

Chapter 2

Parasitology of the German Democratic Republic (1961–1990): Memories of a Time Witness

Theodor Hiepe

Who does not accept his past,
Does not deserve the future
Wilhelm von Humboldt (1767–1833)

2.1 Introduction

The deliberate search for the unexplored is at an increasing rate based on communication between kindred spirits. Academic societies unquestionably offer a forum for that. They provide the possibility for exchange of ideas about new knowledge. In 1960 – i.e. 15 years after the end of the horrible Second World War – bright minds in parasitology thought that it was the right time to unite German-speaking parasitologists in a common Society of Parasitology.

A short time after the foundation of the “German Democratic Republic” (GDR) a strict political separation between East and West Germany occurred, which became even worse after the building of the “Wall” starting on the 13th of August 1961 (see Chapter 1). Until then several East German colleagues (including me) had already been members of the DGP (see Chapter 1). I had become the 43rd

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Fig. 2.1 First President of the Society of Parasitology of the GDR Prof. Dr. A. Borchert



member of the DGP just after was appointed to the Chair of Parasitology and Veterinary Zoology at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

On the initiative of Dr. Engelbrecht and Dr. Odening (Berlin) a group of East German parasitologists met in the year 1960 in East Berlin to consider the foundation of a parasitological society in the GDR. As a result of this meeting the “Working Group Parasitology” was established inside the already existing “Society for Biology of the GDR.” However, it soon turned out that this position was not advantageous and that progress in parasitology could better be achieved by an independent “Society for Parasitology.” The latter was finally founded on the 10th of October 1961 in Berlin and the first secretary became Dr. Odening (Berlin).

Already in the year 1960 Prof. Dr. WD. Eichler started together with colleagues (e.g. Profs. Jirovec, Prague; Z. Kozar, Wroclaw, Breslau and H. Peters, Heidelberg) a scientific journal at the Fischer Publishing House (Jena) called “Angewandte Parasitologie” (= Applied Parasitology, AP).

As soon as the Parasitological Society was founded, its steering board decided that the AP journal should become the official publishing organ of the new Society (Table 2.1 and Table 2.2).

The journal “Angewandte Parasitologie” (= Applied Parasitology) closed a gap in the international parasitological literature. As an official publication organ it accompanied the Society for Parasitology from day one with four volumes/year, with memorandums on important problems with parasites and parasitoses as well as including an intensive informational part. Every member of the Society for Parasitology was a free subscriber of the AP [6].

From a historical point of view, the documented foreword deserves closer attention, which reads as follows

After the end of the Second World War, parasitology in Germany fell considerably behind the development of other countries. This becomes especially obvious if one thinks on the enormous boom of primarily the hygienic branches of parasitology during the last 10 years

Table 2.1 Foundation document of the Parasitological Society of the GDR

Parasitologische Gesellschaft der DDR

Mit dem ersten Heft des 3. Jahrganges beginnend wird die „Angewandte Parasitologie“ von der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR als ihr offizielles Publikationsorgan herausgegeben. Damit konnte schon in den wenigen Monaten des Bestehens der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft eine ihrer wesentlichsten Aufgaben, die Förderung parasitologischer Veröffentlichungen, in die Tat umgesetzt werden.

Wie sehr die Gründung der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR einem dringenden Bedürfnis nach Zusammenschluß der auf den verschiedenen Gebieten der Parasitologie in der DDR arbeitenden Persönlichkeiten und Institutionen entspricht, geht schon allein daraus hervor, daß sich an der Gründungsversammlung im Oktober 1961 zahlreiche Parasitologen aus Wissenschaft und Praxis beteiligt haben. Deshalb verfolgt die Gesellschaft vor allem das Ziel, ihren Mitgliedern durch regelmäßige wissenschaftliche Veranstaltungen, Bildung von Sektionen und Arbeitskreisen, Erweiterung der Publikationsmöglichkeiten usw. einen regen Erfahrungs- und Meinungsaustausch auf breiter Basis zu ermöglichen. In diesem Sinne wird die Gesellschaft auch bestrebt sein, auf nationaler und internationaler Grundlage mit den Fachkollegen anderer Länder, sowohl mit Einzelpersonen als auch mit anderen parasitologischen Gesellschaften, durch gegenseitigen Besuch von Kongressen und Symposien, durch Austauschbesuche usw. zusammenzuarbeiten.

