoke many problems and discussions of interest for both.

This meeting took place in October 1968 and due to this combination occupied itself mainly with the stratigraphy of marine- and perimarine* areas.

The meeting was made possible owing to the full support of the Geological Survey of the Netherlands. The Survey acted as host at the plenary session and subsequent discussion meetings and, in addition, put its geologists, geological assistents and the necessary equipment at the disposal of the excursion.

Moreover members of the Survey also took care of all preparatory measures including the composition of the excursion guide.

Whereas the excursion mainly dealt with the Holocene stratigraphy in marine and perimarine areas of the Netherlands, the lectures in many cases were focussed on problems related to the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary (Olausson, Morrison, Kukla, Kliewe). The final discussions were fully concentrated on this problem and resulted in a preliminary recommendation to place this boundary within the period between the beginning of the Allerød interstadial and the Preboreal.

A great number of the members present were in favour of an even more precise dating namely the transition of the Younger Dryas to the Preboreal. This choice was mainly based on rather recent data that indicate a world wide rather sudden rise of temperature around the transition of Younger Dryas to Preboreal.

This choice appears recently to be strengthened by the results of radiometric age determinations (O 18 and C 14) on the Greenland inland ice.

---

* The term "perimarine" has been explained in the article of Hageman, page 373.