

**BULLETIN**

OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF SOIL SCIENCE

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**BULLETIN**

DE L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA SCIENCE DU SOL

•

**MITTEILUNGEN**

DER INTERNATIONALEN BODENKUNDLICHEN  
GESELLSCHAFT

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## NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF SOIL SCIENCE

- Argentina: Asociacion Argentina de la Ciencia del Suelo, Cervino 3101, Buenos Aires.
- Australia: Australian Society of Soil Science, Federal Council, c/o Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory, CSIRO, Division of Land Resources Management, Private Bag P.O. Wembley, W.A. 6014.
- Austria: Österreichische Bodenkundliche Gesellschaft, Gregor Mendel-Strasse 33, 1180 Wien.
- Belgium: Société Belge de Pédologie, Rozier 44, B-9000 Gand.
- Bulgaria: Bulgarian Soil Science Society, Institute of Soil Science "N. Poushkarov", Shosse Bankya 5, Sofia 24.
- Canada: Canadian Society of Soil Science, Suite 907, 151 Slater St., Ottawa.
- Colombia: Sociedad Colombiana de la Ciencia del Suelo, Instituto Geografico "Agustin Codazzi", Bogota.
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- Denmark: Danish Soil Science Society, Lottenborgvej 24, D-2800 Lyngby.
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- Finland: Finish Society of Soil Science, Dept. of Soil Science, Agricultural Research Centre, Box 18, 01300 Tikkurila.
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- Israël: Israel Society of Soil Science, Soil Conservation Service, Hakiryia, Tel-Aviv.
- Italy: Società Italiana della Scienza del Suolo, Borgo Pinti, 80, Firenze.
- Japan: The Society of the Science of Soil & Manure, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Nishigahara, Kita-Ku, Tokyo.
- Malaysia: Malaysian Society of Soil Science, Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, P.O. Box 150, Kuala Lumpur.

The history of the  
International Society  
of Soil Science

1924-1974

*. . . il n'y a pas de frontières pour la pensée  
scientifique, il n'y a pas d'obstacles qui empêchent la  
communion des idées et de ceux qui les professent.*

*K. Glinka  
Rome, 1924*

# THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISSS

## ANTECEDENT EVENTS

### *The Period 1909-1922*

The foundation of the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) at Rome on 19 May 1924 was preceded by fifteen years of international activities. By a letter of invitation dated 6 February 1909 the Royal Hungarian Geological Institute at Budapest convened the First International Agrogeological Conference, which was held from 14 to 24 April 1909. About one hundred pedologists, amongst whom official representatives from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Romania and Russia participated in the Conference. General topics of discussion were the origin of the soil, the various soil types from the point of view of "agrogeology", and related sciences. Proposals were made for a uniform classification of soils and for standard laboratory methods for chemical analysis.

The Second International Agrogeological Conference took place at Stockholm one year later. About 170 soil scientists participated, including official delegates from the Argentine, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. From this record it is interesting to note the growing world-wide interest in our science. This meeting gave the first indication to the future organization of the Society in commissions dealing with specialized subjects. The Conference was split up in six sections engaged with: mechanical analysis, soil colours, methods of extraction for chemical analysis, cartography, classification and nomenclature, special research (specification could not be traced) and, finally, pedological conditions in various countries.

It was decided at the Conference to establish three international commissions that would deal with the subjects mentioned and that these would report to the next Conference scheduled for 1914 in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). World War I intervened and it took eight years before the interested parties met again in Prague in 1922.

Thanks to the initiative of Dr. D.J. Hissink, who was later elected Acting President and Secretary-General of the Society, a preliminary meeting was planned to restore the scientific relationships *between people who had inadvertently been in adverse camps for such a long period.*

In view of the large number of scientists of different nationalities interested in such a gathering, it was convened as the Third International Conference. The choice of the presidency of the Prague Conference showed that science is the best possible bond between the various communities. Office bearers were:

Honorary President:	Prof.Dr. E. Ramann, Germany
President:	Prof.Dr. Jos. Kopecky, Czechoslovakia
Vice-President:	Dr. D.J. Hissink, the Netherlands
Secretary:	Prof.Dr. F. Schucht, Germany
Members:	Dr. J.C. Lipman, U.S.A.
	Prof.Dr. G. Murgoci, Romania
	Prof.Dr. Alex d'Sigmond, Hungary
	Prof.Dr. Peter Treitz, Hungary
	Prof.Dr. K.A. Vesterberg, Sweden.

The Conference, which took place from 19 to 25 April 1922, established six International Commissions:

- I Mechanical analysis and soil physics. Chairman: Prof. Dr. Jos. Kopecky.
- II Analytical chemistry. Chairman: Prof. Dr. Alex d'Sigmond.
- III Soil bacteriology. Chairmen: Prof. Dr. J. Stoklasa and Dr. J.G. Lipman.
- IV Soil nomenclature and classification. Chairmen: Dr. Benj Frosterus and Prof. Dr. K. Glinka. Subcommission for Arid Zones. Chairmen: Dr. J.G. Lipman and Prof. Dr. C.F. Marbut.
- V Soil cartography. Chairmen: Prof. Dr. G. Murgoci and Prof. Dr. C.F. Marbut.
- VI International Soil Science Journal. Chairmen: Prof. Dr. F. Schucht and Dr. J.G. Lipman.

