



# International Commission on Stratigraphy Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### 1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY

Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy (SQS)

### 2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES, AND FIT WITHIN IUGS SCIENCE POLICY

- Chronostratigraphic subdivision of the Quaternary System/Period facilitated by the intercalibration of biostratigraphies, construction of integrated zonations, and recognition of global datum points, allowing correlation worldwide and between terrestrial and marine sequences.
- Definition of Series/Subseries/Stage/and where appropriate Substage boundaries through the selection of recommended GSSPs.
- Promoting SQS's activities within the wider Quaternary geoscience community through publications, symposia, and the SQS website, and creating opportunities to study and compare stratigraphic sections by means of field meetings.

The objectives satisfy the IUGS mandate of fostering international agreement on nomenclature and classification in stratigraphy; facilitating international co-operation in geological research; improving publication, dissemination, and use of geological information internationally; encouraging new relationships between and among disciplines of science that relate to Quaternary geology world-wide; attracting competent students and research workers to the discipline; and fostering an increased awareness among individual scientists world-wide of those related programs being undertaken.

### 3a. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRODUCTS IN 2013

- “The Quaternary System and its formal subdivision”. A one-day special symposium held during the First International Congress on Stratigraphy, STRATI 2013, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, July 1–7. Coordinators of symposium: M.J. Head (Chair SQS), P.L. Gibbard, and T. van Kolfschoten. Symposium co-sponsored by SQS.
- Business meeting of SQS held during the First International Congress on Stratigraphy, STRATI 2013, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, July

1–7; chaired by M.J. Head. Minutes published on SQS website:  
<http://quaternary.stratigraphy.org>.

- “The Early–Middle Pleistocene transition: significance of the Jaramillo Subchron in the sedimentary record”. European Science Foundation Earthtime – European Union Scientific Meeting. Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH), Burgos, Spain, 25–27 September, 2013. Symposium co-sponsored by SQS.
- The following paper published last year invited discussion: Walker, M.J.C., Berkelhammer, M., Björck, S., Cwynar, L.C., Fisher, D.A., Long, A.J., Lowe, J.J., Newnham, R.M., Rasmussen, S.O. & Weiss, H. 2012. Formal subdivision of the Holocene Series/ Epoch: a Discussion Paper by a Working Group of INTIMATE (Integration of ice-core marine and terrestrial records) and the Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy (International Commission on Stratigraphy). *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 27, 649–659. Valuable feedback was received throughout 2013, including contributions to a new online Discussion Forum hosted by the publishers of JQS (John Wiley).

### 3B LIST OF MAJOR PUBLICATIONS OF SUBCOMMISSION WORK (BOOKS, SPECIAL VOLUMES, KEY SCIENTIFIC PAPERS)

- Waters, C. N., Zalasiewicz, J. A., Williams, M., Ellis, M. A. & Snelling, A. M. (eds) A Stratigraphical Basis for the Anthropocene. *Geological Society, London, Special Publications*, 395, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1144/SP395.8>. Edited by members of the Anthropocene Working Group and contains numerous papers authored or coauthored by members of the Anthropocene Working Group. First batch of papers published online 2013.
- Head, M.J., Gibbard, P.L., and van Kolfschoten, T., 2013. The Quaternary System/Period: current status and future challenges. *Ciências da Terra*, 18: 77–80.

### 3C. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, IF APPROPRIATE

The Working Group on the Upper Pleistocene Subseries Boundary has been inactive for five years. This followed notification by the IUGS EC (22nd September 2008) that a GSSP proposal it had initiated on a borehole section from Amsterdam terminal did not fulfill all requirements for a GSSP. Dr Jan Zalasiewicz has now joined the Working Group as co-convenor (with Prof. Thomas Litt), and a broadening of the Working Group membership is underway.

### 4a. OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR (2014)

- Assemble and edit a special issue of *Quaternary International* based on papers presented at “The Quaternary System and its formal subdivision” during STRATI

2013 (above). Editors: M.J. Head (Chair SQS), P.L. Gibbard, and T. van Kolfschoten.

