

# “Entomologists Will Never be Short of Work”—The Peace Dividend: VIII–XI International Congresses of Entomology, 1948–1960

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## VIII International Congress of Entomology, Stockholm, 1948<sup>1</sup>

The plans laid in Berlin in 1938 for holding the 8<sup>th</sup> congress in Stockholm, Sweden, were ultimately realized, not in 1942 as originally proposed but rather in 1948, after the end of World War II. The goal was to hold ICE in 1948 to coincide with the 13th International Congress of Zoology in Paris to allow entomologists to attend both during a single trip to Europe.

As Karl Jordan recounted in his address to the congress (which he delivered after Ivor Trägård's presidential address), he encountered difficulties in planning the congress during the war, when his “correspondence as secretary of the Executive Committee came almost to a standstill.” His work as a member of the Executive Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, however, continued without interruption, helping him to maintain his optimism about the future of his discipline. As Jordan explained:

Long years of service on the Commission had kept me in close touch with the philosophy on which the great Carolus Linnaeus based the system of naming plants and animals, the fundamental principle of that philosophy being the postulate that the same species shall have the same trivial name in science everywhere on the globe, a law of Nomenclature on which there is now general agreement among Biologists. This fact afforded me consolation during the years of the interruption of international communications. For, if scientists can agree on one point, they will agree on others which are equally rational and desirable, a thought that awakens in our mind the possibility, and creates the hope, of general agreement on matters that deeply affect the welfare of mankind. I remained confident that even the inhuman provocations and continuous propaganda of the war years would not be able to extinguish the light of aimable [*sic*] reasonableness which burns in the breast of the student and lover of Nature...

<sup>1</sup> Passages translated into English from their original language by May R. Berenbaum with the use of some language familiarity combined with Google Translate are indicated in parentheses following the quotation as “MRB”; those translated into English by native speakers are indicated in parentheses following the quotation with the name of the translator.