Furthermore, the Prague meeting marked the advance in organized international soil science by planning the Fourth International Conference to be held in Rome in 1924. An International Pedological Committee was established for that purpose. Prof. Ramann was again nominated Honorary President. Three presidents were elected: Prof. G. Andersson, Sweden; Prof. S.G. de Angelis d'Ossat, Italy; and Prof. Dr. Jos. Kopecky, Czechoslovakia. It would take too long to mention all 16 members who were elected, but a few may be named who played a prominent role not only at that time, but also in the further development of soil science: Prof. L. Cayeux, Prof. Dr. K. Glinka, Prof. Dr. C.F. Marbut, Sir John Russell, Prof. Dr. F. Schucht, Prof. Dr. Alex d'Sigmond and Prof. Dr. J. Stoklasa.

The Commission for the foundation of an international soil science journal comprised Glinka, Hissink, Lipman, Murgoci, Ramann and Schucht, who was to act as secretary of the board of editors. Most of these honorable members had already been active in editing the three-lingual *International Mitteilungen für Bodenkunde/Revue Internationale de Pédologie/International Reports on Pedology*. Fourteen volumes of this bi-monthly publication appeared between 1911 and 1924. The journal does not only reflect the main subjects of interest of an older generation of pedologists, but also recalls the names of those predecessors who put a lasting stamp upon the development of soil science.

This influential international periodical started at a time that contributions on soil science were published in national journals, mostly in the fields of geology, chemistry, biology, agriculture and natural history.

The *International Reports on Pedology* was founded as a result of discussions held at the soil conferences in 1909 and 1910. The editorial board of about 40 members comprised only a few scientists from outside Europe. Nearly all articles were published in German, a few in French and English.

Pedology (or agro-geology) being considered a branch of geology, much attention was given to the influence of the parent material on the genesis, and the chemical and physical properties of the soil. The development of standardized analytical methods was of great importance and resulted in many contributions.

Other subjects dealt with were alkaline soils, peat soils, chernozems, podzols, soil nomenclature, soil survey, soil biology; generally all aspects of soil science *sensu largo*. To mention a few authors: Atterberg, Blanck, Fischer, Hissink, Kopecky, Lipman, Mitscherlich, Odén, Ramann, d'Sigmond, Treitz and Vesterberg.

Prof. Schucht contributed lists of new books and articles which appeared in other journals. Book reviews and author's summaries were also published regularly.

#### *The Foundation*

On request of the International Pedological Committee the Italian Agronomic Society constituted in its meeting of 16 July 1922 an Organizing Committee that would be responsible for the organization of the Fourth International Pedological Conference in Rome in 1924.

This Committee, with Prof. Dr. G. de Angelis d'Ossat as its President was composed of 21 members. It installed an Honorary Committee of no less than 32 members with the Secretary of the State Department Benito Mussolini as (its Honorary) President. There was a large representation of the famous International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, with delegates from Belgium, China, the Netherlands, Portugal, Tripoli and Uruguay.

In the meantime national committees had been formed in France, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, USA and USSR. These have strongly contributed to the success of the Conference.

The International Pedological Committee decided to hold a preliminary meeting with the Italian Organizing Committee in Zürich from 7-10 June 1923 to discuss the ultimate programme of the Fourth Conference. On that occasion it was planned to found an International Society of Soil Science. Definite proposals relative to its constitution were to be presented to the Rome Conference.

A working commission was established to prepare a draft of the Rules and suggest means to assure the funds needed to make such a society work.

Dr. B. Frosterus, Finland, was elected President of this commission. Mr. J. Girsberger and Prof.

G. Wiegner, Switzerland were elected Members and Dr. H. Gessner, Switzerland was to act as the Secretary. The draft of the Rules was to be sent to soil scientists all over the world by the Secretary-General, Dr. D.J. Hissink.

A final meeting of the International Pedological Committee with the Presidents of the various commissions was convened by the President of the Organizing Committee, Prof. De Angelis d'Ossat at Rome on the eve of the Fourth Conference, 10 May 1924. At this meeting Dr. Frosterus reported that the Finnish Government had supported the publication of a book entitled "Mémoires sur la nomenclature et la classification des sols dans les pays suivants: Allemagne, Autriche, Danemark, Egypte, Finlande, France, Grande Bretagne, Hongrie, Irlande, Norvège, les Pays Bas, Pologne, Roumanie, Russie, Suède et Tschécoslovaquie".

Prof. Murgoci informed the meeting that the Government of Bulgaria had arranged for the publication of a book entitled "Etat de l'étude de la cartographie des sols dans divers pays de l'Europe, de l'Amérique du Nord, de l'Afrique et de l'Asie". One might perhaps say that these books are the forerunners of the FAO/Unesco Soil Map of the World to be presented 50 years later!

