



The Geochemical News

NUMBER 56

FEBRUARY, 1973

V.M. GOLDSCHMIDT AND F.W. CLARKE AWARDS

The membership is reminded of the necessity of making known their preferences for these awards to the Awards Committee. It may at first appear that any scientist who should be considered for one of these medals will already be known to at least one member of the Committee. This is not necessarily true. Most of us specialize to a considerable extent within the fields of geochemistry and cosmochemistry, and consequently may miss highly significant papers of only indirect interest to us. To a certain extent this lack of coverage by one individual is compensated by the make-up of the Committee. On the other hand the Committee is intentionally small to facilitate efficient and rapid operation. An appropriate recipient for the Clarke award is especially likely to be missed because he may not have become well known within five years of completion of his formal studies.

Members are also reminded that the Awards Committee has a very tight time schedule to meet. Between now and early summer all nominations must be reviewed, curricula vitae assembled and evaluated, and final selection made and approved by Council. For this reason, if for no other, it is essential to receive together with the name placed in nomination as much information as you can provide. Often you will have access to pertinent data not known or expected by members of the Committee. A fair evaluation should take these into consideration; otherwise relevant matters may come to the attention of the Committee for one candidate while comparable accomplishments of another may not.

The V.M. Goldschmidt medal, the senior award consists of a gold medal awarded annually for outstanding achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry. The junior award, the F.W. Clarke medal, consists of a silver medal awarded annually for a single, outstanding contribution, normally published within five years of the completion of the recipient's formal studies.

Finally, it seems appropriate to quote from the letter of your past President, Francis R. Boyd, distributed last year. "The Council has further decided that it would be desirable to seek funds to build an endowment which could be used to meet the annual cost of presentation of these awards. Inasmuch as the awards honor the memory of two leaders in geochemistry as well as the achievements of the recipients we feel it would be most appropriate to build this endowment with a large number of modest donations. In this way all members of The Geochemical Society will have the opportunity of making significant, voluntary contributions in support of the awards and their meaning and significance will thus be enhanced.

"I hope you will wish to contribute to our Award Fund, in whatever amount you deem practical. Please make your checks payable to The Geochemical Society, Award Fund, and send them to" Dr. Stephen Huebner, Treasurer, The Geochemical Society, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242.

Please send your nominations and supporting statements to Dr. E.E. Angino, Secretary, State Geological Survey, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044 by March 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY COMMITTEE

Your attention is drawn to item 17 in the Secretary's Report. The Committee has identified little enthusiasm in the Society for its proposed activities, from which it may follow that members of the Society either do not have a great interest in activities that might be fostered by the Environ. Comm. or prefer to pursue such interests through other channels. It would be very helpful to the officers of the Society to have an expression of interest from members who would like to participate in environmental geochemical matters under the aegis of the Society. Please write to Dr. E.E. Angino, Secretary, State Geological Survey, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044, or to Dr. Brian J. Skinner, President, Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn. 06520.

MINUTES OF GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 1972, CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Attendance: Boyd, Skinner, Angino, Huebner, Barnes, Erdman, Siever, Fournier, Greenwood, Burnham, Holland.