- Comments on the proposed subdivision of the Holocene (Walker et al., 2012, section 3B above) are being considered by the Working Group, and involve reformulating (where necessary) the proposals outlined in Walker et al. (2012). This work will continue during 2014, the aim being to bring forward a formal proposal for submission, in the first instance, to the SQS.
- Reinvigorate the Working Group on the Upper Pleistocene Subseries Boundary by broadening its membership. In addition to two potential candidate sections, the Amsterdam terminal (Netherlands) and Fronte section, Taranto (Italy), additional potential candidate sections will be sought (see Section 3C, above).
- SQS to support a field workshop organized by the *Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Quaternario* (AIQUA) in October, 2014 to visit two sections proposed for the Early–Middle Pleistocene Subseries boundary, Montalbano Jonico and Valle di Manche, both in southern Italy. The third such section currently under consideration, the Chiba section in Japan, will be the subject of a field workshop during the INQUA Congress in the summer of 2015. Proposals for all three sections will be solicited and evaluated soon thereafter.

## 5. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES IN 2013 (Can \$)

	Payment	Deposit	Balance
Carried forward			2754.79
Prof. S. Finney (ICS funds for 2013)		3011.99	5766.78
Prof. M.J. Head (attendance STRATI 2013*)	1553.40		4213.38
Dr. Osamu Kazaoka (attendance STRATI 2013*)	2000.00		2213.38
Dr. Jan Zalasiewicz (attendance STRATI 2013*)	520.00		1693.38
Balance at November 28, 2013			<u>1693.38</u>

\*= First International Congress on Stratigraphy, STRATI 2013, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, July 1–7.

## 6. BUDGET REQUESTS AND ICS COMPONENT FOR 2014

Funds are requested to help support a one-week field workshop in mid-October, 2014, organized by the *Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Quaternario* (AIQUA), to discuss and visit two candidates for the Lower Pleistocene Subseries GSSP, Montalbano Jonico and Valle di Manche, both in southern Italy. A maximum of 30 participants is planned, and the field trips will be organized by Prof. Adele Bertini (President AIQUA), Prof. Neri Ciaranfi (lead proponent for Montalbano Jonico), and Prof. Luca Capraro (lead proponent for Valle di Manche). The third candidate, the Chiba section, will be visited

the following summer during the INQUA congress in Japan, completing the three sections under consideration. All members of the SQS Lower/Middle Pleistocene Boundary Working Group will be invited, along with two members of the Chiba section working group. This GSSP is presently the main priority of SQS, and all three candidate sections are being researched with considerable energy and focus.

A total of \$5500 is requested for 2014 to assist the chair of SQS (Canada) and two members of the Chiba working group (Japan) in attending this one-week field workshop to southern Italy. The chair of SQS (M.J. Head) is also co-convener of the SQS Lower/Middle Pleistocene Boundary Working Group, and has not seen either section.

## APPENDICES

### 7. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER PAST FIVE YEARS (2009–2013)

#### 1. Quaternary System/Period and Pleistocene Series/Epoch defined/redefined and ratified in June 2009. References:

Gibbard, P.L., Head, M.J., Walker, M.J.C. and The Subcommittee on Quaternary Stratigraphy, 2010. Formal ratification of the Quaternary System/Period and the Pleistocene Series/Epoch with a base at 2.58 Ma. *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 25(2): 96–102.

Gibbard, P.L., and Head, M.J., 2010. The newly-ratified definition of the Quaternary System/Period and redefinition of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch, and comparison of proposals advanced prior to formal ratification. *Episodes*, 33: 152–158.

Finney, S.C. 2010. Formal definition of the Quaternary System/Period and redefinition of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch. *Episodes* 33, 159–163.

#### 2. Calabrian Stage/Age ratified in December 2011. Reference:

Cita, M.B., Gibbard, P.L., Head, M.J., and The Subcommittee on Quaternary Stratigraphy, 2012. Formal ratification of the base Calabrian Stage GSSP (Pleistocene Series, Quaternary System). *Episodes* 35(3): 388–397.

### 8. OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR NEXT 4 YEARS (2014–2018)

1. GSSP definition for the Middle Pleistocene Stage/Subseries boundary.
2. GSSP definition for the Upper Pleistocene Subseries boundary.
3. GSSP definitions for the Upper Pleistocene Stage boundaries.
4. Subdivision of the Holocene Series.
5. Explore further chronostratigraphic subdivision of the Quaternary System/Period, including the duration and status of the “Anthropocene”.

