

**16th World Congress of Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU),
Praha – Bratislava, 1992**

The 16th International Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), based in Washington, D.C., was held in Praha and Bratislava between June 26 and July 2, 1992. The Congress focused on renewing cultural and scientific interaction between a free Czechoslovakia and international community, in particular the western countries. Among the 24 panel discussions, the panel on Taxonomy – Museology chaired by Dr L. Masner (Biosystematic Research Centre, Ottawa), examined the possibility of cooperation between the former Czechoslovakia and the West in the fields of taxonomy in general and entomology in particular. Several areas for collaboration were suggested, for example the study of biodiversity, of aspects of environmental degradation, or of global climatic change. Likewise, closer cooperation between the Biosystematic Research Centre, Ottawa, and the National Museum, Praha, in the form of a “Twin Institution”, was proposed. Coordination of these efforts will be facilitated by forming a permanent External Advisory Board, consisting of four professional Czech entomologists currently working abroad. In addition, numerous bilateral agreements among individuals were made during the Congress.

The panel also discussed the danger of financial crisis in some European entomological collections, and adopted a resolution calling on UNESCO to create an emergency fund to save orphan natural history collections, especially those containing primary types.

K. Hůrka & J. Jelínek

**Resolution from the 16th World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU),
Washington, D.C., held in Praha and Bratislava on June 26 to July 2, 1992
(panel Taxonomy – Museology)**

- 1) The panel of 32 Czech, Slovak and foreign entomologists expressed concern and anxiety regarding the situation and fate of the so-called orphan natural history collections.
- 2) Gradual reduction of funds for natural history collections may in some cases finally result in unexpected serious endangering of collections of global importance. As a striking example the current situation at the Zoological Museum of the University of Lund (Sweden) was mentioned. The museum houses several classical collections with a great number of primary types indispensable to the work of the international community of taxonomists.
- 3) The panel suggests the creation of an International Emergency Fund for temporary protection or permanent housing of such priceless heritage of human culture.
- 4) Our appeal is addressed to the international institutions, namely the UNESCO and the Association of Systematic Collections.