



怀念师丹斯基

著名的奥地利古生物学家师丹斯基教授,不幸于1988年12月26日在瑞典乌普萨拉病逝,享年94岁。师丹斯基教授一生致力于科学研究,在古哺乳动物学领域中取得了重大成就。他与中国古脊椎动物与古人类学研究有着长期的、密切的关系。从1921年夏至1923年底,他随中瑞古生物考察团在中国做了大量的化石采集工作,之后陆续在《中国古生物志》上发表了多篇专著,其中包括:中国第三纪后期之食肉类化石(1924);中国北部第四纪之食肉类化石(1925);中国的鹿类化石(1925);河南滎池县之古骆驼类化石(1926);中国食肉类化石新发现之特征(1927);周口店第四纪之哺乳类化石(1928);中国早第三纪哺乳类化石(1930);马及其它奇蹄类(1935)。在这些论文中,不仅记述了化石,而且有新见,为进一步研究中国这些门类的化石奠定了良好的基础。此外,他还在北京周口店发现过古人类化石。师丹斯基教授的逝世,无疑是古生物学界的一大损失,不仅中国同行,国外朋友也都缅怀他。

IN MEMORIAL TO OTTO ZDANSKY

Born on 28 November 1894 in Vienna, Austria, Otto Zdansky died in Uppsala, Sweden on 26 December 1988. Zdansky first was educated in a private school and subsequently attended a technical high school to study engineering. The First World War interrupted his schooling during the years 1914—1918 when he served in the Austro-Hungarian army. After the War, Zdansky studied vertebrate paleontology under Othenio Abel at the University of Vienna. His doctorate, awarded in 1921, was on the temporal region of the turtle skull. Zdansky then spent June–November 1920 in Uppsala, Sweden, engaged in post-doctoral work with Carl Wiman.

The discovery of fossil mammals (“*Hipparion* fauna”) in eastern China by the Swedish geologist Johan Gunnar Andersson in 1916 led to a turning point in Zdansky’s career. In 1920, Andersson asked Wiman to send a vertebrate paleontologist to China to work for subsistence and the exclusive right to publish on the fossil vertebrates collected. Wiman relayed the request to Zdansky, who sailed for China in May 1921. Zdansky collected in China until the end of 1923. Major projects included the “Peking Man Cave” at Zhoukoudian where Zdansky discovered hominid fossils, late Cenozoic *Hipparion* faunas from Henan and Shanxi, Eocene mammals from Shandong and Shanxi and Jurassic dinosaurs from Mengyin, Shandong. By the end of 1923, Zdansky’s funding was exhausted, and he returned to Europe, never to visit China again.

In Europe, a paucity of academic positions for vertebrate paleontologists made it impossible for Zdansky to obtain the professorship he sought. So, from 1924 to 1927, he worked as a preparator at the Paleontological Institute in Uppsala. During the evenings, Zdansky undertook research on the fossil vertebrates he collected in China, producing a series of now classic monographs published in *Palaeontologia Sinica*. These were on late Cenozoic carnivores (1924),

Quaternary carnivores (1925), fossil deer (1925) and *Paracamelus* (1925). In 1927, Zdansky turned down the opportunity to return to China and reopen the excavations at Zhoukoudian and instead accepted a professorship at the Egyptian University in Cairo. He also married a Swedish woman that year.

Before World War II, Zdansky frequently visited Uppsala to continue research on the collections he had made in China, resulting in additional monographs on the Zhoukoudian Quaternary fauna (1928), the Eocene mammals of northeastern China (1930) and *Equus* and other perissodactyls (1935). In 1939, Zdansky took his wife and son to Sweden where they remained for the duration of World War II. Zdansky, himself, returned to Sweden in 1951. After 1951, Zdansky worked part time for several years at the Paleontological Institute in Uppsala and occasionally taught classes until his retirement.

I met Otto Zdansky once, in Uppsala in 1982 when Niall Mateer and I talked with him for several hours of his experiences in China. Although already in his 80's, Zdansky was lucid and spoke excellent English. He told us of how the field records of his Chinese collecting had been stolen with other luggage on the Trans-Siberian railway during the Winter of 1923 on his return to Europe. Zdansky remembered Roy Chapman Andrews as a "vulgar, back-slapping American," but spoke highly of Walter Granger, whom he greatly admired. We sensed in Zdansky a certain bitterness over how others—especially Andersson—had taken credit for his discoveries in China. This, and Zdansky's disappointment over never having been offered a professorship in a European university, seemed to explain why he essentially abandoned vertebrate paleontology after the 1930's.

I shall always remember Otto Zdansky for his fieldwork and monographs on the fossil vertebrates of China which laid so much of the first foundation of our understanding of vertebrate evolution in Asia. And, it is Zdansky who deserves credit for discovering hominids at Zhoukoudian that lead to the subsequent discovery of a hominid skull there in 1929 and many other important fossils. Much more about the life and writings of Otto Zdansky can be found in volume 11 of the *Bulletin of the Geological Institutions of the University of Uppsala*, published in 1985.

(Spencer G. Lucas)