

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst - achievements, problems, perspectives



Jan Urban

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – „prehistory”

The term „pseudokarst” introduced by W. Knebel in 1906

In the 70-80. of the 20th century – fast development of the „pseudokarst activity”:
Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary.

International meetings (organised by speleological clubs or societies):

1982 – Symposium o Pseudokrasu, Janovičky, Czechoslovakia (repr. of 3 countries)

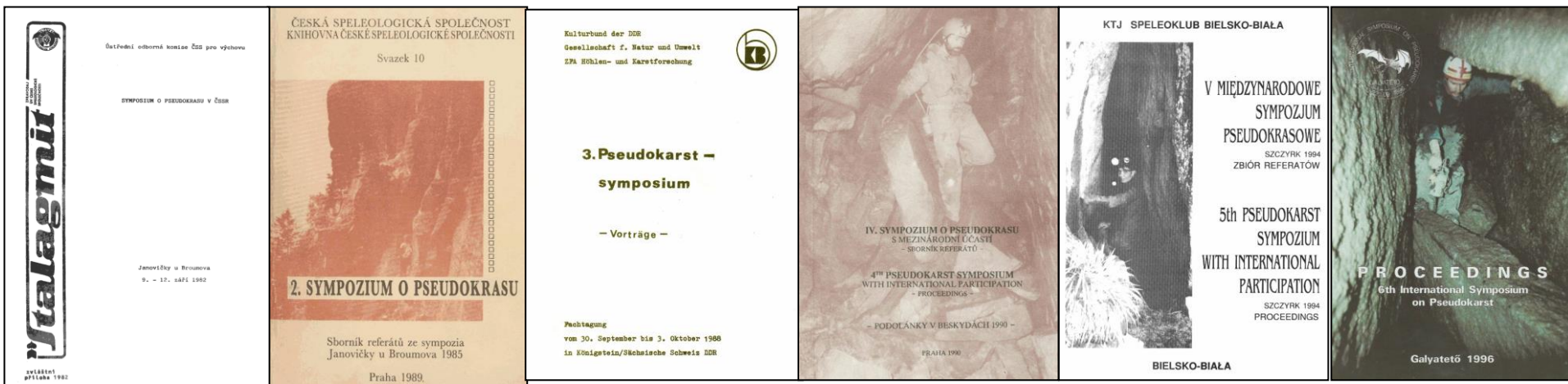
1985 – 2. Symposium o Pseudokrasu Janovičky, Czechoslovakia (repr. of 5 countries)

1988 – 3. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Königstein, East Germany (DDR) (repr. of 6 countries)

1990 – 4. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Podolanky, Czechoslovakia (repr. of 10 countries)

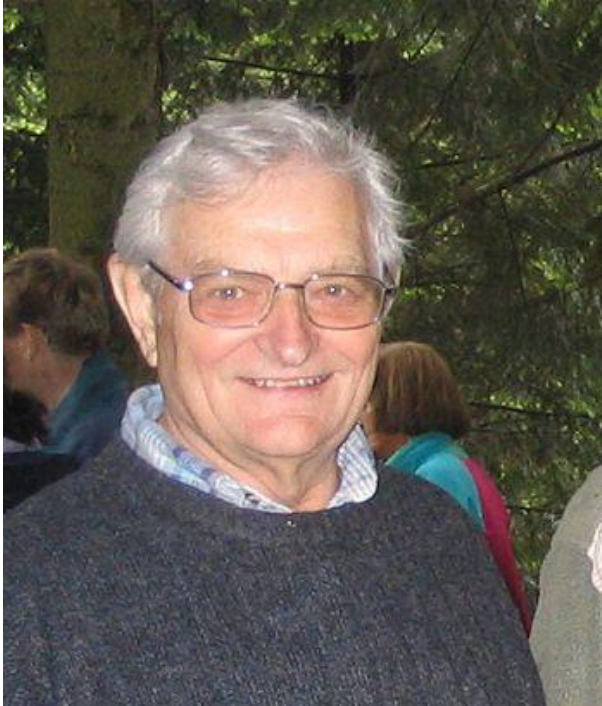
1994 – 5. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Szczyrk, Poland (repr. of 5 countries)

