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## INSTITUTE FOR TERTIARY - QUATERNARY STUDIES (TER-QUA)

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### The Start

TER-QUA (The Institute for Tertiary-Quaternary Studies) was organized in 1968 on the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council's U.S. National Committee of INQUA (the International Union for Quaternary Research). At this time it was under the directorships of Prof. Samuel Treves and Prof. Charles Bertrand Schultz both of the University of Nebraska. TER-QUA was formed to bring together as many diverse scientific specialties as possible so that the full force of modern science could be directed on the last 65,000,000 years of earth history, a period encompassing the origin of humanity and modern environments. TER-QUA became affiliated with The Nebraska Academy of Sciences in 1974, and a Division of the Academy in 1984. It was never officially a society with membership, dues, etc. It was, instead, an association of scientists who shared an interest in the Cenozoic and reflected dissatisfaction with the separation of the Tertiary from such studies.

Meetings were held: 1982, Fort Worth, Texas; 1983, Lincoln, Nebraska; 1984, Dallas, Texas; 1985, Lawrence, Kansas; 1986, Houston, Texas; 1987, Lubbock, Texas; 1988, Lincoln, Nebraska; 1989, Fort Collins, Colorado; 1991, Lawrence, Kansas; 1996, Lawrence, Kansas; 1997, Alva Oklahoma; 1998, Lawrence, Kansas. In 1983 it co-sponsored a symposium, Man and the Changing Environments in the Great Plains that was published as a special volume of the Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, edited by W.W. Caldwell, C.B. Schultz and T.M. Stout. In 1985 it began the TER-QUA Symposium Series edited by W. Dort that published three volumes (1985, 1994, and 2002) that were distributed with the Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. This was valuable because the Academy publications were part of the library exchange for the University of Nebraska and reached libraries throughout the world. The first volume of this series was dedicated to John C. Fry and H. Byron Leonard who were major contributors to the study of

the Pleistocene of the Midwest. Volume 2 was dedicated to C.B. and Marian Othmer Schultz in recognitions of Schultz's many contributions to our understanding of the Cenozoic and Marian's important role in his studies.

#### *Schultz-Othmer Award*

The third volume introduced the "Schultz-Othmer" Medal. The Schultz-Othmer Medal was created in 1995 by TER-QUA to honor and perpetuate the memory of C.B. Schultz and Marian Othmer-Schultz in recognition of their efforts to enhance the knowledge of and appreciation for Tertiary and Quaternary history. The Schultz-Othmer Award is presented on special occasions to a scientist who has made noteworthy contributions to understanding of processes and events during the Cenozoic. The inaugural medal was cast in silver. Subsequent recipients receive a bronze medal designed by artist and sculptor Mary Tanner. The face of the medal presents a bas relief of Bert and Marian Schultz. The back bears the name of the recipient and a very brief characterization of the research that merited the Award.

The first Schultz-Othmer Award was presented on February 29, 1996 to Dr. Grant E. Kocharov, Head of the Astrophysical Department, Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, and Russian Academy of Sciences. The Schultz-Othmer medal was awarded to Dr. Kocharov because his work exemplified the interdisciplinary approach emphasized by TER-QUA. He developed a new sub-discipline of Physics called Paleoastrophysics—the study of past astronomical events by means of physical evidence present in the stratigraphic record. He showed that such research can provide insight into past solar activity and other cosmic events. He shows how an understanding of the Sun on a geological time scale might contribute our understanding of climate change and with it much of earth history. Unlike many geologists who use physics to understand geology, Kocharov turned geology around to turn the earth into a physics laboratory where natural "experiments" operate at a scale beyond the life span of any human observer.

The second medal was awarded to Walter W. Dalquest, pioneer paleontologist of the Southwest and in particular Texas. Dr. Dalquest made many contributions to the understanding of Quaternary fauna and modern Mammalogy.

The third medal was awarded to Tom Dillehay the excavator of Monte Verde in South America,

an ancient village site that put the pre-Clovis occupation of the western hemisphere on a firm archaeological basis and expanded the prehistory of the Americas by thousands of years.

The fourth medal was awarded to Larry D. Agenbroad for his work on Ice Age mammoths. Dr. Agenbroad has been a leading contributor to our knowledge of the early settlement of North America and the ecology of the Late Pleistocene. His excavation of the Hot Springs Mammoth Site and the establishment of an internationally famous laboratory for Quaternary research there provide a model for achievement in Cenozoic science.

#### *Decline and Revival*

Originally TER-QUA was composed of Midwestern scientists and later expanded towards the Gulf Coast including scientists like Lee Anderson Smith who bridged the gap between marine and continental stratigraphy. Smith became associate and later co-director of TER-QUA with C.B. Schultz. While TER-QUA behaved like a society in having nearly annual meetings (some years were missed) and published the results of several of those meetings, it was never officially organized as a society and the membership consisted mostly of those who attended the meetings. The close relationship with the Nebraska Academy of Sciences was terminated in 2000, and TER-QUA no longer has any formal relationship with the Nebraska Academy. This left it without tax protection. Meetings of TER-QUA were sporadic until the organization became largely inactive after the 2002 publication. During this time, Wakefield Dort and Larry D. Martin tried to keep the idea of TER-QUA alive with Dort especially active in this respect.

Dort and Martin decided to change TER-QUA into a scientific society dedicated to Cenozoic studies of all sorts and from a regional organization to one with a potential international scope. This was made possible by affiliation with the Santayana Institute, Inc., an organization with an established infrastructure and a shared interest in Earth History. At that time TER-QUA had an informal governing board consisting of: Larry D. Martin and Wakefield Dort (University of Kansas); Virginia Naples (Northern Illinois University); John Babiarez (BIOPSI Mesa Arizona), and Robert Diffendal (University of Nebraska). It was decided that the old institute format would be abandoned and a new Society formed

with an organizational meeting to be held at the Tate Museum in Casper Wyoming. The organization of this meeting was led by Bruce Rothschild, Director of the Santayana Institute, and Kent Sundell. The Director and staff of the Tate Museum did a remarkable job and Kent Sundell graciously accepted the mantle of president, a position that was confirmed unanimously in the organizational meeting. The organizational meeting was chaired by Bruce Rothschild who was confirmed as the society's executive director, and Larry D. Martin. Gilbert Parker was confirmed as secretary/treasurer, and Meg Sundell as editor of the newsletter. It was agreed that a journal be established and Brian Beatty nominated as the new editor. Later Brian accepted the post filling out the administrative structure of the new organization. A new by-laws was submitted for consideration and passed and a search for a new meeting venue begun. Since then the Burpee Museum in Rockford, Illinois agreed to host the 2012 meeting. We also have a new logo and changed the name to TerQua.

We hope that there will be many more meetings, an active publication program and eventual enlargement of the society in any way that may promote Cenozoic studies. We mean to be inclusive and to study earth history in the broadest multidisciplinary way, so as to provide a home for anyone who studies this most important segment of time.

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