### 9. ORGANIZATION AND SUBCOMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

## 9a Names and Addresses of Current Officers and Voting Members

### *Officers of SQS*

Chair: Professor Martin J. Head  
Department of Earth Sciences  
Brock University  
500 Glenridge Avenue  
St. Catharines  
Ontario L2S 3A1, Canada  
Phone: 905-688-5550 ext. 5216  
Email: mjhead@brocku.ca

Vice-Chair: Professor Brad Pillans  
Research School of Earth Sciences  
The Australian National University  
Canberra, Act, 0200,  
Australia  
Phone: +61-2-6125 9644 (Office)  
+61-2-6249 1507 (Lab)  
Fax: +61-2-6125 3683  
Email: brad.pillans@anu.edu.au

Secretary: Dr Jan A. Zalasiewicz  
Department of Geology  
University of Leicester  
Leicester UK, LE1 7RH, UK  
Phone: +44 (0)116 252 3928  
Fax: +44 (0)116 252 3918  
Email: jaz1@leicester.ac.uk

### *Voting Members of SQS*

Prof. Brent Alloway  
School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences  
Victoria University of Wellington  
Wellington 6012  
New Zealand  
Phone: 04 463 5844  
Mobile: +64-21-215-5968  
Fax: +64 4 463 5186  
E-mail: brent.alloway@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Alan Glenn Beu  
Paleontology Department  
Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences

P O Box 30368, Lower Hutt, New Zealand 5040  
[Courier address: 1 Fairway Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt, New Zealand 5010]  
Direct phone: +64-4-570 4847  
Fax: +64-4-570 4600  
Email: a.beu@gns.cri.nz

Dr. Kim Cohen  
Department of Physical Geography  
Faculty of Geosciences  
Utrecht University  
P.O.BOX 80.115  
3508 TC Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
Phone: +31 30 253 5774  
Email: K.M.Cohen@uu.nl

Professor Philip L. Gibbard  
Cambridge Quaternary  
Department of Geography, University of Cambridge  
Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EN, England  
Phone: +44 (0)1223 333924  
Fax: +44 (0)1223 333392  
Email: plg1@cam.ac.uk

Professor Karen Luise Knudsen  
Department of Earth Sciences  
University of Aarhus  
C.F. Mollers Alle 120  
DK-8000 Aarhus C  
Denmark  
Phone: +45 8942 3557  
Fax: +45 8618 3936  
Email: karenluise.knudsen@geo.au.dk

Professor Leszek Marks  
Polish Geological Institute  
Rakowiecka 4, PL 00-975 Warsaw, Poland  
Phone: +4822 849 5096  
Fax: +4822 849 4921  
Email: lmar@pgi.waw.pl / lmarks@geo.uw.edu.pl

Dr. Fabrizio Lirer  
Istituto Ambiente Marino Costiero (IAMC)-CNR  
Calata Porta di Massa, interno Porto di Napoli  
80133, Napoli, Italy  
Phone: +39 81 5423851

Fax: +39 81 5423888  
Email: fabrizio.lirer@iamc.cnr.it

Professor Thomas Litt  
Institute of Paleontology  
University of Bonn  
Nussallee 8  
D-53115 Bonn, Germany  
Phone: +49 228 732736  
Fax: +49 228 733509  
Email: t.litt@uni-bonn.de

Professor Liu Jiaqi  
Institute of Geology and Geophysics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beituchenglu, Qijiahuozhi  
P.O. Box 9825, Beijing  
100029 China  
Tel. +86 10 62008005(office) / 62008240(home)  
Fax. +86 10 62052184/62010846  
Email: liujq@mail.igcas.ac.cn / liujiaqi2001@yahoo.com.cn

Professor Jerry McManus  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Columbia University  
239 Comer 61 Route 9W – PO Box 1000  
Palisades, New York  
10964-8000, USA  
Phone: +1 (845) 365-8722  
Fax: +1 508 289 2175  
Email: jfm2163@columbia.edu

Professor Jan A. Piotrowski  
Department of Earth Sciences  
University of Aarhus  
C.F. Moellers Alle 1120  
DK-8000 Aarhus C  
Denmark  
Phone: +45 8942 2555 / +45 8942 9402  
Fax: +45 8613 9248  
Skype: jan.a.piotrowski

Professor Matti Räsänen  
Department of Geology  
University of Turku  
FIN-20014 Turun Yliopisto

Finland

Phone: +358-(0)2-333 5494

Fax: +358-(0)2-333 6580

Email: matti.rasanen@utu.fi

Prof. Sune Olander Rasmussen

Centre Coordinator

Centre for Ice and Climate

Niels Bohr Institute

University of Copenhagen

Juliane Maries Vej 30

2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

Phone: +45 353-20590

Email: olander@gfy.ku.dk

Dr. Jean-Pierre Suc

Institut des Sciences de la Terre Paris (ISTEP), UMR 7193, Laboratoire Evolution et Modélisation des Bassins Sédimentaires, Université Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris 6, 75005 Paris, France.