1996 – 6. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Galyatető, Hungary (repr. of 8 countries)

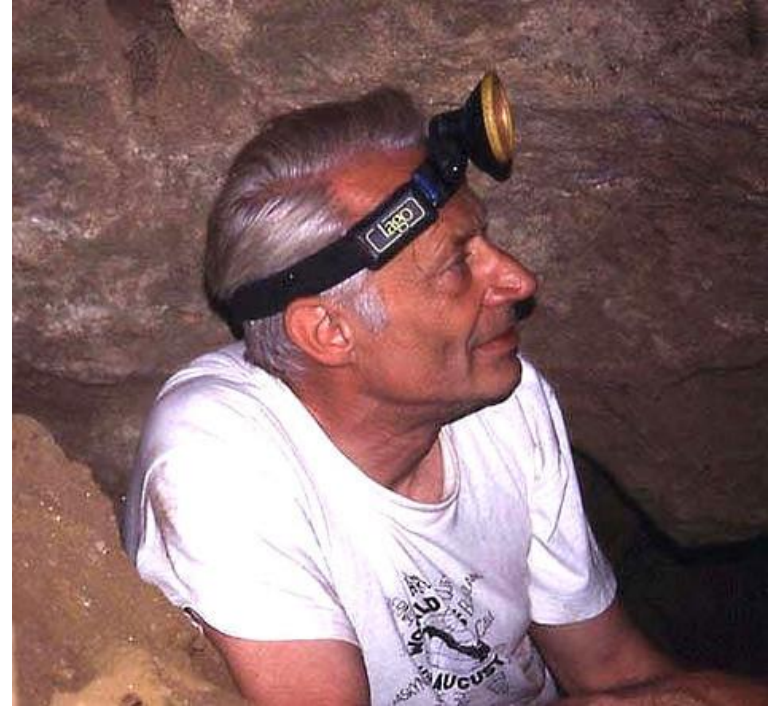


UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – foundation

Creators of the Commission on Pseudokarst



Jiri Kopecký



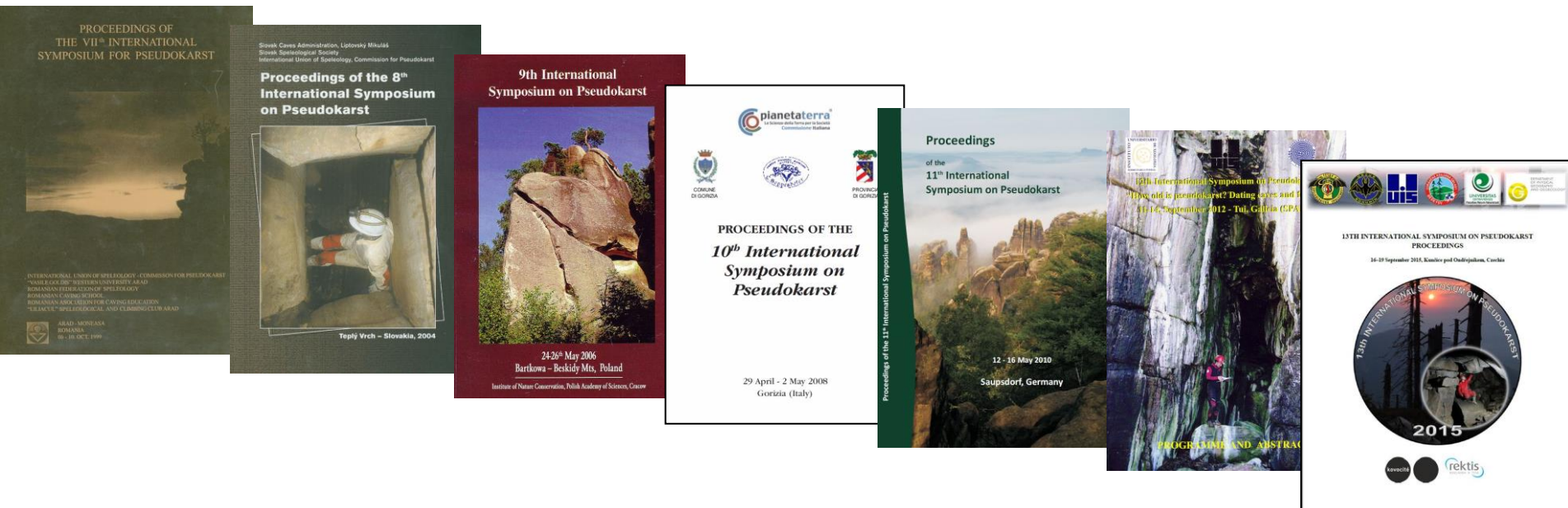
István Eszterhás (↕ 2020)