It was suggested by the President of the Organizing Committee that for the publication of a soil science journal co-operation with the international Institute of Agriculture in Rome should be solicited. This Institute might be willing to add a section on pedology to their existing journal, which was published in five languages. This suggestion met with the approval of the meeting. The Commission was enlarged with the members Lipman, Murgoci, Novaresse and Count Perotti to study the suggested co-operation and to adapt the draft of the Rules accordingly. At an appropriate time the draft would be presented to the General Meeting of the Conference for approval or rejection.

The Fourth International Pedological Conference started its programme as scheduled on 12 May 1924. It was organized on the basis of six commissions who met in three sections:

I and II Soil physics and soil chemistry

III and VI Soil bacteriology and biochemistry; application of soil science to agricultural hydraulics; plant physiology as related to soil science.

IV and V Nomenclature and classification; cartography.

Six general lectures by invited speakers, two excursions and the usual social events, completed the Conference.

During the morning session on the last day, 19 May 1924, the International Society of Soil Science was founded. The draft Rules were adopted unanimously. It seems of historical interest to reproduce them.

## RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

### *I. Name, objects and headquarters of the Society*

1. The Society shall be called the "International Society of Soil Science".  
(French: "Association Internationale de la Science du Sol")  
(German: "Internationale Bodenkundliche Gesellschaft")  
(Italian: "Società Internazionale della Scienza del Suolo")  
(Spanish: "Sociedad Internacional de la Ciencia del Suelo")
2. The object of the Society is the study and promotion of the soil science in general by means of:
  - (a) the organization of Congresses and Conferences;
  - (b) the formation of Sections and Committees;
  - (c) the publication of a review;
  - (d) the institution of a Central Office for Soil Science bibliography (documentation) at the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.
3. The headquarters of the Society is the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

### *II. Membership*

4. The Fourth International Conference founds the International Society of Soil Science. Persons taking part in this Conference have the right to join the Society as foundation members. Any individual or body corporate engaged in the study of soil science is eligible for ordinary membership of the Society. The names of new members must be proposed by two members and will be published in the review.
5. The Congress may appoint honorary members on a proposal made by the Executive Committee.
6. For particular countries sections may be formed within the Society, either for the study of soil science in general, or for the study of certain aspects of the subject. Every Section consisting of more than 15 members has the right to be represented on the General Committee by one member.

### *III. Constitution of the Society*

7. The Society carries out its work through the following bodies:
  - (a) the Executive Committee (Bureau),
  - (b) the General Committee,
  - (c) the Sub-Committees.
8. The Executive Committee is responsible for the general business of the Society. Its membership is as follows:
  - (I) the President,
  - (II) the Vice-President,
  - (III) two ordinary members,
  - (IV) a representative of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome,
  - (V) the General Secretary,
  - (VI) the Editor of the Review,
  - (VII) the Librarian.

The President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Librarian are appointed by a majority ballot vote of the members of the Association. A new election of the President, Vice-President, the ordinary members, the General Secretary and the Librarian takes place at each Congress. All are eligible for re-election with the exception of the President, who by the Rules of the Society must always be a member of the Society belonging to the country in which the next Congress will be held.

The representative of The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome is appointed by that Institute.

The duties of the General Secretary may be discharged by one of the other members of the Executive Committee. The necessary staff and funds will be found by the same body.

The editor of the Review is elected by the General Committee: he continues in office and can only be removed by a two-thirds majority of the General Committee.

9. The General Committee is composed of the Executive Committee and a certain number of members elected by the Congress by show of hands, and also representatives of the Sections and of the Sub-Committee.

Each State has the right to be represented on the General Committee by at least one member.

The General Committee drafts the agenda for the Congress and for the Sub Committees. It meets as required, and at least once between two meetings of the Congress.

The President of the Executive Committee is chairman of the General Committee.

10. The Sub-Committees are appointed by the Congress or by the General Committee for the study of particular aspects of soil science. They determine their own constitution and have the

right to add to their numbers directly. They are represented on the General Committee by one member.

#### *IV. The Congress*

11. The Congress is under the General patronage of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome.
12. A Congress must be summoned at least every five years by the Executive Committee by arrangement with the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. All members of the Association shall be invited, as well as persons specially qualified in Soil Science who are not already members.  
The Executive Committee will fix the place and date of the Congress after consultation with the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. In this connection it is necessary, as far as possible, to consider the wishes expressed by the preceding Congress.
13. The scientific work of the Congress consists in the presentation of reports, discussions, demonstrations, and where desirable, in the arrangement of exhibitions. In addition the Congress has the following duties of an administrative order:
  - (a) The consideration of the Report of the Vice-President on the work of the Association since the preceding Congress;
  - (b) The consideration of the Report of the General Secretary on the financial situation and also the report of the auditors and final approval of the accounts: election of auditors for the next financial period.
  - (c) Election of the President, Vice-President, two ordinary members, the General Secretary, the Librarian, the three auditors as well the remaining members of the General Committee, in so far as the Congress has power to make such appointments.

