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A new book recently printed in the series called “Thomas Say Publications in Entomology” is devoted to the history of the International Congresses of Entomology (ICE). The original intention of the authors was to produce it in time for the opening of the XXVI ICE in 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, but the Covid-19 pandemic postponed both the Congress and book release until 2022. The publication was conceived earlier when the ICEs celebrated a 100-year jubilee, and the Preface (entitled “A History of this History”) describes the metamorphosis of that idea into a printed solid volume. Since 1910, entomologists from all over the World have met every four years to discuss the latest discoveries in their science, which the title of the book describes as important and victorious. Congresses were not held during the war years from 1913 to 1925 and from 1939 to 1948.

Insects strongly affect the human well-being and economy, and the role of entomology in maintaining the quality of our life is steadily increas-

ing. The chapter titles and the statistics reported in the Epilogue of the book strongly support this. The chapter devoted to the first four congresses (1910–1928) is entitled “A Congress for the “Cinderella of the Biological Science”” and the chapter on the XXV Congress (2016) is entitled “Entomology without Borders”.

The I Congress in Brussels (Belgium) in 1910 was attended by 254 entomologists from 24 countries and the XXV Congress in Orlando (Florida, USA) had 26 times more participants (6671 entomologists from 101 countries).

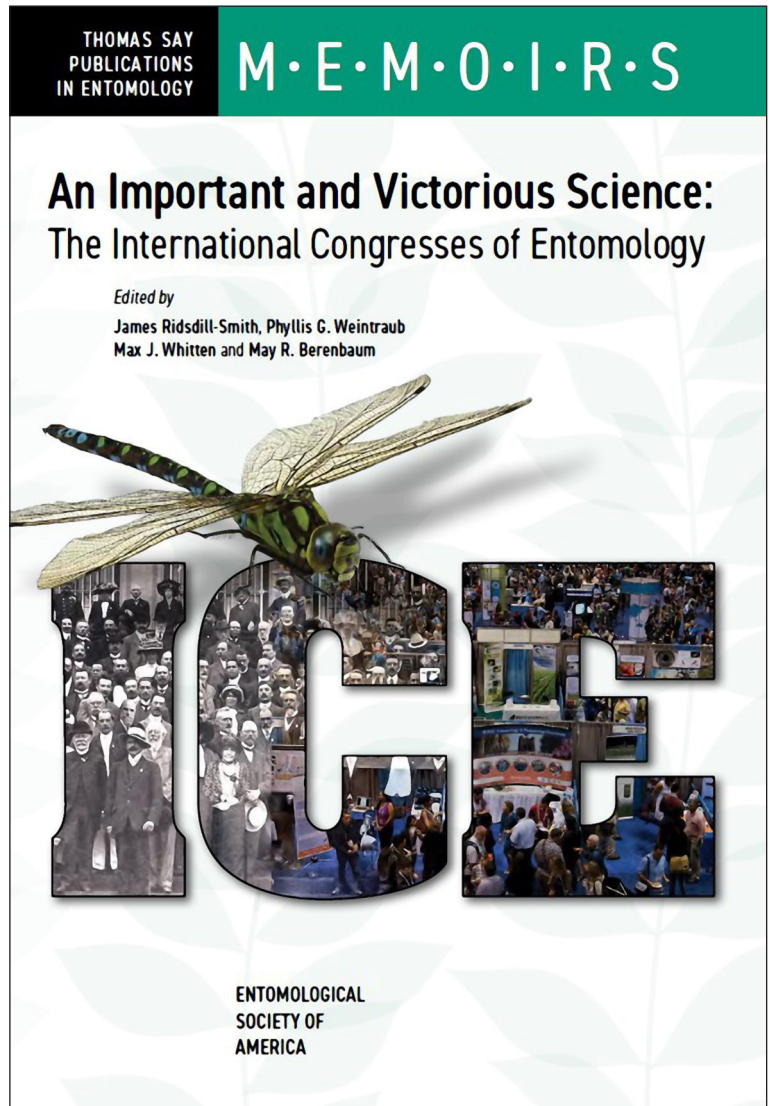
Up to date, 26 congresses have been held (the last one, which was organised in Helsinki, is not reflected in the book, as it was published shortly before its opening). Congresses have been held on all continents except Antarctica. The first 13 were organised in Europe and North America and then the congresses spread to other continents: Australia (1972 and 2004), Asia (Japan – 1980, China – 1992, South Korea – 2012), South America (Brazil – 2000), and, finally, Africa (South