Ferner betrachtet es die Gesellschaft als eine ihrer dringendsten Aufgaben, die staatlichen Institutionen für die Planung und Durchführung groß angelegter parasitologischer Forschungsaufgaben zu gewinnen, insbesondere solcher, die unter Zusammenfassung der besten Arbeitsmöglichkeiten und -kräfte nur kollektiv gelöst werden können.

Ein weiteres wesentliches Ziel sieht die Gesellschaft darin, sich zur Schaffung eines wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses auf parasitologischem Gebiet für die Unterweisung von Studenten, Diplomanden und anderen Kräften in gleicher Weise einzusetzen wie für die Weiterbildung bereits auf Spezialgebieten tätiger Parasitologen.

Zur Erfüllung ihrer Aufgaben bedarf die Gesellschaft der Mitarbeit aller Persönlichkeiten, die wissenschaftlich oder praktisch parasitologisch tätig und gewillt sind, die Entwicklung der Parasitologie in ihren verschiedenen Fachrichtungen zu fördern. In diesem Sinne wendet sich die Gesellschaft an die Biologen, Human- und Veterinärmediziner ebenso wie an die Angehörigen der Land-, Forst-, Fisch- und Wasserwirtschaft, der Phytopathologie, Pharmazie und Schädlingsbekämpfung und nicht zuletzt an die Bearbeiter von Spezial- und Grenzgebieten der Parasitologie mit dem Aufruf zur tätigen Mitarbeit für das Wohl unseres Volkes.

Der Vorstand

Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h. c. A. BORCHERT

Dr. L. BRITZ

Dr. H. ENGELBRECHT

Dr. G. HARTWICH

Prof. Dr. TH. HIEPE

Prof. Dr. Dr. K.-D. RUDAT

Prof. Dr. G. WILDFÜHR

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Sekretär: Dr. K. ODENING.

in those countries that were hit hard by the war like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In consideration of the big tasks that we were set on one hand by the control of parasitic diseases of our domestic animals and on the other by the preventive human health protection, it proved necessary to strengthen parasitological research in every possible way. This shall also be the task of the present new journal.

Table 2.2 Document of the aims and targets of the Parasitological Society of the GDR

Parasitologische Gesellschaft der DDR

STATUT

§ 2

Aufgaben und Ziele



Die Gesellschaft hat zum Ziel, die Aufgaben der Parasitologie in Forschung, Lehre und Praxis zu unterstützen durch:

- 2.1. Förderung der allseitigen Entwicklung der Parasitologie in der DDR,
- 2.2. Organisation von wissenschaftlichen Tagungen, Seminaren, Kolloquien, Arbeitssitzungen und Fortbildungsveranstaltungen,
- 2.3. Zusammenarbeit im nationalen und internationalen Rahmen insbesondere mit anderen wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaften der DDR, der Sowjetunion und der anderen sozialistischen Staaten sowie mit internationalen Organisationen, in denen die Gesellschaft Mitglied ist,
- 2.4. Förderung einer Zusammenarbeit der parasitologisch orientierten Biologen, Humanmediziner und Veterinärmediziner der DDR und Naturwissenschaftler anderer Disziplinen,
- 2.5. Orientierung der Mitglieder auf die prognostischen Schwerpunkte der Forschung und die strukturbestimmenden Hauptaufgaben unserer Volkswirtschaft,
- 2.6. Förderung der Veröffentlichung von wissenschaftlichen Publikationen, der Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und eines Literaturinformations- und Dokumentationssystems,
- 2.7. Einflussnahme auf die Anwendung parasitologischer Forschungsergebnisse im Interesse der Volkswirtschaft und Volksgesundheit,
- 2.8. Beratung bei der Berufslenkung von Parasitologen, Einflußnahme auf den fachgerechten Einsatz,
- 2.9. Einflussnahme auf die Aus- und Weiterbildung der wissenschaftlichen Kader und der technischen Mitarbeiter auf dem Gebiet der Parasitologie,
- 2.10. Befürwortung von Studienreisen und Besuchen von Kongressen und Tagungen im In- und Ausland,
- 2.11. Unterstützung staatlicher Organe und Einrichtungen, wirtschaftsleitender Organe, von VE-Kombinaten und-Betrieben sowie von wissenschaftlichen Institutionen. Förderung von Vereinbarungen, Verträgen und Forschungsaufträgen zwischen den genannten Institutionen und Mitgliedern.

