



# UNITAS MALACOLOGICA

## Newsletter

Number 8

June 1995

### EDITORIAL

Since July 1987, when the first Unitas Malacologica Newsletter was published, Dr. Claus Meier-Brook has been the editor of this modest, critical and informative journal. During the years there have been problems of various kinds, criticism from various sides, delay in publication, etc., but nevertheless the conviction has remained that a newsletter is important. For that reason we have temporarily taken over the editorial work, when the editor in charge announced that he was forced to stop because of a dramatic decrease in institutional support. We sincerely hope to be able to find another editor (or editors) in the near future! We would very much appreciate any kind of constructive proposal. Finally we want to thank Dr. Claus Meier-Brook for all his voluntary work for the U.M. Newsletter!

Edmund Gittenberger & Jeroen Goud  
Temporary Editors

### AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Malacological Union  
King Leopold III Foundation  
Malacological Society of Australasia  
Malakoloski Muzej  
Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging  
Naturmuseum Senckenberg  
Società Italiana di Malacologia  
Société Française de Malacologie  
Society for Experimental and Descriptive  
Malacology

Contacts with several additional malacological organisations exist, but have not (yet) been formalized. This is declared a point of action for the U.M. Council.

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UNITAS MALACOLOGICA Newsletter

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### UNITAS MALACOLOGICA

. . . to further the study of Mollusca by individual malacologists, and by societies and institutions all over the world.

### NEWSLETTER

biannual (in principle)

### INTERNATIONAL MALACOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Next: 1995, Vigo, Spain

Following: 1998

### INCORRECT ADDRESS?

If your address label is incorrect, please do not inform the editor of the U.M. Newsletter. You should **inform the Treasurer**, who will up-date his list and print the labels for mailing.

### COUNCIL OF UNITAS MALACOLOGICA 1992 -1995

#### *President:*

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CSIC Inst. de Investigaciones Marinas,  
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#### *Treasurer:*

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Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuur-  
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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current annual subscription to Unitas Malacologica is Swiss francs 25.--

Account no.: 10-941,085.0, Swiss Bank Corporation, CH-4002 Basel.

For about one year, Unitas Malacologica is affiliated with the Bank Card Company which covers Visa, Eurocard and Mastercard. Many members already took advantage of this system and paid their contributions by one of these credit cards.

Since the Vigo Congress is coming close it may be a good reason for you to check your status and look if there is no invoice from me waiting on your desk for action. It would be a great relief if at least all members attending the next congress would update their membership dues. Besides the three mentioned credit cards, all other kinds of payment mentioned in previous newsletters are still acceptable: international postal money order, payment by eurocheque or personal cheque, by bank draft or even by sending cash money. Only in this very last case, I have the practice of sending a receipt. This immediately informs the sender about the safe reception of his money and contributes to a better night's rest.

Yours truly,

Jackie Van Goethem, Treasurer U.M.

#### *Members of Council:*

Dr. Arthur E. Bogan,  
Freshw.Moll. Res., 36 Venus Way, Sewell,  
N.J. 08080, U.S.A.

Dr. Philippe Bouchet,  
Lab. Biol. Inv. Mar.,  
55 rue de Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France.

Dr. Beata M. Pokryszko,  
Mus. Nat. Hist., Sienkiewicza 21,  
PL-50-335 Wroclaw, Poland.

Dr. Winston F. Ponder,  
Australian Museum, 6-8 College str.,  
Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.

#### *Retired President:*

Prof. Folco Giusti,  
Dipart. di Biologia Evolutiva,  
Università di Siena,  
Via Mattioli 4, I-53100 Siena, Italy.  
Tel.+39 57 7298906; fax+39 57 7298898

**Dear UNITAS Members,**

I take the opportunity to welcome our latest Newsletter which, as you can see, has undergone some changes, to inform you about the actual progress in the organization of the 12th International Malacological Congress, to be held in Vigo, September 3-8, 1995. Some personal notes on U.M. and its future have been added.

