

PREFACE

This volume, edited by Spencer Lucas and Niall Mateer, is a tribute to Swedish scientific enterprise in an area of vertebrate palaeontology that has come to occupy a central position in its field. With great care and energy, they have brought together a body of experts who have gone far towards presenting a revision of the classical works of the original group of scientists concerned with the taxonomic evaluation of the vertebrate collections from China housed in the Palaeontological Museum of the University of Uppsala. Though the task is far from completion, the work accounted for in this volume is a beginning of fundamental significance.

One important aspect that has been kept well to the fore is the historical background to the collections. We now possess a well thought-out and exhaustively documented account of how the original collecting campaigns were financed, organized, maintained and directed.

In making the present set of contributions available, it is hoped that a significant era in the joint scientific activities of Sweden and China will prove stimulating to palaeontologists of all backgrounds, not only specialists of vertebrates.

Publication of this work was assured by Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis and the Ekman fund. The initial preparatory studies were financed with a grant from the Swedish Natural Science Research Council which permitted Spencer Lucas to work in Uppsala.

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