Due to the choice of the title “Applied Parasitology” it is already expressed that our new journal should first and foremost deal with the practical issues of the parasitological sciences. Here, we mainly think on the problems of the medical and veterinary medical parasitology – including its border areas like fish parasites and pest control in the hygiene sector. The practical needs of these economically so significant fields of work are to be accounted for by the fact that apart from original works we also plan to include collective reports, reviews of literature and classification tables.

With this, we also wish to help our junior parasitologists, for whom the to some extent extremely scattered literature is often difficult to access. This means at the same time that it was aimed to take over some of the objectives of the scientific documentation into the area of responsibility of our journal.

May our new journal therefore offer in this way a positive contribution to the growth and prosperity of the parasitological science.

(April 1960, editor and publisher)

2.1.1 Further Remarks

From the beginning our main concern was to give a home to parasitologists, who were active as single researchers or worked in small groups mainly in institutes where medical or veterinary medical investigations were carried out or who worked at universities, regardless of whether they were biologists, physicians or veterinarians.

It should be mentioned that in the GDR only two professorships for parasitology existed at veterinary medical educational institutions [University of Leipzig – Prof. WD. Eichler, 1949–1955; Prof. E.A. Nickel, 1956–1985; followed by Prof. Regine Ribbeck (from 1986) and at Humboldt University/Berlin, Institute for Veterinary Medical Zoology and Parasitology from 1948 to 1960 Prof. A. Borchert; Prof. Th. Hiepe (since 1961)]. Furthermore, there was a personal chair for parasitology (without license), first in Kleinmachnow, from 1968 onwards at the Museum of Natural History Berlin: WD. Eichler [2, 3].

As early as 1926 parasitology had been an obligatory subject at the veterinary medical educational institution in Berlin [1], where also Karl Enigk, later Hannover, was active as an assistant and as a lecturer as well. By the way this was the first chair for parasitology in the German-speaking countries (W. Nöller, 1890–1964) (Fig. 2.2). From a historical point of view I would also like to remark the following: Already **Robert Koch** called for a chair for parasitology shortly before the turn of the nineteenth or twentieth century, after his second Africa expedition “. . .because there is something – the parasitic worms and the disease-causing protozoa – which go beyond the horizon of the bacteriologist.” Not until a quarter-century later, this was realized. And when this had become reality it was W. Nöller and K.I. Skrjabin who postulated in Berlin in 1930: “parasitologists of all countries, unite (Fig. 2.3).” This was in those days (late phase of the Weimar Republic) a dangerous sentence with negative consequences: W. Nöller had to leave the Veterinary University in



Fig. 2.2 Prof. Wilhelm Nöller. Founder of the Institute for Parasitology in Berlin

Fig. 2.3 K.I. Skrjabin (*left*) and W. Nöller (1930 in Berlin)



1930. Not until 34 years later, in 1964, the first World Congress for Parasitology took place in Rome – an important step beyond the national parasitological societies. On the former territory of the GDR were and still are no separate parasitological chairs in university biology and medicine. Thus, the parasitological educational level of the members of the society differed greatly.