The third circular concerning the Congress, containing a detailed provisional programme, will be sent out these days to those who have registered. Please contact the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Francisco Rocha [Inst. Invest. Marinas, Eduardo Cabello 6, E 36208 VIGO, Spain - tel. +34.86.231930, fax +34.86.292762] if you are interested but did not receive that third circular. Advertising posters have been sent to c. 150 institutions world-wide. We tried to do everything possible to announce the event the best possible way.

In the local committee that is responsible for the organization of the Congress people cooperate from all over Spain, though in particular from Galicia. This committee proved to be very important in matters concerning subsidies, in contacting official bodies and both local and (inter)national authorities, etc. etc. All the organizers of symposia and workshops have been contacted to ensure efficiency and high quality presentations, as well as publication in prestigious journals afterwards. A company has been contracted which specializes in such diverse matters as lodging, audiovisual presentations, coffee-breaks, social events, technical equipment for the poster session, etc. Response from the local, civil and academic authorities so far is excellent. Also, various companies and firms have expressed their interest in sponsoring our Congress.

As was indicated in the second circular, a U.M. grant system was organized, to help with the travel expenses of those who would not be able to attend the Vigo Congress without financial support. Because of limitations in the U.M. budget, a strong selection had to be made. In addition, two North American agencies have been contacted, to try to obtain grants to help scientists from the former Soviet Union.

In summary, much has been done or is going on still. I sincerely hope that, with your help, there will be a large number of participants, from a wide variety of malacological subdisciplines, attending the Vigo Congress.

Last year, July 15-17, 1994, Vigo was the

setting of a UNITAS MALACOLOGICA Executive Council meeting. Among other decisions taken, the Council decided to propose the General Assembly to organize the 1998 U.M. Congress in Washington, D.C., in close cooperation with the American Malacological Union. I personally consider this an extremely good proposal, as it emphasizes our international outlook and our concern to cooperate with other malacological organizations world-wide.

As always, I am at your disposal for whatever you may require. Please do not hesitate to send me any suggestions and/or comments which you feel are appropriate to enable UNITAS MALACOLOGICA to function as it should do, as well as for an optimal organization of the forthcoming Congress.

With kind regards,  
*Angel Guerra*  
*President U.M.*

APOLOGIES OF THE SECRETARY
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A still increasing bureaucracy in my two jobs, the nearly total lack of secretarial support in both, the grant system becoming more important than before to conquer scientific/student positions, a second reduction in staff members this year, all that resulted in frustrations. In particular I regret that sometimes my U.M. secretarial correspondence had to be neglected for inacceptably long periods. Valuable initiatives and important developments in our field had to be neglected as well. Sometimes it is very obvious that something would be highly relevant for the benefit of malacology, but if it implies time and energy to be spend, it often cannot be done. Something else should be cancelled then, and that alternative might also be a problematic one.

The U.M. travel grant project, for example, highly relevant for U.M. and its goals, did result in additionally sending far over 100 letters. The computer did help, but not all letters were standard, addresses had to be typed in at least once, etc. In fact, U.M. is hardly equipped to have this done, just as volunteers work. U.M. could and should do more, but that is impossible without additional help of members.

Maybe this is not the best way to

advertise a future vacancy at my actual position of U.M. Secretary, but it is an honest one. On the other hand, we should not see everything too tragic. A compromise is still better than nothing at all. For the moment being, I apologize and meanwhile I ask for your help. Please come with suggestions and initiatives, but while doing so, never neglect the two basic points: - who will and can do it?, - what does it cost?

*Edmund Gittenberger*  
Secretary U.M.

**A NEW COUNCIL OF UNITAS  
MALACOLOGICA,  
for the period 1995-1998**

The U.M. Council does not represent a political party. There is no opposition with its own candidates, trying to take over. On the contrary, it is always a relief, when we have found new candidate Council members with a sufficiently broad expertise, idealism, and the willingness to spend some of their time and energy on U.M. affairs. There is no payment. There is no secretarial support. Whenever possible, travel expenses (in particular to attend the annual Council meeting) should be paid by the Council members' institutes, not (all) by U.M.

