nin had a distinct maximal peak at 279 nm. Fibre-tracheid walls in the earlywood and terminal region showed high UV absorption and maximal peaks at 274 nm and 277 nm, respectively. In the compression wood the UV absorbances of the fibre-tracheid and vessel secondary wall increased and the wavelength of the UV maximal peak of the fibre-tracheid moved to 279 nm. 3) It is considered that the lignin in the vessel and fibre-tracheid secondary walls, and middle lamella of *Buxus* xylem is composed of both guaiacyl and syringyl residues, and that only the guaiacyl residues increase in the vessel and fibre-tracheid secondary walls of compression wood.

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**Report from the 3rd Afro-European Regional Wood Anatomy Symposium in Zürich, Switzerland**

From 22–27 July a meeting of about 120 wood scientists from all over the world was held on the premises of the venerable ‘Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH)’, at Zürich, Switzerland. It was organised as a joint meeting of IAWA and IUFRO Wood Quality Subject Group (S. 5.01), yet the respective representatives in the organising committee, Ben ter Welle (on behalf of the IAWA) and Pieter Baas (on behalf of the IUFRO), frankly acknowledged that 95% of the work was done by the local host, Ladislav Kučera, and his co-workers. And they managed it in the typically Swiss manner – meticulous and successful – ensuring a pleasant and profitable stay for everyone.

One interesting aspect of the symposium was the fact that it could have been easily renamed ‘World Wood Anatomy Symposium’. About 25% of the participants came from other than African and European countries. Unfortunately, but in line with past symposia, only few colleagues from Africa could attend the conference.

The gathering of scientists from so many countries certainly was an advantage of the meeting as it constituted a perfect opportunity to establish or deepen contacts with many colleagues. The generously calculated breaks during the scientific programme left plenty of time for what many regard as the most important and productive activity at conferences: the technical discussions from colleague to colleague or in a small group.

The scientific programme comprised 44 oral presentations (8 sessions including 2 × 2 parallel sessions), 2 × 3 hours reserved for observing, reading and discussing the 37 posters, and two technical excursions. The topics of the talks and posters reflected the enormous range of wood anatomy related science. Highlights included the IAWS Academy Lecture of Professor Dr. D. Fangel (F.R.G.) on “Aging and fossilisation of wood and its components” as well as reports on the relation between wood structure within growth rings and veneer cutting, the causes of oak discoloration, the tone characteristics of wood wind instruments and many others (abstracts of the contributions were published in the previous issue of this Bulletin).

As a personal remark I may be allowed to express the delight over the unusually high number of contributions that partly dealt with aspects of the bark or phloem.

Most interesting was the fact that the oral presentations and posters gave extensive information about a great number of special fields within the scope of wood anatomy research, but ‘classic’ contributions, i.e., on wood formation, systematic wood anatomy, utilisation related to wood structure, were very much under-represented.

The technical excursion of Wednesday, July 25, took us by means of a long bus and rack-railway ride through the beautiful scenery of Switzerland to the ‘Schynige Platte’ where the participants had the opportunity to have a look at the fascinating flora of the alps. The visitors of the open air museum ‘Ballenberg’, especially those interested in wood construction and housing, were im-
pressed by the beauty and the variability of Swiss wooden houses.

The half-day excursion on Friday was to the impressive sawmill of Schilliger Ernst in Haltikon.

The IAWA Business Meeting took place in the usual quiet and harmonic atmosphere. After we were told by our perfect Dutch-American team (Ben ter Welle, Pieter Baas, Regis Miller) that the financial situation of our association is sound and that there is no lack of manuscripts for the Bulletin, new members to the Afro-European Regional Committee were recommended for nomination to the Council.

People who once attended an IAWA meeting know that the social events are often remembered for a long time because of their congenial and relaxing atmosphere. We are sure that this will happen to those present at the Swiss meeting. It started with a warm welcome (Swiss Apero) on Sunday evening in the ‘Aula’ (assembly hall) of the ETH. This remarkable place was also the venue for the IAWA party on Tuesday evening. Having a spectacular view over Zürich, the partici-

Participants of the IAWA-IUFRO Symposium in front of the ETH-Centre in Zürich.

Dr. Kučera (left) and Professor Bosshard (right) during their dinner speeches.