In the field of human medicine the institutes for microbiology and hygiene of the Medical Faculty of Rostock [director at that time: Prof. K.-D. Rudat who was experienced in the field of protozoology but who soon left the GDR (in 1962)] and Leipzig (director: Prof. G. Wildführ) allowed parasitology a place as a subject in the frame of microbiological lectures and tutorials. A replacement chair was not available for this. The teaching of parasitology for physicians was usually “supplied” by the Biological Faculties, for example Prof. Freye/ Halle(Saale), Prof. Kämpfe/ Greifswald. Parasitology, either as an obligatory or as a facultative subject was represented at almost all biological faculties respectively universities of the GDR. Under the care of Prof. Reimer, applied parasitology could present remarkable achievements, especially in the area of parasites and parasitoses of fish, was developed at the pedagogical university Güstrow in the course of the years. At the **Academy of Sciences** (at today’s **Leibniz Institute for research on zoo and wild animals**), a superb parasitological working group, which did special research on trematodes and protozoans, developed under the care of Prof. Odening [4, 5].

2.2 Structure of the Society

The newly founded Parasitological Society (PG, Parasitologische Gesellschaft) was at the beginning subdivided into three sections; the heads of the sections were at the same time associated presidium members. This basic structure was extended with a 4th section “general parasitology,” starting in 1969. From 1989 the section Arachno-Entomology was complemented with the term study of vectors and an independent Committee Ichthyoparasitology was formed. On the whole, 14

Table 2.3 General meetings of the Parasitological Society of the GDR

	Gründungsveranstaltung	23.-24.11.1962	Berlin
1.	Haupttagung „Bedeutung der Biologie und Ökologie für die Bekämpfung wichtiger Parasiten“	02.-04.10.1963	Dresden
2.	Haupttagung „Parasit und Umwelt“	18.-20.11.1965	Berlin
3.	Haupttagung, ohne Generalthema	15.-17.11.1967	Leipzig
4.	Haupttagung, ohne Generalthema	29.10-01.11.1969	Rostock
5.	Haupttagung „Bekämpfung von Parasiten und Parasitosen“	11.-13.04.1972	Berlin
6.	Haupttagung „Zur Epidemiologie von Parasitosen“	24.-25.04.1974	Schwerin
7.	Haupttagung „Parasit und Umwelt“	23.-25.09.1976	Karl-Marx-Stadt
8.	Haupttagung „Parasit im Ökosystem“	19.-22.09.1979	Cottbus
9.	Haupttagung „Immunologie und Populationsbiologie in der Parasitologie“	11.-14.11.1981	Greifswald
10.	Haupttagung „Strategie der Bekämpfung von Parasiten und Parasitosen und ihre Grundlagen“	28.02-03.04.1984	Reinhardtbrunn
11.	Haupttagung „Probleme der Diagnostik von Parasiten und Parasitosen“	21.-24.05.1986	Magdeburg
12.	Haupttagung „Parassiten – Pathogenität – Pathogenitätsmechanismen“	15.-18.03.1988	Frankfurt/Oder

Table 2.4 Sections of the Parasitological Society and their chairmen**Protozoology**

Chairmen

Eble, Halle (1962–1965)

G. Wildführ, Leipzig (1965–1974)

G. Gräfner, Schwerin (1974–1986)

B.U. Knaus, Cottbus (1986–1990)

Helminthology

Chairmen

S. Nickel, Berlin (1962–1976)

H. Engelbrecht, Kleinmachnow (1976–1981)

B.U. Knaus, Cottbus (1981–1986)

R. Schuster, Berlin (1986–1990)

Arachno-Entomology, from 1989 AE + study of vectors

Chairmen

L. Britz, Leipzig (1962–1965)

H. Schumann, Berlin (1965–1979)

P. Müller, Kleinmachnow (1979–1990)

General Parasitology (constitution 1969)

Chairmen

L. Reimer, Güstrow (1969–1974)

K. Odening (1975–1990)

Ichthyoparasitology (foundation 1978)

Chairman

L. Reimer, Güstrow (1978–1990)

Table 2.5 Workgroups of the Parasitological Society of the DDR and their chairmen