We think to have found some competent people, but nevertheless I have to emphasize that additional candidates can be proposed if supported by at least five personal U.M. members.

On the voting form at the backpage of this Newsletter you will find the names of:

**Prof. Dr. Klaus Bandel:**  
Geologisches-Paläontologisches Institut und  
Museum, Bundesstrasse 55, D 20146 HAMBURG,  
Germany

**Dr. Rüdiger Bieler:** Division of Invertebrates,  
Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt  
Road, CHICAGO, IL 60605-2496, U.S.A.

**Dr. Yuri I. Kantor:** A.N. Severtzov Institute of  
Problems of Evolution, Russian Acad. Sci., Lenin  
Avenue 33, MOSCOW 117071, Russia

**Dr. John D. Taylor:** Department of Zoology, The

Natural History Museum, LONDON SW7 5BD,  
U. K.

*Edmund Gittenberger*  
Secretary U.M.

**U.M. TRAVEL GRANTS**

Last year, looking forward to the 12th International Malacological Congress, in Vigo, Unitas Malacologica Travel Grants were introduced. If you have paid your fees, you may have the positive feeling now, to have contributed to this initiative. It aims at enabling people to attend our Congresses who would otherwise not be able to do so. The maximum support given was US \$ 1000.

Anyone actively involved in the study of malacology, either professional or amateur, could apply for a grant. However, preference was given to postgraduate students and malacologists who do not have ready access to alternative travel funds. A major aim was (and is) to obtain a wider representation at our congresses of malacologists from areas such as Asia, South America and Eastern Europe than has been the case in the past. Applicants do not need to be members of U.M., but will be encouraged to join.

Applicants were judged on the basis of both merit and need by a committee consisting of two U.M. Council members and two members of the local Congress Organizing Committee. To be selected, applicants must a. o. present a paper or a poster; it is also expected that they will provide at least 25% of the funding themselves.

In total, 46 applications arrived in time to be considered by the committee. This concerned a world-wide reaction, from the following countries: Argentina (2), Australia (4), Austria, Brazil (7), China, Cuba (2), Ecuador, Ghana, Hungary, India (3), Ireland, Malta, Nicaragua, North Ireland, Philippines, Poland (2), Russia (4), Slovakia, South Africa (3), Turkey, Ukraina (4), U.S.A. (3). Because of financial limitations, only 11, thus about 25%, of the applications could be granted.

We hope to be able to go on with providing travel grants. To do so, we need your support! Please pay your fees.

*Edmund Gittenberger*  
Secretary U.M.

**NATIONAL, REGIONAL OR  
INTERNATIONAL?  
Unitas Malacologica at the crossroads**

Since *Unitas Malacologica Europaea* was founded more than 30 years ago, several minor changes have been made in its constitution. By dropping the "*Europaea*" part of the name, the intention was to make *Unitas Malacologica* representative of all malacologists worldwide. However, until now, this has been essentially a change in name and not a change in scope: congresses are still held in Europe, and membership is still mostly European.

*Unitas Malacologica*, through its membership, is now facing a more fundamental evolution. There are different issues that are best discussed separately: location of congresses; composition of UM council; need for a regional European organization.

### 1. Location of congresses.

Whereas UME was somewhat ahead of its time in the early sixties by organizing European-wide congresses, it has now become untenable to pretend to be "international" and yet meet exclusively in Europe. To name just a few, international symposiums on coral reefs, evolutionary biology or deep-sea biology etc., international congresses in geology, botany, ichthyology or echinoderms are held, usually at 3 years intervals, in various continents.