Secretary's Report

1. An extended discussion was held regarding provisions of proposed Strock-Minami Fund. Dr. Lester W. Strock intends to set up an endowment of approximately \$10,000, the interest from which (approximately \$500) will go to the Goldschmidt awardee. Council considered publication of biography (written by Strock) of Goldschmidt in *Journal Geol. Educ.* or *Geotimes*. Some discussion was directed toward method of ordering medals, format of ceremony, etc. It was decided the treasurer will have responsibility of ordering medals, certificates, payment, etc.
2. Membership Committee Report was accepted. Discussion of membership problems concluded with decision that present increase is steady and satisfactory. Resignation of K. Kvenvolden as chairman was accepted. Motion made, seconded and carried that the committee be disbanded.
3. Council accepted report of *Geochem. International*. Journal is in reasonably good shape financially for next few years (letter from L. Hoover of AGI).
4. Council approved sponsorship of proposed OGD symposium for 1973 meeting. Dr. E. Baker of Northeastern La. U. will act as chairman.
5. Treasurer's report was accepted. The treasurer was instructed to set up a separate Strock-Minami Fund and combine it with the remaining Abelson Funds. The problem of Meteoritical Society-Geochemical Society membership as regards to *Acta* was discussed and hopefully resolved.
6. Secretary's report was accepted. It indicated a total membership as of 1 November 1972 of 1472 with 101 new members for 1972, and 6 resignations and 1 death.
7. Report of the Editor was accepted. The Council approved appointment of J. Vine as Associate Editor. D. Shaw led discussion of publication problems and impact of *Acta* which is high. Council approved present arrangement between Society, Editor and Pergamon Press for operations of the Journal. To offset costs of editor's office (secretary, etc.) present financial agreement is as follows: Geochemical Society \$2500, Pergamon \$10,000.
—Council requested President, with editor, to approach Pergamon Press to increase their input to cover costs of publishing the Journal; thereby reducing the Society's input. The Council must also consider the appointment of an executive editor starting November 1973.
8. A discussion of pros and cons of AAAS affiliation led to conclusion to continue present arrangement. President appoints representative for regular AAAS meeting.
9. Following a visit by AGI officers -- Lameroux, Hoover, Wilson, and Russell -- Council voted to ratify AGI constitution supporting action of Emergency Ex. Committee. Huebner was appointed Geochemical Society delegate to AGI. Moved and seconded that delegate ask for review of administrative procedures of AGI prior to voting on Executive Director. Motion failed 4 for - 5 opposed.
10. Appointments to Medal Award Committees made by President: B. Coe (chairman) of Clarke Committee with D. Wones and H. Holland replacing members going off (Ernst, Garrels); T. Hoering (Chairman Goldschmidt Committee with Wedepohl, and Wyllie replacing Barton and Greenwood. Nominations for awards are due by 1 March in hands of Secretary with documentation. Notice to be placed in *Geotimes* and Newsletter.
11. Appointments to Nomination Committee were approved. William Luth chairman.
12. The Council set Sept., May and Jan. as fixed months for appearance of Society newsletter. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Society pay for mailing of one OGD Newsletter.
The Council will have to appoint a new Editor for the Newsletter. Paul Cloke resigned effective after January 1973 issue. A motion was made, seconded, and approved indicating the Society's appreciation to Paul Cloke for his long term of editorship of the Newsletter and making it a viable vehicle for Society news.
13. The Council accepted the report of Standards Committee, much of the data contained therein has already been published. A summary of committee work will appear in the March 1973 *Acta*. Motion made, seconded and approved to extend thanks of Council to Standard Comm. for extensive work done for benefit of the Society membership.
14. The Council ratified actions of the Emergency Executive Committee changing by-laws to provide for permanent OGD representative on Council, replacement of Council member following death, incapacitation, etc. Changes to be reflected in by-laws. The Secretary will effect the changes.
15. The Council accepted report of Book-Translation and Program Committees.
16. The Council rejected any action on Society sponsored insurance plan.
17. An extended discussion of Environmental Geochemistry Comm. led to decision to continue it on an ad hoc basis. Committee can set up symposia, stimulate interest in subject, etc. The committee should explore interest in Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health. Inquire of membership in Newsletter regarding interest or need of Environ. Comm. The committee needs a chairman.

18. The council voted to disband Educational Comm.
19. A discussion of NAS-NRC study through U.S. National Comm. on Geochemistry of Orientation of Geochemistry was held. This panel is chaired by Garrels.
20. Moved and seconded to adjourn meeting at 5 P.M.

E.E. Angino, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1972 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

A spring meeting of the Executive Council of the Geochemical Society was held on April 17, 1972, in the Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C. The meeting was called to order by President Boyd at 12:30 PM. Members of the Council present were: Boyd, Angino, Epstein, Hanshaw and Shaw. Also present at request of Council were: Barton, Cloke, Greenland, Simon and Toulmin.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented an interim report on the financial situation of the Society. A brief summary, including results of the dues change-over system follows:

Treasurer's Ad Hoc Interim Report 4/17/72

1971 Membership 2005

1972 Membership 1272 + approximately 100 unprocessed = 1372 *

*Anticipated at least another 125 to trickle in for a total membership of approximately 1500.

Treasurer asked to send drop notice to all those recently dropped. This is to be done by July 1.

Mild problem of financing exists. Approximate Current Status (4/17/72)	\$ 4,100	Checking Account
	5,000	Operating Bank Account
	5,000	Abelson Fund
Total	\$14,100	

Expenses: All bills are paid - all major 1972 expenses have been met except:

About \$5,000 will be expended to get dies and art work for our 2 medals which will leave approximately \$9,000 in our operating fund.

Nevertheless, fixed expenses for 1972 are expected to exceed income by about \$2,000. This situation is not critical because of the large surplus in our operating fund. However, a dues increase will become a necessity in 2-3 years.