Postal address: 385 route du Mas Rillier, 69140 Rillieux la Pape, France.

Phone: +33(0)6.80.46.72.53 or +33 (0)9 50 85 69 57

Email: jeanpierre.suc@gmail.com / jean-pierre.suc@upmc.fr.

Dr. Alexey S. Tesakov

Geological Institute

Russian Academy of Sciences

Pyzhevsky, 7

119017 Moscow

Russia

Phone: +7 495 230-8085

Email: tesak@ginras.ru

Dr. Charles Turner,

Department of Earth Sciences,

The Open University,

Milton Keynes MK7 6AA,

UK

Phone: +44 1908 652889

Fax: +44 1908 655151

E-mail chassturner@aol.com

Professor Thijs van Kolfschoten

Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

Reuvenplaats 4, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

Phone: + 31 (0)71 527 2640 / 2925 / 2390

Fax: + 31 (0)71 527 2928 Email: T.van.Kolfschoten@rulpre.leidenuniv.nl



Email: T.van.Kolfschoten@rulpre.leidenuniv.nl

Professor M.J.C. Walker  
Department of Archaeology and Anthropology  
University of Wales, Lampeter  
Ceredigion, SA48 7ED,  
Wales, UK  
Email: walker@lamp.ac.uk  
Phone: +44 1570 424736  
Fax: +44 1570 423669

Professor Cari Zazo  
Departamento de Geologia  
Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC)  
Jose Gutierrez Abascal 28006-Madrid, Spain  
Phone: ++34.91.4111328 (ext.11899)  
Fax: ++.34.91.5644740  
Email: mcnzc65@mncn.csic.es

#### 9B LIST OF WORKING (TASK) GROUPS AND THEIR OFFICERS

##### *Working Group on the “Anthropocene”*

Convener: Dr Jan A. Zalasiewicz  
Department of Geology  
University of Leicester  
Leicester UK, LE1 7RH, UK  
Phone: +44 (0)116 252 3928  
Fax: +44 (0)116 252 3918  
Email: jaz1@leicester.ac.uk

Secretary: Dr. Colin Waters  
British Geological Survey  
Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, U.K.  
Phone: +44 (0)115 9363144  
Email: cnw@bgs.ac.uk

##### *Working Group on the subdivision of the Holocene Series*

Convener: Professor M.J.C. Walker  
Department of Archaeology and Anthropology  
University of Wales, Lampeter  
Ceredigion, SA48 7ED,  
Wales, UK  
Email: walker@lamp.ac.uk  
Phone: +44 1570 424736

Fax: +44 1570 423669

*Working Group on the Middle/Upper Pleistocene Subseries Boundary*

Co-convener: Professor Thomas Litt  
Institute of Paleontology  
University of Bonn  
Nussallee 8  
D-53115 Bonn, Germany  
Phone: +49 228 732736  
Fax: +49 228 733509  
Email: t.litt@uni-bonn.de

Co-convener: Dr Jan A. Zalasiewicz  
Department of Geology  
University of Leicester  
Leicester UK, LE1 7RH, UK  
Phone: +44 (0)116 252 3928  
Fax: +44 (0)116 252 3918  
Email: jaz1@leicester.ac.uk

*Working Group on the Lower/Middle Pleistocene Subseries Boundary*

Co-convener: Professor Brad Pillans  
Research School of Earth Sciences  
The Australian National University  
Canberra, Act, 0200,  
Australia  
Phone: +61-2-6125 9644 (Office)  
+61-2-6249 1507 (Lab)  
Fax: +61-2-6125 3683  
Email: brad.pillans@anu.edu.au

Co-convener: Professor Martin J. Head  
Department of Earth Sciences  
Brock University  
500 Glenridge Avenue  
St. Catharines  
Ontario L2S 3A1, Canada  
Phone: 905-688-5550 ext. 5216  
Email: mjhead@brocku.ca

9C INTERFACES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy (SQS) maintains close ties with The International Union for Quaternary Science (INQUA) through its Commission on Stratigraphy and Chronology (SACCOM). Prof. Phil Gibbard is both president of SACCOM and a voting member of SQS, and five other members of SACCOM are also members of SQS. This has led to several co-sponsorships of meetings/symposia by SQS and SACCOM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Martin J. Head  
St. Catharines, 10th December, 2013