Protozoology
Coccidiosis and nosematosis (G. Gräfer, Schwerin)
Blood Protozoan infections (1967–1974; R. Jungmann, Berlin)
Trichomoniasis and intestinal protozoa (1965–1978; Dr. W.A. Müller, Magdeburg)
Toxoplasmosis (1965–1974; G. Wildführ, Leipzig)
Immunoparasitology (1986–1990; W.A. Müller, Magdeburg)
Progress in parasitology
Helminthology
Fasciolosis (1962–1975; S. Nickel, Berlin, G.W. Demski, Potsdam, Frick, Potsdam)
Cysticercosis-taeniasis (1963–1982; H. Engelbrecht, Kleinmachnow, K.H. Müller, Karl-Marx-Stadt = Chemnitz)
Helminthic systematics, biology (1963–1969; G. Hartwich, Berlin)
Helminthic immunoparasitology (1983–1986; W.A. Müller, Magdeburg)
Arachno-entomology
Diptera (1963–1990; H. Schumann, Berlin)
Pesticides and repellents (1963–1974); P. Müller, Kleinmachnow)
Ectoparasitica (1974–1990; P. Müller, Kleinmachnow)
Acarina (1968–1979; R. Ribbeck, Berlin)
Ectoparasites (excl. Diptera) (1979–1990; R. Ribbeck, Berlin, Leipzig)
General parasitology
Key technologies (High standard techniques) in parasitology (1987–1990; H.F. Matthes, Berlin)

working groups were gradually (mostly on the occasion of recent events) formed in the departments.

At the foundation meeting of the Parasitological Society of the GDR, which took place on November 23 and 24, 1962 in Berlin and where lectures on all subdisciplines of parasitology were given, it was recommended to conduct main conferences at intervals of 2 or 3 years, planned by the board and the directors of the sections protozoology, helminthology and arachno-entomology (Table 2.3) [11, 12].

In total, 12 main conferences took place between 1963 and 1988 at 11 different locations. The general topics ranged from “parasite and environment” via “epidemiology of parasites,” “pathogenicity mechanisms,” “population biology,” “immunology” through to “diagnostics” and “control”; twice without general topics. The lectures were without exception appealing and followed by lively discussions, the atmosphere was increasingly confident – in the course of the years a solidary group emerged (Tables 2.4 and 2.5).

2.3 Classification of the Parasitological Society in the Scientific Scene of GDR

It used to be custom in the GDR to assign academic societies to a central administrative or social institution. Originally, three possibilities were taken into consideration for parasitology: the Ministry for Healthcare, the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry or the Ministry for University Education and Technical colleges. The

Table 2.6 Scientific Societies in the Academy of Sciences

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- Astronautische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Biologische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Gesellschaft für physikalische u. mathematische Biologie der DDR
 - Chemische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Geographische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Gesellschaft für Geologische Wissenschaft der DDR
 - Historiker-Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Mathematische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Meteorologische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Parasitologische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Physikalische Gesellschaft der DDR
 - Gesellschaft für Psychologie der DDR
-

decision was made for the Ministry which was the most unfavorable for us, MHF (Ministerium für Fach-und Hochschulwesen; Ministry for University Education and technical colleges), a ministry which tended towards strict controls, that is to regulate or, to use stronger language, to patronize, and we weren't suited to that. In short: We consulted the internationally renowned parasitologists K.I. Skrjabin, Moscow, A. Kotlan/Budapest, J.Hovorka/Kosice and came to the conclusion that it would be purposive to put the Parasitological Society under the patronage of a well-known society. This worked out after tough negotiations. Starting from July 1, 1969, the Parasitological Society was under the care of the German Academy of Sciences (including the Physical Society, the Chemical Society, the Biological Society and others) (Table 2.6) [9, 10].

The Vice-president for plenum and classes was responsible for the scientific societies. It was the internationally accepted social scientist and humanities scholar, Prof. Heinrich Scheel, who soon took pleasure in parasitology.

