

Onnia superba (Bancroft, 1929, as *Cryptolithus superbus*) (TH658)

Onnia → Trinucleida → Trinucleoidea → Trinucleidae

Provenance : Czechia; Prague, Pancrac

Formation : ? Fm

Age : “Caradocian” (Upper Ordovician)

Details : Some time ago the city of Prague decided to dig a tunnel (or rather two tunnels) to enlarge its underground tram/train network...not certain any more what it was...but one of the tracks started (or ended) at Pancrac. So...I guess this specimen (and TH657, ***Sokhretia solitaria***) is part of a lot that was “saved” from being crushed and grinded (for possible road-works, you know).

The prep on this complete, but slightly disarticulated (see how the thoracopygidium is not quite aligned with the cephalon?) specimen seems terrible, but it looks better than the job done on (TH657) ***Sokhretia solitaria*** ... and then again perhaps no better job could be performed with the material at hand?

By the way, the “Caradocian” is a now obsolete (British) Series in the Ordovician System. It was in fact the fifth of the six subdivisions of the period, its name introduced in 1839 by Roderick Murchison for the sandstone series of Caer Caradoc in Shropshire (England). In modern days, the Caradoc is the first part of the Upper Ordovician, comprising the whole of the Sandbian, and the first half of the Katian Stages.

According to biolib.cz, Czech specimens would come from the Bodalec Fm, which is Katian of age, and which delimitates the “Caradocian” age description into the “upper” part of that obsolete Series (smiley). In England (from where Bancroft originally described the species) it would be found in the Onny Fm (which most probably puts the locus typicus somewhere on the River Onny, Shropshire), also of Upper Ordovician age.

The species has also (with certain doubt) been reported from the Ktaoua Fm of Blekos and Bou Nemrou in Morocco (In fact, research is needed to confirm the identifications). As things stand, it’s best to refer Moroccan finds to ***Onnia cf. superba***...

Bought on : 03.03.2024

Bought at : Marche Couvert, Hannut

Event : Hannut 2024



Above, the usual dorsal images (general view on the piece on the left, a more detailed image

of the trilobite on the right), below, lateral oblique images from the right and left side of the trilobite (found respectively left and right in the images).



Last image is an oblique anterior one (with focus on the cephalon)...with (to my great delight) slightly more surface details than in the case of (TH657) *Sokhretia solitaria* from the same locality. Again...the scarcity of surface details...it's quite okay by me...because after all, this purchase got the trilobite-house collection a truly special specimen, related to a specific "historical" (local) event.

