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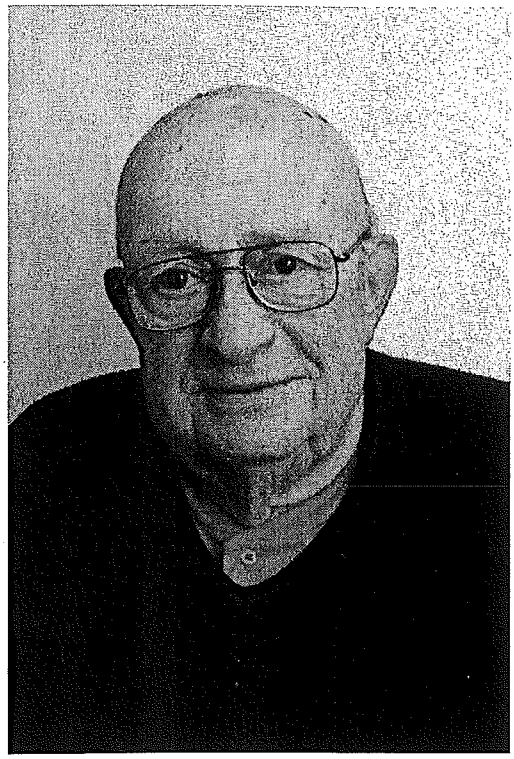
2013 CUSHMAN AWARD TO CO-RECIPIENT FRANCO S. MEDIOLI



Dr. Franco Medioli received the Joseph A. Cushman Award for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research on October 29, 2013, during the Cushman Foundation reception at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado. Due to extenuating circumstances, he was unable to be there in person to receive the award. This award recognizes his contributions to the taxonomy and paleoecological significance of marginal-marine foraminifera and freshwater thecamoebians, with a focus on Holocene sea-level and deglacial reconstructions.

Franco was born in Parma, Italy. He received his Bachelor's degree from Collegio Maria Luigia (Parma, Italy) in 1953 and his Doctorate in Geology from the University of Parma (Italy) in 1959. His thesis,"Neogene deposits north of the torrent Sporzana with study of the fossil ostracod microfauna," was completed under the supervision of Professor Sergio Venzo.

Franco subsequently spent a year in London to improve his English. In 1960, he won a post-doctoral scholarship to the Institut Français du Pétrole in Paris where he worked on fossil Ostracoda. From 1961 to 1965 he worked as a field geologist with the Servizio Geologico d'Italia (Italian Geological Survey) updating parts of the 1:100,000 geological map of the Emilia-Romagna region in the Appenines of northern Italy and surveying the glacial deposits around Lago di Garda (northern Italy).

In 1965, he was award a NATO post-doctoral fellowship to work on marine geology. Two significant publications, co-written with Dr. Francesco Barbieri, came out of this fellowship. The first was on the characterization of calcareous nannoplankton from the Upper Cretaceous of southern Saskatchewan (Barbieri & Medioli, 1969a), while the second was the first published paper of foraminiferal distribution on the Scotian Shelf (Barbieri & Medioli, 1969b).

After successfully completing the fellowship, he was hired as an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), where he eventually became tenured faculty and remained until his retirement in 1996.

In the late '60s Franco worked with Rudy Gees on the Bermuda Platform and lectured at UC-Santa Barbara. During this time (1967–1980) Franco was also active as an associate editor for the journal *Maritime Sediments*, as well as being the Honorary Italian Consul for Nova Scotia (1975–1981). He was the treasurer for the international conference "Benthonics '75," which was held in Halifax, and from 1985–1989 was Associate Director, Centre for Marine Geology, Dalhousie University.

Franco's work then focused extensively on nearshore and offshore foraminifera from the North Atlantic. He worked closely with David Scott (Dalhousie University) and Charles Schafer (Geological Survey of Canada) studying the foraminiferal assemblages found in the coastal salt marshes and estuaries of the Maritime Provinces (Canada). This led to a new method of accurately determining former sea-level environments in sediments exposed by post-glacial uplift. He and Scott also published the first paper on the intergradational series technique with foraminifera using the genus *Discanomalina* as a test case. He continued to work with Franco Petrucci in Italy and published on the use of foraminifera as sea-level indicators in the Venice lagoon and on thecamoebians from Lago di Garda.

In 1982, Franco began to study sediment samples from Lake Erie with a focus on thecamoebians. As he began to delve into the literature, he quickly realized that detailed taxonomic work was required in order to progress. This led to a lifelong interest in this little-known group of microfossils and the co-authoring of the first paleontological-taxonomical treatment of thecamoebians. This was coupled with two papers (Medioli & Scott, 1983; Scott & Medioli, 1983), where the concept of intergradational phenotypes was introduced. This also lead to the publication of the first paper on clonal culture showing that an individual thecamoebian could produce a variety of very different morphotypes—often interpreted as genuine "species"—randomly or as a result of having both pelagic and benthic life stages. He continued to refine this work in an effort to establish a link between ecological preferences and phenotypes (Medioli & Scott, 1985, 1988; Medioli et al., 1987; Boltovskoy et al., 1991).

In later years, he became interested in marginal marine foraminiferal and thecamoebian assemblages in older sediments. This led to publications on agglutinated

foraminiferal assemblages in Carboniferous coal seams on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, thecamoebian assemblages from Early Cretaceous deposits in Alberta, Canada (Medioli et al., 1990), and Cambrian foraminifera from the Meguma Group of Nova Scotia.

In 1989 Franco took a leave of absence from Dalhousie University and returned to his beloved Parma (Italy) to become the Chair in Paleoecology at the Universita di Parma. He taught there for three years before deciding to return to Canada. In 1996, he retired and became Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University. Franco has almost 90 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.

Over the years, Franco has supervised numerous students, including many doctoral candidates who have gone on to be research scientists and professors themselves, including Drs. Claudia Schröder-Adams and Dr. Timothy Patterson (Carleton University), Dr. Alessandra Asioli (University di Pavia), and Dr. Tessa Hill (UC-Davis).

Franco has continued to be active in foraminiferal and thecamoebian research well into his retirement. He has been instrumental in amassing a huge collection of thecamoebian literature and putting it together in an easily accessible, electronic bibliography (Medioli et al., 1999, 2003). He has also continued to collaborate with his long-time colleagues David Scott (Dalhousie University) and Charles Schafer (Geological Survey of Canada) to write a comprehensive guide to using foraminifera and thecamoebians for monitoring coastal environments (Scott et al., 2001). The first edition of this book sold out and was re-released in 2007.

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