

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Volume L, Sectio B of *Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska* is dedicated to the participants of the XIV Congress of the International Union of Quaternary Research (INQUA) to be held in Berlin, 1995. In this publication series it is the third volume concerning only studies of loesses. The first volume, i.e. vol. XV was edited in 1961, which was prepared on the occasion of the first international symposium of loesses included into the VI International INQUA Congress organized in Poland. That volume contained papers of researchers of our University, dealing with Polish loesses (13 publications concerning various problems — stratigraphic, paleogeographical, geomorphological and archeological; vide page 2 of the volume covers). The next volume i.e. XLI was issued in the 1987 on the occasion of the XII International INQUA Congress held in Canada. It contained 16 papers concerning "Problems of the stratigraphy and paleogeography of loesses" submitted for the international symposium of INQUA Loess Commission, which was held in Poland, 1985. That volume contained 9 papers of foreign and 7 papers of Polish authors (the list of the papers is on page 3 and 4 of the volume cover).

The present volume of *Annales UMCS*, sectio B, contains 10 papers, 6 of which concern loesses in Poland, 3 — loesses in the Ukraine, and 1 — loesses in Serbia. The papers dealing with Ukrainian loesses were prepared on the basis of cooperation of the Quaternary Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev (The research programme: "Stratigraphic correlation of loesses and glacial deposits of SE Poland and NW Ukraine"). Five papers were completed upon the research project No 6.0577.91.01, financed by the Committee of Scientific Research in Warsaw.

The paper concerning the whole Ukrainian territory (paper No 4) presents geochronology and stratigraphic differentiation of loesses, covering a

large area of this big country. The results of detailed studies of stratigraphy and paleogeography of loesses of small areas are presented in four papers, two of them concern the Cracow region (paper No 1 and 5), and two — the Przemyśl region (paper No 2 and 6). Attempts at stratigraphic and paleogeographic interpretation of analysis results of heavy minerals of Serbian loesses are presented in paper No 9, and Ukrainian ones in papers No 10. One paper deals with analysis of the accumulation conditions of younger loesses in the zone of the upper extent limit of these deposits in Poland (paper No 8). In the paper concerning the profile at Bojanice, detailed litho-stratigraphic research have been compared with analysis results of magnetic susceptibility of loesses of three glacial cycles (paper No 3). In the paper analysing events recorded in the beds of Polish loesses from the four last glacial cycles, an attempt at correlating them with global rhythms of paleogeographic events is presented (paper No 7).

We expect that the papers published in this volume will contribute to get a better knowledge of the characteristics of loesses accumulated not only in central Europe within the extent of permafrost (periglacial loesses), but also beyond this extent in SE Europe (perimediterranean loesses).

Henryk Maruszczak