Bruce B. Hanshaw, Treasurer

REPORTS AND COUNCIL ACTIONS

Nominating Committee: The slate of officers recommended by nominating committee was presented by P. Toulmin III and was accepted by the Council as proposed. This slate has been published in the May Newsletter.

Subsequent to publication, Geoffrey Eglinton withdrew as a nominee for Councilor. There was no provision in the By-laws for the withdrawal of a nominee or the resignation of a Councilor. Moreover, our practice of having as one councilor a member of the Organic Geochemistry Division has never been formalized. Accordingly, the Executive Committee acting for the Council introduced the following new By-laws:

(add to By-law II-2)

One member of the Executive Council shall be a member of the Organic Geochemistry Division.

(let present paragraph of By-law III be labeled 1 and add these paragraphs)

2. In case of withdrawal of any candidate nominated by the Council or in case of resignation or death of a councilor or officer, an emergency executive committee may appoint an officer, candidate or councilor to serve a term of not more than one year.

3. Nominations for the Organic Geochemistry Division Councilor shall be the responsibility of OGD rather than the nominating committee, subject to the same election procedure as other nominees.

Keith A. Kvenvolden was nominated by the Council, on recommendation of the Organic Geochemistry Division, to serve the first year of Dr. Eglinton's term.

Awards Committee: P. Barton presented a report of the Goldschmidt Medal Committee. The Committee nominated Dr. Paul Gast and this nomination was approved by the Council.

A report from the Clarke Award Committee was received by mail from Chairman Gary Ernst. The committee nominated D.A. Papanastassiou for his research on Rb-Sr ages of lunar rocks, and this nomination was approved by Council.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the need of documentation to support nominations for the Goldschmidt Medal, and regarding means of soliciting nominations from membership. It was decided to place an announcement in the August or September issue of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* requesting that nominations for the medals be sent to the Secretary with appropriate documentation. These nominations would then be forwarded to the Award Committees. The Vice-President was requested to appoint a new chairman for the committee along with two members to serve 3-year terms so that the Committees can begin work at the next GSA meeting.

A discussion of the nature of the award ceremony concluded that the Vice-president would be master of ceremonies. The presentation would be made with appropriate introductions in a ceremony to precede the annual Presidential address.

Journal Translations Committee: P. Simon and F. Greenland led the discussion of the financial situation of *Geochemistry International*. Presently, the publication has over 500 subscribers, is nearly self-supporting, and appears to present no problem for the next 2-3 years. The president was requested to obtain specific information on costs of *Geochemistry International* from AGI. Funding by NSF for translations is being phased out but some funds from sale of back issues being held in escrow by AGI are expected to be made available.

Newsletters: Owing to the rising costs of publication, the Council examined in great detail the possibilities for the publication of the Society's Newsletters. Decision was made to combine the *Geochemical News* and *OGD News* but otherwise to retain the present format. The Council voted to restrict what is to be included to essential items (e.g. excluding abstracts, bibliographies, etc.) Three issues are to be published per year; one in January, one in April-May, and one in September-October. The cost of any issue is not to exceed \$600. Paul Cloke agreed to continue to supervise the publication of the *Newsletter*.

Geodynamics Program: The Council voted to support the aims of the Geodynamics program. Considerable geochemistry is to be included in this program. President Boyd was instructed to draft a letter to the Chairman of the Geodynamics Committee, Dr. Charles L. Drake, indicating our support.

Minorities: The Council voted to send a delegate to the National Conference on Minorities in Earth Sciences and Mineral Engineering to be held in Boulder later this year.

Acta: The Council approved Dr. James Vine as Associate Editor for *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*.

Isotope Tracer Symposium: The Council voted to sponsor a symposium on isotopic tracers being organized by E.C. Perry for the Minneapolis meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President Boyd at 5:00 P.M.

BOOK REVIEWS

Readers will notice in the minutes of the April, 1972 Council Meeting that book reviews are being discontinued following the acceptance of *Geochim. et Cosmochim. Acta* as the official journal of the Society, thereby avoiding duplication of reviews while simultaneously cutting costs. A considerable number of books had already been accepted for review, however, and these will be published as space permits.

MARINE CHEMISTRY, by R.A. Horne. xxii + 568 pages, 206 figures, 130 tables, 34 appendices. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1969. \$20.50.

The thirteen chapters in this book are arranged into four parts: The Physical Chemistry of Water and Aqueous Electrolytic Solutions, The Chemical Composition of Seawater, Chemistry of the Marine Interfaces, and Selected Topics. Part I starts with a discussion of the structure of water, then builds on this background showing the relevance of what is known about this subject to the understanding of oceanographic phenomena. In this respect and in its presentation of the present state of knowledge on these matters the book provides excellent coverage.