Allow me to draw your attention to the divergent constitutions of scientific societies and cultural societies. The trait of the diversity consists of disciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. In the transdisciplinarily structured Academy the leading representatives are united whereas the scientific societies preferably include all scientists working in the same discipline.

Parasitology was allowed to enter into the ensemble of these scientific societies and thus was allowed to claim a seat in the plenum and in a class, first as a permanent guest with reporting duty, then personalized as a corresponding and finally as a proper member of the Academy of Sciences. Internationally, the Parasitological Society was integrated into the **World Federation of Parasitologists (WFP)** and was one of the seven foundation members of the EFP (European Federation of Parasitology). The foundation act took place in Poland at Jablonna palace near Warsaw on November 19, 1966. (The subscribers were Prof. Stefanski and Prof. Kozar/Poland, Prof. Garnham/GB, Prof. Fain/Belgium, Prof. Hovorka/CSSR, Prof. Pavlov/Bulgaria, Prof. Jansen/the Netherlands and Prof. Hiepe/GDR). At the end, a membership with a close link to the WAAVP (president at that time was J. Eckert/Zurich) was formed; as from 1969, a parasitologist from the GDR (Th. Hiepe/Berlin) was on the

board for many years (WAAVP Executive Committee) and then was elected as 1. Vice president. Therefore, the 13th WAAVP conference with more than 500 participants from 43 countries could take place in East Berlin in August 1989. For the first time it was possible to welcome a remarkable number of participants from the RGW-countries (= Eastern bloc countries); and thus the term **World Congress** was justified [8].

2.4 Postgraduate Teaching Process – Experts in Parasitology

The Parasitological Society undertook special efforts in the postgraduate teaching process of their members. Apart from the main conferences, the symposia at autochthonous and international levels as well as the activities of working groups for the purpose of finding solutions to “burning” parasitological problems, a process was sought to enable members to graduate as an expert in parasitology via postgraduate studies. This was in particular considered necessary for parasitologists who came from biology because it had been possible to acquire the rank “medical specialist” respectively “veterinary medical specialist” (for example for laboratory diagnostics, microbiology and others) in medicine as well as in veterinary medicine since the 1960s. To solve this problem, a special path was pursued: namely to acquire the term “Fachparasitologe/Expert in parasitology” after biennial postgraduate studies [7].

The teaching comprised the following topics:

- General Parasitology
- Protozoology (and related diseases)
- Helminthology (and related diseases)
- Arachno-Entomology (and related diseases)
- Zoonosis
- Diagnostic methods
- Chemotherapy and other control methods of parasitosis
- Basic parasitological methods

2.5 Honors

2.5.1 *Honorary Members*

Initially, the honors awarded by the Parasitological Society were restricted to the election of Honorary Members. According to § 3 of the Statutes honorary membership could be awarded to persons who rendered outstanding services to parasitology and to the fulfilment of the aims of the society.

During the 28 years of its existence the Parasitological Society awarded honorary membership - based on strict selection criteria- to 9 persons (Table 2.7)



Fig. 2.4 Eichler (*left*) congratulates A. Nestler as a new Honorary member of the society



Fig. 2.5 H. Splisteser (*left*) and Th. Hiepe (*middle*) honored K. Skrjabin (*right back*) on the occasion of his 90th anniversary. *Front*: Prof. Keldych, President of the Russian Academy

Table 2.7 List of honorary members of the society

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. A. Borchert/Berlin
Dr. habil. H. Engelbrecht/Kleinmachnow
Prof. Dr. sc. J. Hovorka/Kosice
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. O. Jirovec/Prague
Technical preparateur A. Nestler/Berlin
Prof. Dr. T. Kobulej/Budapest
Prof. Dr. Rosicki/Prague
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c.mult. K.I. Skrjabin/Moscow
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. W. Stefanski/Warsaw



Fig. 2.6 Both sides of the K.A. Rudolphi Medal

2.5.2 *Karl-Asmund Rudolphi Medal*

Starting on the occasion of its 25 years of existence, the Parasitological Society of the GDR donated the Karl-Asmund Rudolphi Medal for outstanding scientific achievements in the field of parasitology. The Rudolphi Medal could be bestowed to parasitologists from the GDR as well as to those from other countries (Fig. 2.6).

