

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Burkhard Frenzel, 1928–2010

Burkhard Frenzel, one of the most important scientists researching Quaternary vegetation and climate history of Europe and Central Asia, was born on January 22nd 1928 in Duisburg (Germany). During World War II, Burkhard Frenzel became Russian prisoner. In 1946, he passed the German school leaving examination in Berlin where he started his studies in Geography, Geology and Botany at the Humboldt University.

Later, Burkhard Frenzel continued his studies at the University of Bonn where he did his PhD about the vegetation of the Allgäu Alps in 1952 (Dr. rer. nat.).

After being an assistant for two years in Bonn and after having a national grant for two years, he moved as assistant to the University of Marburg. In 1960, Burkhard Frenzel became Reader («Privatdozent») at the Botanical Institute of the Agricultural Faculty of the Technological University of Weihenstephan (Munich).

Later in 1967, Burkhard Frenzel became full professor of Botany at the Agricultural University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart) where he worked after retiring in 1996 until his death on February 6th 2010.

Professor Frenzel's main scientific interesting field covers Quaternary flora and vegetation history and climate history of the Ice Age. His first important books deal with the climate oscillations of the Ice Age (1967) and with principles of Pleistocene vegetation history of North Eurasia (1968). Burkhard Frenzel organized extended excursions to Central Asia, China and Tibet where he collected a lot of palaeoecological data to the Quaternary. From that data, several key studies were published (1994 a-c, 1995 a-b). Since 1991 Burkhard Frenzel was member of climate council of the government of Germany and since 1994 he was council president. Besides other functions at the University (head of department, Dean of the Faculty) he supported strongly the Botanical Garden of Hohenheim, establishing a special section including plant species important for Quaternary vegetation history since the Late Glacial. Also as emeritus Burkhard Frenzel was continuously supporting the Botanical Garden.

Professor Frenzel was honoured through numerous national and international scientific associations. In 1983, he was awarded Dr. h.c. of the University of Zurich, moreover he was member of the Academy of Sciences and Literature of Mainz and honour member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Some important publications of Burkhard Frenzel (1967–2007)

FRENZEL, B. (1967): Die Klimaschwankungen des Eiszeitalters. Vieweg, Braunschweig. 296 pp.

FRENZEL, B. (1968): Grundzüge der pleistozänen Vegetationsgeschichte Nord-Eurasiens. Erdwiss. Forsch. I. Steiner Wiesbaden. 326 pp., Appendix.

FRENZEL, B. (1988): Klimageschichtliche Probleme der letzten 130 000 Jahre. Stuttgart, Fischer. 451 pp.

FRENZEL, B., PECSI, M. & VELICHKO, A.A. (1992): Atlas of Paleoclimates and Paleoenvironments of the Northern Hemisphere. Late Pleistocene – Holocene. Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. Fischer, Stuttgart, Jena, New York. 153 pp., 35 colour maps.

FRENZEL, B. (1994 a): Zur Paläoklimatologie der Letzten Eiszeit auf dem Tibetischen Plateau. Göttinger Geogr. Abh., 95, 115–141.

FRENZEL, B. (1994 b): Über Probleme der holozänen Vegetationsgeschichte Osttibets. Göttinger Geogr. Abh., 95, 143–166.

FRENZEL, B. & LIU SHIJIAN (1994 c): Rasterelektronenmikroskopische Untersuchungen zur Genese jungquartärer Sedimente auf dem tibetischen Plateau. Göttinger Geogr. Abh., 95, 167–183.

FRENZEL, B., LI JIAN, LIU SHIJIAN (1995 a): On the upper Quaternary paleoecology of eastern Tibet: Preliminary results of an expedition to the eastern Tibetan Plateau 1992. Science in China, Ser. B: Chemistry, Life Sciences and Earth Sciences, 38, 484–494.

FRENZEL, B. (1995 b): An atlas illustrating global change in the northern hemisphere. GeoJournal, 36, 307–313.



FRENZEL, B. (1998 a): 40 000 Jahre Geschichte des Klimas in der Alten Welt. In: LOZAN, J.L., GRASSL, H., HUPFER, P.: Warnsignal Klima: Wissenschaftliche Fakten. Das Klima des 21. Jahrhunderts, Hamburg, 65–71.

FRENZEL, B. (1998 b): History of flora and vegetation during the Quaternary. *Progress in Botany*, 59, 599–633.

Editor of «Paläoklimaforschung/ Palaeoclimate Research», Fischer, Stuttgart-Jena.

Collaborator of «Progress in Botany».

List of publications of Burkhard Frenzel: see website of the University of Hohenheim, Department of Botany: «Liste aller Publikationen 2002–2006» and «Liste aller Publikationen ab 2007».

Prof. Dr. Conradin A. Burga, Department of Geography (Biogeography), University of Zurich-Irchel, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich, E-Mail: conradin.burga@geo.uzh.ch