- 6. Symposium on Pseudokarst (1996) – request to the International Union of Speleology
- 12. Intern. Congress of Speleology (Switzerland 1997) – foundation of the Commission

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – activities

International Symposia (organised by the Commission on Pseudokarst):

- 1999 – 7. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Moneasa, Romania (10 participants from 6 countries)
- 2004 – 8. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Teplý Vrch, Slovakia (51 part. from 10 countries)
- 2006 – 9. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Bartkowa, Poland (44 part. from 12 countries)
- 2008 – 10. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Gorizia, Italy (61 part. from 11 countries)
- 2010 – 11. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Saupsdorf, Germany (55 part. from 10 countries)
- 2012 – 12. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Tui, Spain (27 part. from 8 countries)
- 2014 – 13. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, Czechia (52 part. 9 countries)
- 202? – 14. Symposium on Pseudokarst, Chęciny, Poland – planned, postponed



UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – activities

Participation in the International Congresses of Speleology

- Sessions on caves and other pseudokarst landforms in not karstifying rocks
- Meetings of the Commission members and „friends”
- Reports on the Commission activity



- Editorial Board preparing/reviewing materials for the 18th Congress of Speleology 2021/2022

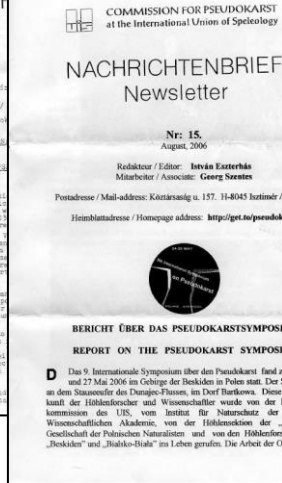
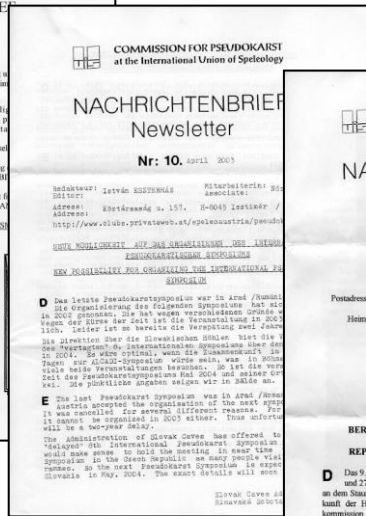
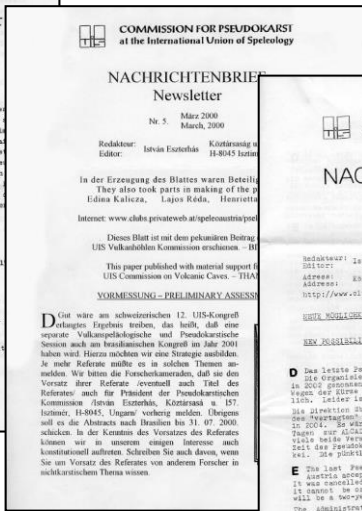
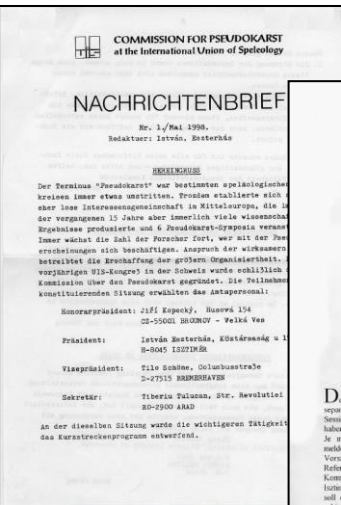
UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – activities

Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter

- Since 1998, 29 issues

- Nos. 1-18 (1998-2008) black-white version

- Since no. 19. (2009), coloured, 12-51 pages, ca. 35 pages, in English and German: scientific papers, meeting reports, short reports, meeting announcements, obituaries, editorial notes ...



UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – activities

Pseudokarst Commission Webpage

<http://www.pseudokarst.com/>

Content:

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Pseudokarst Commission of the UIS

The **Pseudokarst Commission** (Commission du Pseudokarst) is a commission of the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS)**, founded during the International **Congress of Speleology in August 1997** in Switzerland, owing to the initiative and attempts of the Jiri Kopecký (CR) and István Eszterhás (HU).



The participants of the 13. Symposium in September 2015
Kuncice pod Ondrejnikem - Czech Republic -
(Photo: Jan Lenart)

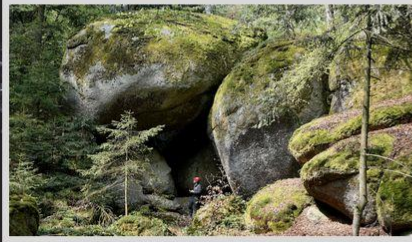
The main objectives of the Pseudokarst Commission is organisation of the international **Symposia on Pseudokarst** and other **events and meetings** dedicated to the pseudokarst, as well as promotion and stimulation of activeness in the exploration and scientific studies of the non-karst caves and pseudokarst features. The Pseudokarst Commission has published the **"Newsletter"** ("Nachrichtenbrief") two times a year.

14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst

Following the postponement of the 18th International Congress of Speleology in France to the summer 2022, the Organising Committee of the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst decided to postpone this meeting to the spring 2022



Merlins Cave at Tintagel Castle
Cornwall / South England
(Photo: Hartmut Simmert)



Dragon's Cave ("Drachenhöhle"), a Bolder Cave in Upper Austria
(Photo: Rudolf Pavuza)



A water-pool in Jaskinia Miecharska, a pseudokarst, gravitational, crevice-type cave (1838 m long), developed in flysch sandstone; Beskid Śląski Mountains, Outer Carpathians, Poland
(Photo: Jan Urban)

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – structure

First Executive Committee (1997):

Jiri Kopecký – Honorary President,

István Eszterhás – President,

Tilo Schone – Vice-President,

Tiberiu Tulucan – Secretary

Present-day Commission structure (since 2008):

