



Joaquín Frenguelli (1883—1958)

On June 22, 1958, Professor Dr. J. Frenguelli passed away in Santa Fe, Argentina. His death is a great loss, not only to our small group of Argentine micropaleontologists, but to the micropaleontologists of the entire world. May the lines that follow serve as the sign of our sorrow at this loss and as a tribute to his high merit in the sciences of geology and micropaleontology.

Joaquín Frenguelli was born August 19, 1883, in Rome, Italy, the third son of the painter Pascual Frenguelli. He finished his primary and secondary schooling in his native city. In 1903, in accordance with the wishes of his parents, Frenguelli entered the medical faculty of the University of Rome, and was graduated with the title of Doctor six years later.

The real interests of Frenguelli as a student were not, however, in the medical but in the geological sciences. Therefore, even during his student days in medical school, he devoted many hours to geology, completing, under the guidance of Professor E. Clerici, a special course in practical geology. He also participated in all of the Italian Geological Congresses (1906, 1907, 1909), and took several field trips of a geologic nature. His first published paper on geology also appeared during this period, in 1908 (*Soc. Geol. Ital., Boll.*, vol. 27).

In 1911, Dr. Frenguelli came to the Argentine upon the invitation of his uncles, who lived at that time in Santa Fe. He intended to visit his relatives and to become familiar with the new continent, returning home in a year or two. However after the first acquaintance, he began little by little to change his intention, eventually deciding to settle permanently in the Argentine. He therefore adopted Argentine citizenship, and made this country his second homeland.

During the first nine years following his arrival here, Dr. Frenguelli was compelled to work as a physician, but nevertheless he did not abandon his favorite natural science. He broadened his knowledge in this field with a large amount of reading and studying. At the same time, he completed some geologic studies, the results of which were published in Argentine scientific journals.

In 1920, two great events occurred in his life. He married Miss Dominga Bonazzola, and he was named Professor of Geology and Paleontology in the newly organized Universidad Nacional del Litoral. This appointment enabled him to cease the practice of medicine and to devote himself entirely to geology and related sciences. From that year on, therefore, he carried on his productive research on natural science in the Argentine. This was done in

connection with various universities and other scientific institutions.

Dr. Frenguelli occupied the chairs of Professor of Geology, Geomorphology, Paleontology of Invertebrates, and Paleobotany. He took numerous geologic field trips, and he published almost 300 papers and larger works on various subjects within those fields. To micropaleontologists, the most interesting are those concerning micropaleontological topics. In this field of activity, the majority of his publications, numbering sixty, were on fossil and Recent diatoms. In addition, he also wrote some interesting and important papers on other micro-organisms, such as silicoflagellates and *Silicotextulina*. His principal publications in micropaleontology are listed below.

Among the universities and institutions where he worked, his favorite was probably the University of La Plata. There he amassed a very rich collection of slides with mounted diatoms, containing approximately 3000 units. For many years he was also the Director of the Museum of Natural Sciences at La Plata. This museum is one of the best in the whole of South America. The above-mentioned collection is now housed in the Departamento de Paleontología de Invertebrados y Paleobotánica.

In his own home in La Plata, he also collected a library of diatom literature, which includes (with reprints) some thousands of items. Many of them are truly priceless, and represent bibliographic rarities. This library is probably one of the best private libraries on diatoms existing in the world.

In his private life Dr. Frenguelli was a very jovial, always good-humored person. He loved nature very much, and it is difficult to find any place in all the Argentine that he did not visit with his geologic hammer. As a true representative of the Latin peoples, he understood art very well and could paint excellently, although he did not receive any special education in that field. All of the plates accompanying his numerous papers were executed by Frenguelli himself. In addition, he was very fond of music, and played the guitar rather well.

He was a delightful companion on trips, always merry and helpful. After tramping many leagues, and after discussions with the students of what they had seen and studied, he liked to play cards, and was out of humor only when he lost. The students, who liked him very much, sometimes pretended that he had won, and he was as pleased as a child.

