

## PREFACE

Although the study of erratic boulders derived from the classical Silurian succession of the Baltic region, had provided, even earlier, a certain insight into the subsurface Silurian of the Northern part the Polish Lowland, a real breakthrough was made due to a large scale drilling programme initiated in 1957 by the Polish Geological Institute. Within the Early Palaeozoic rocks graptolites were among the most privileged groups, as their remains were most common and best preserved. They offered a rich material suitable for etching and further morphological scrutiny. Some especially carefully measured and studied wellcores provided crucial information concerning the development of graptoloid faunas and Silurian stratigraphy in the Polish part of the East European Platform (EEP).

The first part of the book discusses the major features of the platformian Silurian in Poland and the adjacent areas, while the second one summarizes and updates the earlier results concerning the development, trends and patterns of graptoloid faunas from Wenlock and Ludlow Series. The following chapters contain up-to-date taxonomic and biostratigraphic studies on the late Ludfordian and Přidoli divisions of the Silurian. The last chapter goes beyond the empirical evidence and shows the emergence of linograptids against a wider background of evolutionary biology.

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The Editors