

In memoriam Winfried Haas (1934-2007)

Klaus Bandel

Dr. Winfried Haas, former Professor of Paleontology at the University of Bonn, was one of the initiators of the meetings "Coleoid cephalopods through time".

Winfried Haas was born and grew up near Frankfurt in Neuisenburg. He was attracted by fossils when still in school collecting the famous Tertiary fauna of the Mainzer Basin with its well preserved molluscs. After school he joined the University of Frankfurt and started to study geology from 1955 to 1958. During this time he became interested in the Devonian of the Rheinische Schiefergebirge, especially the Eifel. He changed the university to Bonn and became a student of Prof. Dr. H. K. Erben. Throughout his succeeding career as a paleontologist he was closely associated and influenced by Erben. Winfried remained a Frankfurt patriot as his local accent portrayed. Throughout his career he maintained close contacts with colleagues in the Senckenberg Museum, including Wolfgang Stuve who worked on the stratigraphy and faunas of the Devonian of the Eifel. Many of Winfried's students in Bonn received their training in this region where he himself was a colorful leader for groups both from Germany and abroad.

His doctorate thesis was based on field mapping, stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Silurian and Devonian rocks of the Bosphorus region in northwest Turkey. It was a difficult area which he negotiated on a battered motorcycle and made impressive collections of trilobites of which group he first made his name. This was the starting point to become an internationally renowned specialist of trilobite systematics and an expert on asteropygines in particular. Most of his published work dealt with this group and he was expected to contribute a major revision for the forthcoming new issue of the Treatise. His passion for trilobites did not cease during all his lifetime when he became engaged in various topics including Permian trilobites from Afghanistan and more recently morphofunctional studies on the eye, muscle attachments and enrolment in phacopids.



Within the frame of a science project of the DFG "Biomineralisation" headed by H. K. Erben, Winfried Haas changed his field of study to the molluscs and here their ultrastructure. 1971 he presented his habilitation based on the shell structure and functional morphology of the Polyplacophora. The Bonn laboratory was equipped with one of the first stereoscan electronic microscopes in Germany and with this Winfried Haas studied the shell structure and functional morphology of the chitons.

Regrettably, this work took an age before it was published mainly because Winfried was a perfectionist and he never really considered any of his work completed and this was true of his research with cephalopods including *Sepia* and other coleoids. He built up large collections of these animals both fossil and living, the latter

of which he collected while on a visit to Japan and visits to various marine biological centres, among them repeatedly the Laboratoire Arago in Banyuls-sur-Mer in France. His Bonn laboratory was equipped for studies of biomineralization of which he became an authority and included serial sectioning of shell material, microtoming and staining of soft tissue and photographing often using pieces of self built apparatus. He was a bioengineer and optical instruments fascinated him.

The few publications he produced on the cephalopoda are today major contributions to the understanding the origin of the Octopoda and evolutionary history of *Sepia* and *Spirula* among the coleoids of the Late Cretaceous and Tertiary. At the time of his death he had a large unfinished manuscript on fossil decapods which regrettably lacks the necessary illustrations for its completion.

Winfried Haas was appointed Professor in Bonn in 1983 where he became an active and teacher in invertebrate palaeontology until his retirement. He was politically conservative and held strong views on the future of Europe, its economic role in the world and its history. He was well read and had many hobbies including church architecture, botany and good wine. At the institute he was held in high respect by staff and students and his often formal style could suddenly disappear as he became one of the boys enjoying a beer and a cigarette. He adopted both Raimund Feist and the author when we were students at Bonn and protected us from the Godfather (Erben). His close friend and colleague, David Bruton, University of Oslo, remembers many enjoyable hours discussing trilobites and politics, about which they seldom agreed, but it was all good fun. He and his Oslo students remember Winfried as an inspiring leader on field trips to Germany and France, well dressed with tie and hat and equipped with a whistle which he blew and shouted "hop hop" when he required attention.

In his scientific work Winfried Haas was extremely careful in his interpretation and went into very useful, descriptive details so that due to his unsuspected early death he left some unfinished work on the ten armed inkfish. If we are successful in finding the intended illustrations to that unfinished work, we will try to make it available to the scientific audience.

With Winfried we lost a passionate and inspiring colleague and good friend who we will keep in our good memory.

Cephalopod papers by W. Haas:

- Haas W. 1989. - Suckers and arm hooks in Coleoidea (Cephalopoda, Mollusca) and their bearing for phylogenetic systematics. *Abhandlungen des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg* 28: 165-185.
- Haas W. 1997. - Der Ablauf der Entwicklungsgeschichte der Decabrachia (Cephalopoda, Coleoidea). *Palaeontographica A* 245: 63-81.
- Haas W. 2002. - The evolutionary history of the eight-armed Coleoidea: 341-351, in Summesberger K., Histon K. & Daurer A. (eds), *Cephalopods: Present and Past. Abhandlungen der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* 57.
- Haas W. 2003. - Trends in the evolution of the Decabrachia: 113-129, in Warnke K., Keupp H. & Boletzky S. v. (eds), *Coleoid cephalopods through time. Berliner Paläobiologische Abhandlungen* 3.