

The so-called 'Karagwe-Ankole System' of south-western Uganda consists of at least two sequences, as does the 'Système de l'Urundi' or 'Burundian' of Rwanda. In Rwanda the lower sequence comprises the Serie(s) Inferieure(s) and the Serie de Byumba and the upper sequence, the Serie de Mijove (Gerards & Lepersonne, 1964). The unconformity which separates the two sequences can be traced from Rwanda into the Kabale syncline in Kigezi, Uganda. Adopting the authors' terminology, the two sequences would represent the uneroded parts of the Kibaran Orogenic Assemblage in Uganda and Rwanda, the Kibaran Orogenic Complex in the same area including refoliated gneisses of the Kibali (Buganda-Toro) Orogenic Complex and the Rusizi Orogenic Complex which underlie the Kibaran Orogenic Assemblage and crop out as domal inliers.

Finally we would like to add a word of apology to Dr. J. V. Hepworth for having referred to him in our original paper as Dr. J. E. Hepworth.

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## WILLIAM SMITH'S LAST GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

SIR,—The last days of William Smith at the house of his friends, the Bakers of Northampton, were recorded by George Baker (1839), who related that the day after his arrival (a week before his death) 'we drove about thirty miles . . . in a direction suggested by himself, to examine a point of doubtful stratification.' Baker also noted that the following day 'he walked with us nearly two miles, to see some fossil bones', perhaps at someone's house, as it appears from the sequel that this did not count as a geological excursion. The following day Smith was taken ill and he died five days later on 28 August after Baker had fetched Smith's nephew, Professor John Phillips, from the British Association meeting at Birmingham.

When Phillips' *Memoirs of William Smith* were published early in 1844 the author sent an inscribed copy to Baker, which I chanced to buy some time ago. With this copy is the draft (dated 11 March 1844) of a letter which Baker sent, or intended to send, to Phillips in acknowledgement, and which throws light on Smith's last excursion. Phillips (1844, p. 93) had recounted a journey undertaken on foot in company with his uncle from Lincolnshire to Oxfordshire in the winter of 1819–20, and described how 'From this point (Wellingborough) we resumed our geological proceedings on foot, and passing by Irchester, Woolaston and Boziate, traversed in the next hills the oolite, the forest marble, the cornbrash, and an outlier of Kelloway's rock. The road up Boziate Hill was mantled with fossiliferous stone, some of which obtained from the hill-top was believed to be Kelloway's rock, and was found to contain *Ammonites sublaevis* and other fossils. A fine specimen of this ammonite was here laid by a particular tree on the road side, as it

was large and inconvenient for the pocket, according to a custom often observed by Mr. Smith, whose memory for localities was so exact, that he has often, after many years, gone direct to some hoard of this nature to recover his fossils. This road, however, over Boziatè Hill, he was not to travel again.'

Baker wrote 'It seems to have escaped your recollection that the very last excursion he took—the day after he came to us—was to Boziatè, Woolaston and Wellingboro' and it is a remarkable illustration as well of his extraordinary memory as of the habit alluded to, that after the lapse of twenty years, in going up Boziatè Hill he related to us the circumstance which you have recorded and shewed us the very spot where he hid the ammonite.'

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## THE SILURO-DEVONIAN BOUNDARY

SIR,—At the Third International Symposium on the Silurian-Devonian boundary at Leningrad in July, the Silurian-Devonian boundary Committee recommended, almost unanimously, the use of the horizon of the base of the *Monograptus uniformis* Zone, as recognized in a boundary stratotype, as the Siluro-Devonian boundary. However, owing to the premature termination of the International Geological Congress at Prague, this recommendation has not yet been ratified and furthermore a boundary stratotype has yet to be selected, let alone agreed and ratified by the I.G.C. Nevertheless, it probably remains true that a majority of Siluro-Devonian workers will now be using this horizon as a definition of the base of the Devonian System.

Published information on the faunas and floras of the *M. uniformis* Zone is very limited; and as yet recognition of the horizon rests very largely on the identification of the zone fossil. The Committee's deliberations at the Leningrad Symposium showed that this situation will not long continue; nevertheless until a stratotype is selected it is possible that correlation with this horizon, as recognized in various parts of the world, will lead to conflicting results.

At present the *uniformis* Zone horizon cannot be recognized with any degree of certainty in British Siluro-Devonian sequences. Correlation of the horizon is dependent upon the vertebrate faunas and it is not yet agreed that these provide an unequivocal solution (but see Tarlo 1965). Opinion is even divided upon the value of these faunas in the definition and correlation of the major subdivision boundaries within, for example, the Anglo-Welsh area of Lower Old Red Sandstone. Hence inter-regional correlation using these faunas seems impractical. On the other hand recent publications by Richardson & Lister (1968) and by Warren (1968) indicate that micropalaeontological studies may soon lead to a satisfactory correlation of the British sequences with those in which the *M. uniformis* Zone is recognized, but this is not yet possible.

The Institute of Geological Sciences recognizes the desirability of international co-operation in geology (in this instance in the definition of systematic boundaries) as being in the interests of, for example, ease of communication, the compilation of bibliographies and reference systems and palaeoecological and palaeogeographical reconstructions. Nevertheless, in the light of the foregoing comments we do not at present feel justified in redefining the Siluro-Devonian boundary in Britain, and we shall, as a matter