The Lord did not bless his marriage with children. He left no descendants, but only his widow. He had been married thirty-eight years, exactly half his life, the half that had been devoted to science and teaching. His name will always remain deeply involved with the history of natural science in South America. *Sit tibi terra levis!*

IMPORTANT MICROPALEONTOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS OF DR. FRENGUELLI

- 1923 – *Diatomeas del río Primero en la cuenca de Córdoba; Primera contribución para la sinopsis de las diatomeas argentinas*. Acad. Nac. Cien. Córdoba, Bol., vol. 27, pp. 13–119, 9 pls.
– *Diatomeas de Tierra del Fuego*. Soc. Cien. Argentina, An., vol. 96, pp. 225–263.
- 1924 – *Ibid.* Op. cit., vol. 97, pp. 87–118, 231–266.
– *Ibid.* Op. cit., vol. 98, pp. 5–63, 13 pls.
- 1925 – *Sopra alcuni microrganismi a guscio siliceo*. Soc. Geol. Ital., Boll., vol. 44, fasc. 1, pp. 1–8, 1 pl.
– *Diatomeas de los arroyos del Durazno y Las Brusquitas en los alrededores de Miramar (Prov. de Buenos Aires)*. Physis, Buenos Aires, vol. 8, no. 29, pp. 129–179, 2 pls., 1 text-fig.
- 1926 – *Diatomeas fósiles del Prebelgranense de Miramar (Prov. de Buenos Aires)*. Acad. Nac. Cien. Córdoba, Bol., vol. 29, pp. 5–107, 9 pls., 4 text-figs.
- 1927 – *Klasse Diatomeae (Bacillariophyta)*. In: HIRMER, M., *Handbuch der Paläobotanik*. Munich and Berlin: Vol. 1, Section Thalophyta (by J. Pia), pp. 44–55, 4 text-figs.
– *Diatomee dei travertini del uadi Refuf presso l'oasi di Kharga nell'alto Egitto*. Soc. Geol. Ital., Boll., vol. 46, fasc. 1, pp. 1–21, 1 pl.
- 1928 – *Diatomeas del océano Atlántico frente a Mar del Plata*. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. “B. Rivadavia,” An., vol. 34, pp. 497–572, 21 pls., 2 text-figs.
- 1929 – *Bacillariales*. In: CHIOVENDA, E., *Flora Somala*. Rome: Min. Col. Italia, pp. 371–408, 8 pls.
- 1930 – *Diatomeas marinas de la costa atlántica de Miramar (Prov. de Buenos Aires)*. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. “B. Rivadavia,” An., vol. 36, pp. 243–311, 10 pls., 8 text-figs.
- 1932 – *A proposito delle Diatomee del Paleozoico*. Soc. Geol. Ital. Boll., vol. 51, pp. 101–114, 1 text-fig.
- 1933 – *Diatomeas de la región de los esteros del Yberá, en la provincia de Corrientes*. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. “B. Rivadavia,” An., vol. 37, pp. 365–476, 9 pls., 7 text-figs.
- 1934 – *Diatomeas del Plioceno superior de las Guayquerías de San Carlos (Provincia de Mendoza)*. Museo de La Plata, Rev., vol. 34, pp. 339–371, 3 pls., 3 text-figs.
– *Cursillo intensivo sobre Diatomeas*. La Plata, Univ. Nac., Bol., vol. 18, no. 6, pp. 163–210, 26 text-figs.
- 1935 – *Einige Bemerkungen zu den Archaeomonadaceen*. Archiv Protistenk., vol. 84, no. 1, pp. 232–241, 1 text-fig.
– *Silicotextulina deflandrei, nueva especie de foraminífero silíceo viviente en el puerto de San Blas (Prov. de Buenos Aires)*. Museo de La Plata, Not., Sec. Zool., vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 113–119, 1 text-fig.
- 1936 – *Cristomatáceas del Neuquén*. Museo de La Plata, Not., Sec. Bot., vol. 1, no. 9, pp. 247–275, 6 text-figs.