The cost of attending a congress in America, Asia or Australia has been said to be a deterrent to many European malacologists who are regular "customers" of UM congresses. Although I admit that I myself would probably have difficulties to attend an international malacological congress in Japan, the argument of cost is, in my opinion, totally irrelevant to the issue. I wish here to draw a parallel with certain techniques in systematics: don't we have symposia on molecular systematics of molluscs, despite the fact that these techniques are expensive and cannot be afforded by many malacologists?

I don't think we should even consider introducing the new rule that every other congress must be held in Europe. We should simply cancel the rule that UM congresses

must be held in Europe. Circumstances will determine where it serves best the interests of our discipline to have our international congresses.

### 2. Composition of UM council.

International scientific organizations are identified by a certain number of attributes: English as a working language; international membership; international representation in council; international location of congresses.

Due to its European roots, *Unitas Malacologica* is now standing half-way between a regional and an international organization. Membership of the council has for a long time excluded Asians, South Americans or Aussies, because it was felt (by Europeans) that these colleagues lived in parts of the world too far away, and that neither them nor *Unitas* could afford the cost of travelling round the world for just a council meeting. Although I reckon the importance of personal contacts (and that's precisely what congresses are for), I believe that the era when council members physically meet round a table for a couple of days has come to an end. I believe that much of the UM council business can be carried by electronic mail or other communication media. It is now time to open UM council to a more international representation.

### 3. The need for a regional European organization.

I admit that changing *Unitas Malacologica Europaea* to *Unitas Malacologica* leaves European malacologists orphaned of a regional umbrella organization. Whereas I advocate an international location for international UM congress, I think there is clearly a niche for regional European meetings/congresses/symposia. Europe boasts over a dozen active malacological societies which organize, sometimes at yearly intervals, national congresses. European malacologists are thus sollicitated by a plethora of opportunities, not to mention the many other kinds of meetings focussing on a biological question, a technique, or a habitat, rather than an animal group. It has become very difficult to

choose from all those congresses, which are not always properly advertised across the borders. Thus, the need for European-wide meetings is not altered by the internationalization of UM.

I imagine very well a situation when every year Europeans could choose to attend one of 2-3 thematic regional conferences, rather than one of 10 ill-defined national congresses. Just as AMU aims to fulfill this role in America, there is the need for some sort of organization/procedure to federate and coordinate the meetings of the European malacological societies on a regional level.

*Philippe Bouchet*

<p><b>LIST OF MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETIES</b> compiled by Philippe Bouchet</p>
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The present list provides addresses for 38 malacological societies and organisations. It updates the list published in 1988 in the UM newsletter, no. 2, and similarly focusses on societies "with scientific ambitions".

For countries where there are few malacological organisations (usually a single national organisation), the listing is not selective. For countries with many organisations (USA, Europe, Japan, Australasia), only the more professional ones are listed, although some of the U.S. and Japanese shell clubs are more scientific than others. Many of these groups are affiliated with the malacological societies listed below, in particular American Malacological Union and Malacological Society of Australasia.

Names and addresses of clubs, shell collectors associations, etc. are listed in "A Sheller's Directory of Clubs, Books, Periodicals and Dealers, 17th edition, 1994", distributed by Of Sea and Shore Publications, P.O. Box 219, Port Gamble, WA 98364, USA.

Another source of information on societies and clubs is the exhaustive list of "Malacological journals and newsletters, 1773-1990", compiled by Bieler & Kabat, 1991, Nautilus, 105: 39-61.

Societies are arranged by continent (Israel and Turkey under Europe), and alphabetical order of country.