#### *V. The Review*

14. The Review is published by the Executive Committee under the direction of the editor. The printing and publication is undertaken by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. It will appear in separate numbers, forming an annual volume, beginning with January 1, 1925. It is a purely scientific review for original work on general soil science.  
It also serves the following purposes:
  - (a) The establishment of as full a conspectus as possible of the most recent publications concerning soil science as a whole and kindred subjects.
  - (b) Abstracts of the most important of the recent publications.
  - (c) Publication of information relating to the activities of the Society in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.
15. The Executive Committee will supply the editor with the staff and means to carry out his work. The Sections and Sub-Committees appoint their own assistants, whose business it is to collect the documentation and to publish information relating to the Society, so far as it relates to the special work of the Section or Sub-Committee.
16. The members of the society are entitled to receive the Review gratuitously after payment of their annual subscription.

#### *VI. Finance of the Society*

17. The funds of the Society are provided as follows:
  - (a) by the annual subscription of members; the amount to be fixed each year by the Executive Committee;
  - (b) by the amounts of subscriptions to the Review and advertisements charges, as well as by the sale of reprints and special publications;
  - (c) by voluntary contributions.
18. The Executive Committee decides as to the application of the funds and the General Secretary is in charge of finance.
19. The annual accounts must be closed at the end of the calendar year, and forwarded to the auditors and returned by them to the Executive Committee within a month at latest. The accounts are wound up each year by the Executive Committee on the certificate of the auditors.
20. The Executive Committee has the right to settle all questions that are not covered by the regulations as it sees fit and also to give decisions in all doubtful cases as regards their interpretation.
21. Proposals as to alterations in the rules may be made by any member of the Association, but must be sent in writing to the Executive Committee at least three months before the Congress, and for their acceptance a two-thirds majority of the votes given is required.
22. The Society can only be dissolved after a vote taken on a report recommending dissolution and

published in the Review at least a year before the vote is taken. The society can only be dissolved if two-thirds of all the members are agreed.

In the case of the dissolution of the Society, the Executive Committee shall decide in what way the funds of the Society shall be used for the furtherance of Soil Science work.

These Rules were effective until 1950 when the first post World War II Congress was held in Amsterdam.

The Proceedings of the Fourth International Pedological Conference were published by the International Agricultural Institute at Rome in 1926. They contain, as final section of the Official report of the Secretary-General of the Italian Organizing Committee, Prof. Count Perotti, an enumeration of the conclusions. It is his opinion that if this Conference would have had as the only result the foundation of an International Society of Soil Science, it still would have been of great historical importance. The newly founded Society, represented by delegates from 39 countries, approved the conclusions. This act may be considered as its first official activity. They read as follows:

- 1) Uniformisation des méthodes d'analyse du sol;
- 2) Standardisation des recherches microbiologiques sur le sol;
- 3) Programme d'étude pour établir une nomenclature et une classification définitive des sols;
- 4) Elaboration d'une carte internationale agro-géologique de l'Europe à 1/500.000 et 1/2.500.000;
- 5) Organisation des études pédologiques dans les pays où elles n'existent pas encore;
- 6) Introduction de l'étude de la pédologie dans le programme des écoles moyennes et supérieures;
- 7) Constitution définitive de la VIème Commission: Physiologie végétale en relation avec la pédologie;
- 8) Convocation du Ier Congrès International de la Science du Sol en Amérique.

They clearly show the relatively early stage of development of soil science: the need for standardization of methods of research, for a soil map of Europe at a large and small scale, for the introduction of soil science at various levels of education and the creation of Commission VI for the study of plant-soil relationship.

That some of these programmatic conclusions were over-ambitious follows e.g. from a more detailed proposal of Commission V to prepare for the next Congress in the U.S.A. (suggested year 1928) not only soil maps of Europe at scales of 1 : 500.000 and 1 : 2.500.000, but also accompanying maps on climate, vegetation, agriculture, etc.

The decision to hold the first international congress in the USA is certainly a great step forward to internationalize organized soil science. This resulted from a proposal by Prof. Lipman, who in accordance with the Rules was elected the first President of the International Society of Soil Science. The General Meeting also approved the nomination of Dr. Hissink as Acting President and Secretary-General.

As Vice-Presidents were nominated the President of the Italian Organizing Committee, Professor de Angelis d'Ossat, and the Chairman of the Committee on the Rules, Dr. B. Frosterus.

Seven Honorary Members were also elected:

Prof. Dr. L. Cayeux, Paris  
Prof. Dr. K. Glinka, Petrograd  
Prof. Dr. Jos. Kopecky, Prague  
Prof. Dr. G. Murgoci, Bucharest  
Prof. Dr. E. Ramann, München  
Sir John Russell, Rothamsted-Harpenden  
Prof. Dr. S. Winogradsky, Brie Comte Robert

who in their time were the most outstanding scientists. They have exerted a lasting influence on the development of soil science.

In the years following the foundation of the Society on 19 May, 1924, and the then planned Congress in the USA in 1927, only two more international meetings could be held, in 1930 (USSR) and in 1935 (UK).