Jiri Kopecký – Honorary President,

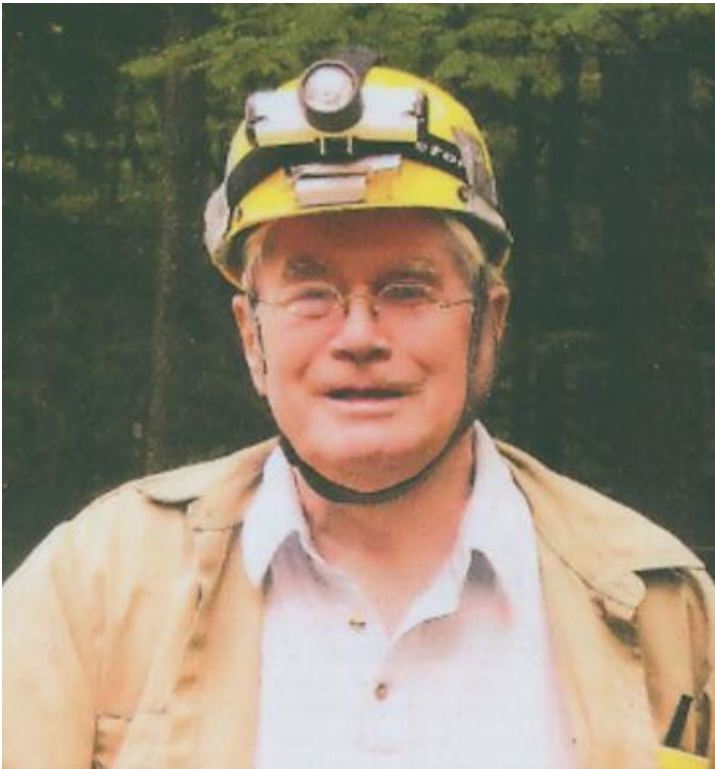
Jan Urban – President,

Rudolf Pavuza – Vice-President,

Hartmut Simmer – Secretary

William R. Halliday – Honorary Member

- 22 other members,
- representatives of 15 countries from Europe (12, e.g. Czechia - 6), America (2), Australia & Oceania (2)



William R. Halliday – Honorary Member

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – problems

„Pseudokarst” – not scientific term!

Facts:

1. Many definitions, e.g. “pseudokarsts are landscapes with morphologies resembling karst, and/or may have a predominance of subsurface drainage through conduit-type voids, but lack the element of long-term evolution by solution and physical erosion” (Kempe, Halliday 1997) – UIS Congress.
2. Numerous publications (more than 50) in many languages/countries trying to define, classificatate or describe pseudokarst.
3. Some publications requiring removal this term from scientific language and many scientists avoiding this term in some countries (e.g. in Poland).

Discussion:

1. There are not „pseudokarst process/processes”, the term concerns only landforms formed due to very diverse processes/factors: gravity, erosion, piping, volcanism (?), weathering, freezing/melting (?), human activity.
2. There are not clarified margins of definitione of pseudokarst forms, e.g. because of imprecise karst definitions or definitions of other types of caves (glacier or volcanic caves).

Conclusions:

1. In fact, the term „pseudokarst” is usefull as a scientific term for the description of landforms/relief/caves/phenomena resembling karst, when there is a problem with precise determination of their nature (origin): poligenetic, non-karst, probably-karst, possibly-karst, more-or-less-karst, karst-like caves.

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – problems

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2. This is a very adequate term for general determination of such hardly defined phenomena and landforms (in several cases very different), independently of strict scientific methods used for their detailed studies and descriptions.



3. **The term „PSEUDOKARST” can gather scientists studying these landforms in meetings and will mobilise them for strict scientific discussions on natural processes and factors affecting cave origin and development in general but focussing on rocks usually not suitable for karstification.**

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – problems

„Pseudokarst Commission” – members and their activity

- 27 members, representatives of 15 countries from Europe (12, e.g. Czechia - 6), America (2), Australia & Oceania (2)

AGE:	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	>80
	10%	19%	33%	16%	22%



UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – problems

„Pseudokarst Commission” – members and their activity

- Problems with organisation of meetings
(14 International Symposium on Pseudokarst, Chęciny, Poland 2020 – less than 20 participants, postponed to 2022),



- Problems with usage of new/modern media,
- Problems with cooperation in active projects „in fields”: exploration, scientific research

UIS Commission on Pseudokarst – perspectives

Restitution of popular and partly scientific (with certain restrictions) meaning/ relevance of the „pseudokarst”.

**Involving and activating new, young members,
without leaving good traditions!**