### Africa

CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

7 Jan Booyens St.

Annlin, Pretoria 0182, South Africa

Publishes: The Strandloper

### America

SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE MALACOLOGIA

M.C. Mansur

Museu de Ciencias Naturais

Rua Dr Salvador França, 1427, 90610 Porto

Alegre RS, Brazil

Publishes: Informativo SBM (newsletter)

CONQUILIOLOGISTAS DO BRASIL

Caixa Postal 15011

Sao Paulo, SP 01599-970, Brazil

Publishes: Publicacoes Opcionais, Siratus

SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DE MALACOLOGIA  
c/o Martha Reguero

Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

Apartado Postal 70-305, Mexico 04510, D.F.,

Mexico

Publishes: Proceedings of meetings

SOCIEDAD MALACOLOGICA DEL URUGUAY

Jorge Pita, secretary

Casilla de Correo 1401, Montevideo 11000,

Uruguay

Publishes: Comunicaciones de la Sociedad Malacologica del Uruguay

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL AND APPLIED MALACOLOGY

P.O. Box 2715, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, USA

Publishes: Journal of Medical and Applied Malacology

CEPHALOPOD INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Secretary: Bernd-Ulrich Budelmann

The Marine Biomedical Institute

University of Texas

Galveston, TX 77550-0863, USA

Publishes: newsletter

AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL UNION

Secretary: David Hargreave

Department of Science Studies

Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008, USA  
Publishes: American Malacological Bulletin,  
AMU News (newsletter)

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF  
MALACOLOGISTS  
Treasurer: Henry W. Chaney  
Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA  
93105, USA  
Publishes: Annual Report

NATIONAL SHELLFISHERIES ASSOCIATION  
Steve Tettelbach  
Natural Science Division, Southampton College  
Southampton, NY 11968, USA  
Publishes: Journal of Shellfish Research

FRIENDS OF THE GASTROPODS  
c/o Warren Allmon  
Paleontological Research Institution  
1259 Trumansburg Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA  
Publishes: Amici Gastropodorum (newsletter)

SOCIEDAD VENEZOLANA DE  
MALACOLOGIA  
R. Santiago G., secretary  
Apartado Postal 47058  
Caracas 1041-A, Venezuela  
[address taken from the 1988 list; may not be  
valid any more]

#### Asia

CHINESE SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGY  
Prof Dr Qui Zhong-Yan  
Institute of Oceanology, Academia Sinica  
Qingdao, China  
Publishes: Transactions of the Chinese Society of  
Malacology

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA  
P.O. Box 34-35  
Taipei, Taiwan (Republic of China)  
Publishes: Bulletin of Malacology, Republic of  
China

Group of amateur and professional  
Malacologists/Conchologists in INDONESIA  
Laboratory of Malacology  
c/o Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense  
Jl. Ir.H. Juanda no.9  
Bogor 16122, West Java, Indonesia

Publishes: Asperitas (newsletter)

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN  
Secretary: Hiroshi Saito  
National Science Museum, Natural History  
Institute  
23-1 Hyakunincho-3, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169,  
Japan  
Publishes: Venus, Chiribotan (newsletter)

KOREAN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGY  
Dr Tae-Soon Yong, Secretary  
Department of Parasitology  
College of Medicine, Yonsei University  
CPO Box 8044, Seoul, South Korea  
Publishes: The Korean Journal of Malacology

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE  
PHILIPPINES  
Imelda F. Pagulayan, President  
Institute of Biology  
University of the Philippines  
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines  
Publishes: Proceedings of national conventions

#### Australasia

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
AUSTRALASIA  
c/o Australian Museum  
P.O. Box A285  
Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia  
Publishes: Journal of the Malacological Society  
of Australasia, Australian Shell News  
(newsletter)

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA  
c/o South Australian Museum  
North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia

#### Europe

ERSTEN VORALBERGER  
MALAKOLOGISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT  
c/o Andreas Kapp  
Sulzerweg 2, A-6830 Rankweil, Austria  
Publishes: Nachrichtenblatt

BELGISCHE VERENIGING VOOR  
CONCHYLIOLOGIE  
Secretary: R. De Roover  
Vorsterslaan 7, 2180 Ekerem-Donk, Belgium  
Publishes: Gloria Maris

SOCIETE BELGE DE MALACOLOGIE  
St Jobsstraat 8  
B-3400 Landen (Ezemaal), Belgium  
Publishes: Apex, Arion (newsletter)