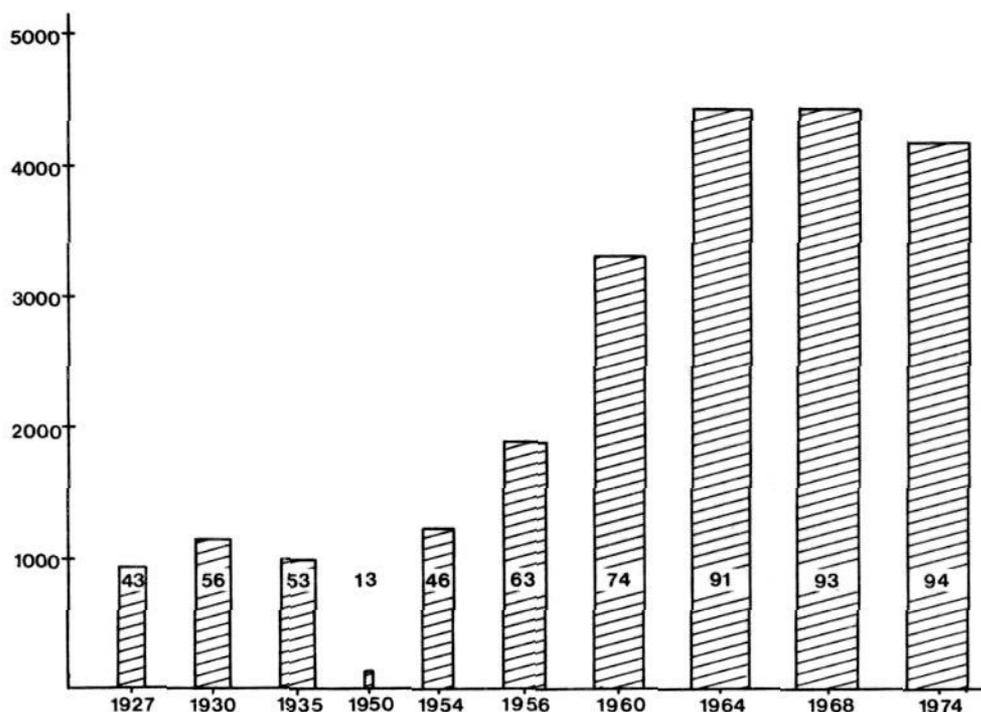
The forecasting shadow of World War II made itself already felt shortly after the Oxford Congress in 1935.

The rupture caused by this war had an even more devastating influence on international relationships than its predecessor 1914-1918.

It took no less than ten years before the 4th Congress was convened in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1950, thanks to the activity of the 76 year old Secretary-General and Acting President, Dr. D.J. Hissink.

The re-founded Society enrolled 107 participants as members, representing eleven National Societies, viz. Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Union of South Africa, USA and USSR. Since then 26 National Societies have been enlisted.

The following table gives the total number of ISSS members and countries of residence in the years of the ten international congresses.



From these members a few outstanding scientists have been nominated honorary member of the Society:

- 1924 Prof. Dr. L. Cayeux, France (died 1944)  
 Prof. Dr. K. Glinka, USSR (died 1927)  
 Prof. Dr. Jos. Kopecky, Czechoslovakia (died 1935)  
 Prof. Dr. G. Murgoci, Rumania (died 1925)  
 Prof. Dr. E. Ramann, Germany (died 1926)  
 Sir John Russell, UK (died 1953)  
 Prof. Dr. S. Winogradski, USSR (died 1953)
- 1927 Prof. Dr. P. Treitz, Hungary (died 1935)
- 1935 Prof. Dr. Dr. E.A. Mitscherlich, Germany (died 1956)  
 Prof. Dr. A. d'Sigmond, Hungary (died 1939)  
 Prof. Dr. J. Stoklasa, Czechoslovakia (died 1936)  
 Prof. Dr. G. Wiegner, Switzerland (died 1936)
- 1950 Prof. Dr. A. Demolon, France (died 1954)  
 Dr. D.J. Hissink, Netherlands (died 1956)  
 Prof. Dr. W.P. Kelley, USA (died 1965)
- 1954 Prof. Dr. Sante Mattson, Sweden  
 Prof. Dr. E. Truog, USA (died 1969)
- 1956 Prof. Dr. G. Bertrand, France (died 1964)  
 Prof. Dr. E.C.J. Mohr, Netherlands (died 1970)
- 1960 Dr. Firman A. Bear, USA (died 1968)

- 1964 Prof.Dr. J.A. Prescott, Australia
- 1968 Prof.Dr. F. Hardy, UK  
Prof.Dr.Dr. W.L. Kubiena, Germany (died 1970)  
Dr. L.A. Richards, USA  
Prof.Dr. A.A. Rode, USSR

At the 1950 Congress English and French were initially chosen as working-languages whilst German regained its former place in 1954.

A committee existing of Dr. R. Bradfield, Dr. W.R. Domingo, Prof. A. Oudin, Dr. E.W. Russell and Prof. O. Tamm drafted new rules. They were accepted tentatively by the meeting demanding approval at the next congress. With minor changes in 1954 they have been valid until 1966, when a new committee composed of the members Prof. E. Mückenhausen, Dr. E.W. Russell and Prof. R. Tavernier conceived the rules, which are operative until now.





