

Preface

The Bolin-65 Symposium

The papers in this special joint issue of *Tellus A* and *B* were presented at a Symposium held outside Stockholm, 20–23 May 1990, in honour of Professor Bert Bolin on the occasion of his 65th birthday and retirement from Stockholm University. During four beautiful spring days, around 50 of Bert Bolin's colleagues and collaborators over the years met at Örsundsbro outside Stockholm to discuss past, present and possible future developments in our understanding of the atmospheric system. The theme of the Symposium was "Atmospheric Sciences—Quo Vadimus?". This theme is a broad one including such questions as Where are we?, Where did we come from?, Where are we going? and What are the issues for the future?

The presentations and discussions were organized in the following five sessions:

- General Circulation of the Atmosphere
- Numerical Weather Prediction
- Ocean Modelling
- Biogeochemical Cycles
- Global Change

These topics not only cover a wide range of issues in atmospheric science, but they also show the development in Bert Bolin's scientific research interests. The very wide definition of atmospheric science, including parts of oceanography and biology/ecology, is a characteristic feature of Bert's scientific thinking: to integrate physical, chemical and biological processes in the environment into a holistic picture of the whole climate system, including the cycling of energy, water and other substances.

In addition to the formal presentations—about half of which are included in this issue—ample time was given to scientific discussions. It is not surprising that many of these discussions were leavened with memories from past times, but they were also—to a large degree due to the influence from Bert Bolin's own creative imagination—very much focussed on the future. This issue contains examples of both historical and future oriented contributions.

No attempt is made here to summarize the scientific discussions during the Symposium. Suffice it to say that many of the participants acknowledged the very fundamental contributions to atmospheric science research made by Bert Bolin over the years and the assistance and inspiration that they personally had received from him.

An open session at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm in the evening of 22 May gave the participants an opportunity to meet with other members of the Swedish scientific community. Discussion topics included the predictability of climate and changing chemical composition of the atmosphere.

The Bolin-65 Symposium was sponsored by the Swedish Natural Science Research Council, the Swedish Council for Forestry and Agricultural Research, the National Swedish Environment Protection Board and the International Meteorological Institute in Stockholm.

Members of the Organizing Committee were Henning Rodhe (chairman), Ulla Hammarstrand, Erland Källén and Harald Lejenäs.

Henning Rodhe
Editor