Africa – 2008). The next Congress is planned to take place in Kyoto (Japan) in 2024. This demonstrates the policy of the permanent Council of ICEs, which adheres to the principle of equal geographical representation and accessibility of the Congress platform to entomologists from different parts of the World.

The book consists of a Preface, 17 chapters describing each Congress, a final chapter summarising the history of the congresses, and an Epilogue. In total, 22 authors from 13 countries contributed to this book. The first three chapters cover the first 11 congresses (I–XI), and each congress from XII up to XXV has its own chapter with an original title. These chapters are written by entomologists of the country where the congress was held.

The chapter devoted to the XIII Congress, held in Moscow in 1968, was written by Dmitry L. Musolin and is entitled "Poking a Hole in the Iron Curtain – Opening Soviet Entomology to the World Community". Although entomologists from Russia/USSR took part in previous congresses as well (for example, the ICE in London in 1964 was attended by a representative delegation from the USSR, which included M.S. Ghilarov, K.Ya. Grunin, E.L. Gurjeva, O.L. Kryzhanovskij, N.G. Olsufjev, B.B. Rohdendorf, I.A. Rubtsov, A.A. Stackelberg and several others), holding of the Congress in Moscow enabled a great number of delegates from the USSR (1,714) to attend it and present their work. The next largest delegations were from the USA (175 people), France (140) and the Great Britain (139), with a total of 55 countries represented (delegates from 70 countries had registered in advance, but some did not arrive).

The Moscow Congress not only allowed foreign participants to learn about the achievements of Soviet entomologists but also opened global entomology to Soviet researchers and greatly enhanced personal contacts, which in turn stimu-



lated further development of entomology and acarology in the USSR. The chapter tells about delegates and topics of all sections and symposia organised during the Congress. It is followed by the memories of two participants, Helena V. Dubinina from the USSR and H       Perrin from France.

The book provides details of each Congress, the names of its presidents and vice-presidents, the composition of the Local Organising Committee, symposia and workshops. All changes in the composition of the Permanent Committee (later called Council) of the ICEs are also recorded. References related to each Congress are given at the end of each chapter. Rich illustrative material is particularly valuable and interesting: readers

can see many general photos of participants in meeting rooms and during breaks, portraits of the presidents and vice-presidents of the congresses, the presidents of national entomological societies and many prominent entomologists. In addition, Congress logos, delegate badges, jacket pins, special envelopes, and postal stamps issued for each Congress are depicted.

The last chapter, summarising the achievements of the first hundred years of the history of the ICEs, contains a table of all the international biological congresses: botanical, zoological, ornithological, entomological and genetic, with dates and cities where a particular congress was held. One in each series of congresses was held in Moscow (zoological – in 1892, ornithological –

in 1982, entomological – in 1968, and genetic – in 1978) or Leningrad (botanical – in 1975).

Despite all the changes and difficulties of the XX and XXI centuries, the International Congresses of Entomology continue successfully, allowing biologists and their colleagues to meet regularly, discuss the news of insect (and other arthropod) science, and develop international co-operation in this field.

A printed copy of the book was donated to the Russian Entomological Society by one of the editors of the book (Max J. Whitten) and the author of the chapter on the Moscow Congress (Dmitry L. Musolin), and is available in the library of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

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