**The Foundation of ISSS**  
Rome, 19 May 1924



**J. G. Lipman**  
President 1924—1927  
(First Congress)



**K. Gedroiz**  
President 1927—1930  
(Second Congress)



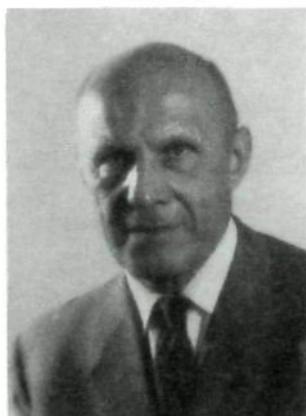
**Sir John Russell**  
President 1930—1935  
(Third Congress)



**F. Schucht**  
President 1935—1941  
Editor Soil Research  
1924—1941



**C. H. Edelman**  
President 1950  
(Fourth Congress)



**R. Tavernier**  
President 1950—1954  
(Fifth Congress)



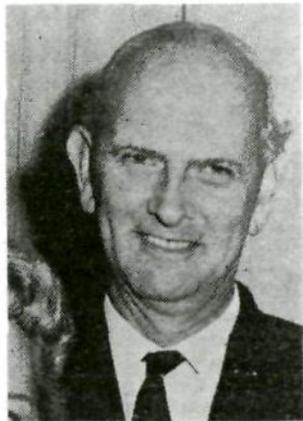
**A. Oudin**  
President 1954—1956  
(Sixth Congress)



**R. Bradfield**  
President 1956—1960  
(Seventh Congress)



**N. C. Cernescu**  
President 1960—1964  
(Eighth Congress)



**E. G. Hallsworth**  
President 1964—1968  
(Ninth Congress)



**V. A. Kovda**  
President 1968—1974  
(Tenth Congress)



**D. J. Hissink**  
Secretary-General  
1924—1950



**F. A. van Baren**  
Secretary-General  
1950—

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ISSS

The existence of an International Society of Soil Science was demonstrated by the implementation of the following programme:

1. The publication of a journal;
2. The organization of International Congresses and Commission Conferences.

### 1. *The Journal*

By publishing the Proceedings of the International Society of Soil Science (green covered, 1925-1938); Soil Research, Supplement to the Proceedings of the ISSS (red covered, 1928-1938), continued as Soil Research Organ of the ISSS (red covered, 1939-1944), with Supplements containing official Communications (white covered, 1939-1944), the Society had an important task in the dissimination of newly acquired knowledge, suggestions for soil research and in laying contacts between the growing number of pedologists in the world.

The first two volumes of the Proceedings were published by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome in five separate editions in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. The Proceedings formed part of the IIA journal International Review of the Science and Practice of Agriculture. From 1927 onwards the ISSS series were published by the Executive Committee of ISSS in Germany as a result of a conclusion taken during the First International Congress of Soil Science, Washington, following the decision by IIA to discontinue its publication due to excessively high costs which could neither be born by the IIA, nor by the ISSS.

The journals now contained contributions in German, English and French, but Italian, Russian and Spanish were admitted.

Under the active editorship of Prof. Schucht (until his death in 1941, when Prof. Dr. F. Giesecke took over) and with the help of Dr. E.M. Crowther (UK) and Dr. A.J. Demolon (France) for English and French contributions the series contained original articles in all fields of soil science and reports on the results of investigations carried out by the Commissions on special subjects (such as soil reaction measurements, mechanical analysis and soil colours). Much attention was given to regional soil science, soil classification and soil survey.

A large part of the Proceedings was reserved for reviews of books and articles in other journals. A total of nearly 10,000 reviews has appeared during the lifespan of the journal. It also contained news on the activities of the Society and its Commissions and personalia.

After World War II no new issues appeared and the Fourth Congress decided in 1950 to discontinue the series, their place being taken by other international soil science journals.

Instead a bi-annual Bulletin of the International Society of Soil Science was to be published. It started in 1952 and provides news on the Society, the Commissions, coming events and personalia, while the section with book reviews announces the appearance of the more important new publications.

In conclusion it may be said that the series of ISSS journals have undoubtedly played an important role in the internationalization of soil science.

The journals of the past as well as the Bulletin of today are proven experience of the valuable link between the thousands of ISSS members all around the world.

### 2. *International Congresses and Commission Meetings*

The following international congresses have been held:

1st Congress	1927	Washington, D.C., USA, Pres. Dr. J.G. Lipman
2nd Congress	1930	Leningrad, USSR, Pres. Prof. Dr. K. Gedroiz
3rd Congress	1935	Oxford, UK, Pres. Sir John Russell
4th Congress	1950	Amsterdam, Netherlands, Pres. Prof. Dr. C.H. Edelman
5th Congress	1954	Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, Pres. Prof. Dr. R. Tavernier
6th Congress	1956	Paris, France, Pres. Prof. Dr. A. Oudin
7th Congress	1960	Madison, Wisc., USA, Pres. Dr. R. Bradfield
8th Congress	1964	Bucharest, Rumania, Pres. Acad. Dr. N.C. Cernescu
9th Congress	1968	Adelaide, Australia, Pres. Dr. E.G. Hallsworth

The 10th Congress will be held in Moscow, USSR, under the Presidency of Prof. Dr. V.A. Kovda.