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DE MALACOLOGIE  
55, rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France  
Publishes: Haliotis

ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE POUR L'ETUDE  
DES MOLLUSQUES CONTINENTAUX  
Musée Requien  
67, rue Joseph Vernet, 84000 Avignon, France  
Publishes: Vertigo

DEUTSCHE MALAKOZOLOGISCHEN  
GESELLSCHAFT  
c/o Dr Ronald Janssen  
Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg  
Senckenberganlage 25, 6000 Frankfurt a.M. 1,  
Germany  
Publishes: Archiv für Molluskenkunde,  
Mittheilungen

FRIEDRICH-HELD GESELLSCHAFT  
Richard-Wagner Strasse 10/II  
80333 München, Germany  
Publishes: Heldia, Jahresbericht

CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT  
BRITAIN & IRELAND  
S. Davies, Secretary  
5, The Deans, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8BG  
Great Britain  
Publishes: The Journal of Conchology, The  
Conchologists' Newsletter

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
G.B.J. Dussart, Secretary  
Christ Church College, North Holmes Road  
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1OU, Great Britain  
Publishes: Journal of Molluscan Studies; Bulletin  
(newsletter)

UNGARISCHE MALAKOLOGISCHE  
GESELLSCHAFT  
Andor Richnovszky, Secretary  
Kölcsey u.l., Baja 6500, Hungary  
Publishes: Soosiana

ISRAEL MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Daniel Korkos, Secretary  
P.O. Box 935, Kfar Saba, Israel  
Publishes: Argamon, Levantina (newsletter)

SOCIETA ITALIANA DI MALACOLOGIA  
c/o Acquario Civico  
viale Gadio 2, 20121 Milano, Italy  
Publishes: Bollettino Malacologico, Lavori  
(irregular), Notiziario (newsletter)

CENTRO ITALIANO DI STUDI  
MALACOLOGICI  
c/o Museo Civico di Zoologia  
via U. Aldrovandi 18, 00197 Roma, Italy  
Publishes: Notiziario CISMA

NEDERLANDSE MALACOLOGISCHE  
VERENIGING  
Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum  
Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden  
The Netherlands  
Publishes: Basteria, Correspondentieblad  
(newsletter)

SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE  
MALACOLOGIA  
Largo da Princesa 24, 1º Esq.  
1400 Lisboa, Portugal  
Publishes: Publicações Opcionais

MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF RUSSIA  
Ya. I. Starobogatov, President  
Zoological Institute  
Universitetskaya nab., 1  
199064 St Petersburg, Russia  
Publishes: Ruthenica

SOCIEDAD ESPANOLA DE MALACOLOGIA  
c/o Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales  
C. José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid  
Spain  
Publishes: Iberus, Noticiario (newsletter)

ISTANBUL MALACOLOGY ASSOCIATION  
c/o Kemal Geyram  
Etemefendi Cad. Firin Sk. No. 15  
Demirbag Apt. K.3D.6, Erenköy  
81060 Istanbul, Turkey

<p>WARSAWA, WROCLAW OR WASHINGTON, the 1998 U.M. Congress</p>
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Since U.M. congresses, our main activity, now attract malacologists from c. 50 countries all over the world, we may claim to have evolved towards a truly international organization. In my definition

of "international" the location is irrelevant. This development was evident already when the original (1962) epithet "Europaea", following *Unitas Malacologica*, was considered confusing and, therefore, deleted later on. Another, rather prosaic reason to erase the reference to the European origins of U.M., was the idea that funding might be easier that way.

Formally, there is no competition between U.M. and any other malacological organization. In practice, however, the situation is not yet ideal and could be improved relatively easily, to the benefit of malacology. In particular, the organization and timing of congresses needs our attention. Not everybody can afford a visit to more than one expensive congress yearly. To be more specific, for 1995: Hawaii (A.M.U.) and Vigo (U.M.) might be too much. Thus, unintentional competition exists.