2.5.2.1 Why the Karl-Asmund Rudolphi Medal?

K.-A. Rudolphi (1771–1832) was one of the most outstanding researchers and scientists of his time. Born in Stockholm (Sweden) and growing up in Stralsund (Germany), he first studied natural sciences with the major subject botany as well as human medicine in Greifswald and then in Jena. He returned to Greifswald, acquired doctoral degrees in philosophy and medicine and continued his studies in the areas of medicine and veterinary science in Berlin. From 1804 to 1808 he was Professor and head of the Veterinary Institute in Greifswald and afterwards Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Greifswald.

On the occasion of the foundation of the University of Berlin (1810) he was appointed to the Chair of Anatomy (today's discipline physiology was also included therein at that time) on the personal recommendation of Wilhelm von Humboldt. From a present-day perspective Rudolphi was a biologist, a physician and a veterinarian at the same time. He ranks among the pioneers of the bioscience parasitology, namely helminthology (a group of nematodes is named after him). K.-A. Rudolphi was undoubtedly one of the masterminds of sciences [Applied Parasitology 29: 105–106 (1988)].

The K.-A. Rudolphi Medal, created by us and designed by the renowned visual artist König/Suhl (the upper front shows a portrait of Rudolphi, the back the logo of the society) is coined in bronze and has a philatelic dearness; it has been bestowed seven times during GDR times to (Table 2.8):

The Rudolphi Medal was then taken over by the 1990 reunited German Society of Parasitology as an honor for outstanding achievements of young parasitologists. Instead of bronze it's now made of pure silver. The name of the excellent researcher is engraved on the rim.

Table 2.8 Persons honored by the Rudolphi Medal

R. Supperer/Vienna, 1986
U. Dashnjam/Ulan Bator, 1986
T. Kassai/Budapest, 1987
P. Müller/Kleinmachnow, 1987
Th. Hiepe/Berlin, 1989
G. Piekarski/Bonn, 1990
K. Enigk/Hanover, 1990

2.6 Evaluation of Achievements – Final Reflection

Contemplated in retrospect – this I allow myself to claim since I was repeatedly elected chairman of the Parasitological Society of the GDR from 1965 to 1990 – it was a fruitful society, which went its own way under complicated political circumstances.

The collectivization of agriculture, combined with extraordinary highly concentrated livestock populations (e.g. more than one million *Gallus domesticus* chickens, 200,000 pigs or 10,000 dairy cows, 30,000 young cows or 25,000 fattening lambs), each one of it on one farm with a relatively uniform genetic constellation of the species listed, caused highly explosive problems that were caused by parasites and were considered to be a direct threat to human health (parasitic zoonoses!).

Always when parasitological problems came up, they could be solved due to the highly developed will for communication of our members in the Parasitological Society. Especially the action of the working groups proved to be very functional. On behalf of the PG, a parasitological information service was established in the Institute for Parasitology at Humboldt University Berlin. One should also mention the short term eradication of hypodermosis in the area of the GDR (the damage reached the total of 100 million German Mark) on the basis of a mathematical model, the development of a biological control method against the fly plague in pig fattening stock (due to insecticide resistance!) by the use of *Ophyra aenescens* against *Musca domestica*, the *Sarcocystis* and *Toxoplasma* problems in the food chains or the *Enterobius* respectively lice problems in many kindergartens.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the integration of these parasitologists into the group of scientific societies under the patronage of the Academy of Science was very functional. The legacy of the PG is documented twice: in the **Academy archive** (of today's Academy of Science in Berlin Brandenburg) and in the journal **Applied Parasitology** (Angewandte Parasitologie).