Divided over the six, and later seven Commissions, the following papers have been presented:

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	other papers	total papers
1927	22	44	50	26	58	22	—	8	230
1930	25	31	58	41	66	29	—	16	266
1935	22	22	18	35	39	18	—	—	154
1950	28	71	27	46	99	12	—	—	283
1954	18	30	23	20	65	20	—	—	176
1956	53	58	76	68	105	39	—	—	399
1960	37	46	38	81	67	35	18	—	322
1964	53	54	67	107	114	41	36	26	498
1968	35	23	61	47	62	62	14	6	310

When joint sessions of two or more Commissions were held, the number of papers have been equally divided over the participating Commissions. When special symposia were organized, the papers are mentioned under "other papers".

The number of volumes and pages of the Congress Proceedings are as follows:

1927	5 volumes, 2928 pages	1956	5 volumes, 3106 pages
1930	7 volumes, 1996 pages	1960	4 volumes, 2594 pages
1935	3 volumes, 892 pages	1964	5 volumes, 5814 pages
1950	4 volumes, 1114 pages	1968	4 volumes, 3100 pages
1954	4 volumes, 1824 pages		

A large number of Commission Meetings have been convened since the foundation of the Society. These are sessions of one Commission only or joint sessions of two or more Commissions. The following review may be proof of the very active international life in the fields of specialized soil science.

#### THE PERIOD 1924-1940

##### *Commission I - Soil Physics*

1926	Rothamsted, UK	1929	Groningen, Netherlands
1927	Brno, Czechoslovakia	1934	Versailles, France
1929	Prague, Czechoslovakia	1939	Bangor, UK

##### *Commission II - Soil Chemistry*

1926	Groningen, Netherlands	1938	Helsinki, Finland
1929	Budapest, Hungary		

##### *Commission III - Soil Biology*

1925	Berlin, Germany	1929	Stockholm, Sweden
1926	Berlin, Germany	1939	New Brunswick, USA

##### *Commission IV - Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition*

1926	Düsseldorf, Germany	1939	Stockholm, Sweden
1929	Königsberg, Germany		

##### *Commission V - Soil Genesis, Classification and Cartography*

1929	Danzig, Germany	1938	Helsinki, Finland
1937	Vienna, Austria		

1925 Berlin, Germany and 1926 Budapest, Hungary: Sub-Commission General Map of the Soils of Europe.

1929 Budapest, Hungary and 1933 Copenhagen, Denmark: Sub-Commission Alkali Soils.

1929 Stockholm, Sweden: Sub-Commission for Forest Soils.

##### *Commission VI - Soil Technology*

1929	Prague, Czechoslovakia	1937	Zürich/Lausanne, Switzerland
1932	Groningen, Netherlands		

##### *Commissions II, III and IV*

1933	Copenhagen, Denmark	1936	Königsberg, Germany
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## THE PERIOD 1950-1974

### *Commissions I and VI (Soil-Water Physics and Technology)*

1971 Rehovot, Israel

### *Commissions II and IV*

1952 Dublin, Ireland

1958 Hamburg, Fed. Rep. of Germany

1966 Aberdeen, UK

1972 New Dehli, India (*Soil Fertility Evaluation*)

### *Commission III (Soil Zoology)*

1958 Rothamsted, UK

1962 Oosterbeek, Netherlands

### *Commission III (Dynamics in Soil Zoology)*

1966 Braunschweig-Völkenrode, Fed. Rep. of Germany

### *Commissions IV and V*

1962 Palmerston North, New Zealand

### *Commission V (Mediterranean Soils)*

1966 Madrid, Spain

### *Commissions V and VI (Pseudogley & Gley)*

1971 Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Fed. Rep. of Germany

### *Commission VI (Sprinkling Irrigation)*

1958 Copenhagen, Denmark

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### *Commission I - Soil Physics*

1963 The Soil Physics Terminology Committee, established at the 7th Congress in 1960, publishes a list of definitions (Bulletin 23, 1963).

An enlarged revised edition is issued in Bulletin 44, 1974.

1966 The West-European Working Group on Soil Structure publishes the manual West-European West-European Methods for Soil Structure Determination, in English. The co-operating specialists are residents of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Fed. Rep. of Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. A supplement is published in 1969.

1967 The Middle and East-European Working Group on Soil Structure publishes a manual on working methods on soil structure in German and Russian. The co-operating specialists are residents of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Dem. Rep., Hungary, Poland, Rumania and the USSR.

### *Commission III - Soil Biology*

1964 The first number of a Soil Biology Bulletin is distributed. It is edited by Dr. J. Pochon and Dr. P. Tardieux of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. For a number of years the project enjoyed financial support of Unesco, but it is now self-supporting.