The results of the 1993 U.M. Questionnaire were discussed at length during last years U.M. Council meeting (see U.M. Newsletter 7). Finally, the Council decided to propose to organize the 1998 Congress in Washington, U.S.A., in cooperation with the American Malacological Union. If this proposal is accepted at the Vigo General Assembly, the A.M.U. will not organize a separate congress that year. This was decided recently. This way, more members of A.M.U. will be able to attend the U.M. International Malacological Congress than ever before. When a.o. the Australasian and the Latino-American organizations of malacology follow the A.M.U. and U.M. lines of thought, we malacologists may be able to close the 20th century in grand style indeed.

The Council now proposes not to cancel, but to postpone a U.M. Congress in Wroclaw or Warszawa, Poland, for three more years. For a long time it was thought that a location in Poland would enable many colleagues from Eastern Europe to attend relatively easily. However, the actual economic developments in the area do not indicate that after three years already, that will really be the case. Most probably, many of those colleagues will still need travel grants, which might be more easily to get for a congress in Washington. For European colleagues, travelling by air, Washington is not really an expensive destination; one has to admit, however, that cheap group transport by car, will be

impossible for them. For malacologists from other parts of the world, 'out of Europe' might hardly be problematic. Taking everything together, I'm convinced now that to get optimal attendance, Washington is the best alternative.

Financial aspects are highly relevant in my view. Large congresses are inevitably expensive, but still, everything should be done to keep prices as low as possible, or at least to offer cheap alternatives, not to loose potential participants. This point was raised already with much emphasis during the recent contacts between A.M.U. and U.M. In case ..., we'll do our very best.  
*Edmund Gittenberger, Secretary U.M.*

#### THE TREASURER'S COLUMN

Earlier this year I have sent a personal letter to roughly 90 members who were in arrear of dues for 5 years or more. During these last years they already received 2 or 3 other reminders. Unfortunately some 75 members, did not respond and can no longer be considered *Unitas* members. At this moment there are 352 regular members. A new list of members, with full address, telephone, fax and E-mail numbers is in preparation. I will present a draft in Vigo for correction, additions etc.

I hope to see you all in Vigo where I will present the official accounts covering the period 1.1.92 to 31.12.94. I can tell you by now that the financial situation is good.  
*Jackie Van Goethem, Treasurer U.M.*

#### BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION OF THE MOLLUSCA

The work on the above book under the editorship of A.C. van Bruggen, Susan M. Wells & Th.C.M. Kemperman is still vigorously being pursued. We hope to publish it well before the end of the year (publ. Backhuys, Oegstgeest NL). We had opted for a DTP procedure, which afterwards we regretted because of endless difficulties. However, at long last we seem to have surmounted almost all difficulties.

The book will contain the main lectures in extenso and a selection of the contributed papers.

*A.C. van Bruggen*

### VOTING FORM

for the election of the U.M. Council, for the period 1995-1998.

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Please return, by air-mail to Dr. A.C. van Bruggen, [U.M. Voting Form]

c/o N.N.M., P.O. Box 9517, NL 2300 RA LEIDEN, The Netherlands

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See "Unitas Malacologica Newsletter", no. 8, p. 4.

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	yes	no	abstention
President: Dr. R. Bieler (Chicago, U.S.A.)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Vice-Pres.: Dr. Beata M. Pokryszko (Wroclaw, Poland)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Secretary: Dr. E. Gittenberger (Leiden, Netherlands)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Treasurer: Dr. J. Van Goethem (Brussel, Belgium)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Members: Dr. K. Bandel (Hamburg, Germany)	. . .	. . .	. . .
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	. . .	. . .	. . .
Dr. Y. I. Kantor (Moscow, Russia)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Dr. W. F. Ponder (Sydney, Australia)	. . .	. . .	. . .
Dr. J. D. Taylor (London, U.K.)	. . .	. . .	. . .

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Retired President: Dr. A. Guerra  
(Vigo, Spain)