2.7 Merging of the Parasitological Societies West – East

And in the fall of 1989: “With the end, the turnaround came” (the deliberate turnaround!), the wall partitioning Berlin was removed through a peaceful revolution and – despite the abundance of everyday problems – both chairmen of the Parasitological Societies of East and West Germany (Prof. Hiepe, Prof. Mehlhorn)

met together in Berlin on September 21, 1990 yet before the reunification of our home country, and adopted the resolution that only one German Society for Parasitology should exist thereafter, which on record looked like this (see Table 2.9):

Table 2.9 Document of the reunion of both German Societies of Parasitology on the 29 September 1990 in Berlin

**PARASITOLOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT
DER DDR**




DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR PARASITOLOGIE e. V.
Berlin, den 29.09.1990

Sehr geehrte Kolleginnen!
Sehr geehrte Kollegen!

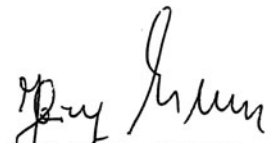
Am 21. September 1990 fand eine Sitzung der Vorstände der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR e.V. und der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Parasitologie e.V. in Berlin statt.

Auf Grund der Vereinigung Deutschlands am 03. Oktober 1990 ist von beiden Vorständen folgende Übereinkunft getroffen worden:

- den Mitgliedern der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR wird der Beitritt in die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parasitologie empfohlen; auch Nichtakademikern und anderen Berufsgruppen, die in enger Beziehung zur Parasitologie stehen, wird ein Beitritt ermöglicht
- 2 Mitglieder des bisherigen Präsidiums der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft werden in den Vorstand der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Parasitologie bis zu den Neuwahlen 1992 kooptiert
- den Traditionen der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft folgend, werden von der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Parasitologie sowohl die Ehrenmitgliedschaften und die Rudolphi - Medaille übernommen und letztere weitergeführt
- das Postgradualstudium Parasitologie wird als Fachspezifische Weiterbildung anerkannt
- die Arbeiten der bisherigen Arbeitskreise können weitergeführt werden.



Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Th. Hiepe
Präsident der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR



Prof. Dr. H. Mehlhorn
Vorsitzender der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Parasitologie

(continued)

Table 2.9 (continued)

ANGEWANDTE PARASITOLOGIE

Herausgegeben von der Parasitologischen Gesellschaft der DDR

Schriftleitung:

A. Borchert · Wd. Eichler · G. Hartwich

Wissenschaftlicher Beirat:

L. Britz, Leipzig · V. Dyk, Brno · I. G. Galuzo, Alma-Ata · Th. Hiepe, Berlin · J. Hovorka, Košice · L. Hussel, Leipzig · O. Jirovec, Prag · Z. Kozar, Wrocław · G. Makara, Budapest · A. P. Markevič, Kiew · K. Matoff (Matov), Sofia · W. Michajłow, Warschau · L. Nemeséri, Budapest · K. Odening, Berlin · L. Pellérdy, Budapest · G. Poljanskij, Leningrad · D. Popovic, Belgrad · R. S. Schulz (Šul'c), Alma-Ata · H. Schumann, Berlin · E. M. Ungureanu, Iași · V. I. Vaškov, Moskau · G. Wildführ, Leipzig · E. Żarnowski, Lublin

3. JAHRGANG

MIT 21 ABBILDUNGEN IM TEXT



VEB GUSTAV FISCHER VERLAG JENA
1962

Hear a lot,
select the good things and follow them,
See a lot,
keep them in mind,
so you'll, sure, gain a great amount
of knowledge!

Confucius (551-479 before Chr.)

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K. Odening (1962–1965)

Renate Buchwalder (1965–1976)

S. Spiess – Akademie-Büro (1976–1981)

Bringfriede Flentje (+ Krüger, Akademie-Büro) (1981–1990)

Furthermore, the following colleagues contributed much to the daily work of the Society: Dr. B. Betke/Cottbus, Dr. Haupt/Leipzig, Prof. R. Ippen/Berlin, Heide Irmer/Berlin, Dr. Jutta Meichsner/Dresden, Dr.habil. Rehbein/Leipzig, Dr. Annegret Semlow/Rostock, Dr.sc. H. Splisteser/Potsdam, M. Buske und F. Coch/Kleinmachnow.

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