### *Commission IV - Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition*

1952 The Working Committee on International Co-operation in Field Trials on Soil Fertility is formed to study the possibilities of setting up field experiments on a European scale. The countries co-operating in the Working Committee are Austria, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Fed. Rep. of Germany, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. The first report appears in 1959 (Bulletin 15), progress reports in 1962 (Bulletin 20) and 1965 (Bulletin 26), and the final report is presented in 1972.

Also this project has received financial support of Unesco.

*Commission V - Soil Genesis, Classification and Cartography*

- 1956 A Working Group is established to co-ordinate the work on a general legend of the Soil Map of Europe to be presented at the Madison Congress in 1960. The Working Group meets in 1958, Zagreb, Yugoslavia; 1959, Moscow, USSR; and 1960, Budapest, Hungary.
- 1961 The Soil Map of the World Project is launched. It is financed by FAO and Unesco and executed by FAO's World Soil Resources Office under the leadership of Dom Luis Bramao, and later under Dr. R. Dudal.  
ISSS is the co-operating organization and as such represented in the Advisory Panel of the Project.  
The first presentation of the map takes place during the 8th Congress, 1964. The second, more complete set of draft maps in on display at the 9th Congress, 1968. Volume IV in the series of the Soil Map of the World, covering South America, is published in 1971 together with an explanatory text. Maps of other continents are in various stages of development.
- 1964 The Sub-Commission on Salt-affected Soils, established at the Bucharest Congress to succeed the Alkali Sub-Commission, meets for the first time in 1967, Budapest, Hungary. This is followed by meetings in 1968, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia; 1969, Yerevan, Armenian SSR, USSR; 1970, Smolenice, Czechoslovakia; and 1972, Cairo, Egypt.  
Draft maps of salt-affected soils on a continental scale were presented. Selected papers of the Yerevan meeting and a book on European Solonetz Soils, edited by the Chairman of the Sub-Commission, Prof. Dr. I. Szabolcs, are published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, in 1970 and 1971 respectively.  
Australian Soils with Saline and Sodic Properties by K.H. Northcote and J.K.M. Skene appears in 1972 as CSIRO Soil Publication No. 27

## GENERAL

- 1954 The first copy of FAO's Multilingual Vocabulary of Soil Science is presented by Dr. V. Ignatieff of FAO at the occasion of the 5th International Congress at Leopoldville. The collection of terms was started by Dr. H. Greene in 1949 and the vocabulary was finalized by G.V. Jacks. The languages are Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. In 1960 a revised edition is published by FAO, and Russian is added to the languages of the vocabulary. The editors of this edition are G.V. Jacks, R. Tavernier and D.H. Boalch.
- 1958 The First Working Meeting on Soil Micromorphology is held on the initiative of Prof. Dr. W.L. Kubiena in Braunschweig-Völkenrode, Fed. Rep. of Germany. The second meeting is held in 1964, Arnhem, Netherlands, the third in 1969, Wrocław, Poland; and the fourth in 1973, Kingston, Canada.  
During the 1969 meeting the Working Group for Soil Micromorphology is established, and meetings are held in
- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1970 Wageningen, Netherlands            | 1972 Sevilla, Spain   |
| 1970 Ghent, Belgium                     | 1972 Paris, France    |
| 1971 Moscow, USSR                       | 1973 Zakopane, Poland |
| 1971 Braunschweig, Fed. Rep. of Germany | 1974 Harpenden, UK    |
- The Sub-Group on Organic Matter meets in
- |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| 1972 Brunoy, France                  |
| 1973 Wageningen, Netherlands         |
| 1974 Stuttgart, Fed. Rep. of Germany |
- A first draft of a Manual of Soil Micromorphological Terms in five languages (English, French, German, Russian and Spanish) has been prepared.  
Also this project receives financial assistance of Unesco.
- 1964 On the occasion of the 8th International Congress in Bucharest, the Rumanian Organizing Committee edited a Soil Science Dictionary. The languages are English, French, German, Rumanian, and Russian.
- 1970 A Symposium on the Age of Parent Material and Soils is organized conjointly with INQUA and Unesco in Amsterdam.
- 1972 A Symposium on Fundamentals of Transport Phenomena is sponsored conjointly with the Section on Flow through Porous Media of the International Association for Hydraulic Research (IAHR) in Guelph, Canada.
- 1972 ISSS sponsors the International Symposium on Acid Sulphate Soils in Wageningen, Netherlands. It is organized by the Agricultural University and the International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement both in Wageningen, and Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden, UK.

## SPECIAL CONTACTS

The International Society of Soil Science maintains international relationships on a consulting basis with three specialized agencies of the United Nations: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, Rome, Italy), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco, Paris, France), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, Geneva, Switzerland). The Society is accepted as Scientific Associate in the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU, Paris, France).

For co-ordinating various activities in the field of soils, the Society is co-operating with several other international organizations, e.g.

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, Vienna, Austria),

the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID, New Delhi, India),

the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN, Morges, Switzerland),

the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA, Dublin, Ireland), and the Scientific Committee On Water Research (COWAR, Bad Krozingen, Fed. Rep. of Germany).



Amsterdam, May 19, 1974  
F. A. van Baren





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