Introduction to this Volume

The Second International Mammoth Conference (2ndIMC) took place May 16-20, 1999, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The theme of the conference - 200 Years of Mammoth Research - was inspired by the fact that our prime target was described in 1799 by the German naturalist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach. *Mammuthus primigenius* BLUMENBACH, 1799 was already the subject of the 1stIMC in St. Petersburg, 1995 and is in 2003 again the subject of the 3rdIMC in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

The 2ndIMC was a fruitful meeting that took place in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. There were 92 participants from 17 countries. They enjoyed over 40 lectures, 12 poster presentations, and an excursion to some of the most interesting localities in the western half of the Netherlands: the Zuurland boreholes, the Maasvlakte beaches, and the Oosterschelde where Early Pleistocene bones are found some 40 m below the water surface. The 2ndIMC was also the place where the now famous Jarkov mammoth was presented to the participants and to the general public during an evening lecture. Since, the ‘mammoth hype’ conquered the world. Yet not only the general public is interested in ‘mammoths and dinosaurs’ (creatures sharing large size and extinction). The three conferences show the keen interest of the scientific community too.

In Rotterdam, we presented the proceedings of the St. Petersburg meeting; similarly, Yukon witnesses the presentation of this Volume. This Volume - called ADVANCES IN MAMMOTH RESEARCH - unites all the manuscripts that are dealing with mammoths and other Proboscidea. In order to avoid an excessively heavy volume all papers dealing with other taxonomic groups (lagomorphs, rhinoceros, lynx, and snowy owl) were published in 2001 in Deinsea 8. The editors apologize for the four years it took to produce this Volume, a delay that inevitably results in some of the papers presenting information that may be overtaken by new developments. Yet it is our feeling that ADVANCES IN MAMMOTH RESEARCH provides the reader with an up-to-date review of mammoth research.

the editors
The majority of participants in front of the Natural History Museum Rotterdam, 20 May 1999. [photo and illustration: Jaap van Leeuwen]