A good understanding of the book requires a considerable acquaintance with chemical thermodynamics. For example, on page 67 the context implies that equation (2.9) applies to step I of the diagram on p. 65, yet it clearly cannot because this equation applies only to isothermal processes and step I is not isothermal. (In point of fact the author does not subsequently apply the equation to this step.) No indication of the logical derivation of this equation is given. In this case no problem should arise for a reader with suitable background, but many other more complicated relations are taken from the literature with no accompanying logic. Considering the numerous typographical errors, as for example in equation (2.16) in which C_v appears in place of C_p , the necessity of checking the mathematical and textual accuracy constitutes a serious drawback to the utility of the book. It should also be noted that the author's definition of molality is unconventional.

Parts II and III cover topics more commonly included in texts of oceanography, such as techniques, chemical equilibria, particulate matter, biochemistry, and air-sea and bottom sediment-sea interactions. As in Part I, these subjects are handled well and in considerable depth. Part IV treats marine corrosion, desalination and the recovery of chemicals from the sea, physical chemistry of underwater sound transmission, the freezing process and sea ice, and the origin and evolution of life in the seas.

On balance the book is a good text at an advanced level and one with which serious students of oceanography should be familiar.

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(continued on page 5)

SELECTIVE ION SENSITIVE ELECTRODES, by G.J. Moody and J.D.R. Thomas. vii + 140 pages, 31 figures, 31 tables. Merrow Publishing Co., Ltd., 276 Hempstead Rd., Watford, Herts., England, WD1 3LZ (Also avail. in U.S. from Bonn Industries Inc., 1447 East Second St., Box 907, Plainfield, N.J. 07061), 1971. \$6.90.

This little book provides a great deal of information about the principles of operation and performance characteristics of a wide variety of selective ion sensitive electrodes. Included in the extensive tables are electrodes for pH, sodium, potassium, calcium, copper, lead, cadmium, silver, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, cyanide, thiocyanate, nitrate, sulfide, tetrafluoroborate, perchlorate, sulfate, phosphate, a number of organic anions, and divalent cations. This excellent review is comprehensive in scope, although not exhaustive in including all journal or manufacturing listings. Performance characteristics are quoted from numerous producer's specifications and independent investigators and include many comparisons. The book is thus very valuable in many fields for devising or improving research methods.

The reader should be cautioned, however, that some troublesome characteristics, such as drift, interference from induced potentials and their relation to humidity conditions and stirring of solutions, and the nature of changes arising during aging are either not evaluated or at most mentioned only rarely. The authors also advise the user to bear in mind, "The fact that some of the performances listed for these electrodes are based on what the manufacturers 'feel' they will be best suited for".

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ORE PETROLOGY, by R.L. Stanton. xv + 713 pages, 242 figures, 77 tables. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1972. \$19.50.

This excellent text fills a very substantial part of the gap that has long existed between laboratory study of mineral systems on ore-forming minerals and field study of mineral deposits. Principles derived from laboratory research are elucidated in Part One and applied to actual mineral deposits in Part Two, Important Associations. Following a geologic description of each type of ore association, the origin is related to geologic and experimental or analytical data. For example, the meaning and limitations of isotopic ratio determinations, or the adequacy of transport mechanisms suggested by theoretical chemical considerations, are evaluated in terms of the observed geologic results.

The balance of coverage in the book is very nearly ideal. Part One presents a great deal of information on experimental systems that has heretofore been difficult to assemble from diverse sources and which is generally not known by upper level undergraduates and beginning graduate students nor to many practicing economic geologists who began their careers some years in the past. The application of the data and concepts in these first 10 chapters has long been difficult, both for practicing geologists and for those who are still pursuing their formal education. The late Professor Louis C. Graton was greatly concerned over the consequent gap between the research conducted by universities and mining companies; the publication of this text would seem to constitute a significant step toward closing that gap.

The subject matter appears to be sufficiently self-explanatory to provide economic geologists with the basis for evaluating laboratory data and for using them as additional tools in understanding the geology of ore deposits.

The reader should take note that some types of association are not included. The author specifically mentions that he has given no consideration to "weathering processes, to the formation of 'secondary' ores and gossans, or to ores in unconsolidated sediments (placers)". The reviewer has also noted the absence of a few other types, e.g. gold-arsenopyrite-carbonate rock (Homestake, S.D., and Morro Velho, Brazil) and the White Pine, Mich. type of stratiform sulfide deposit, which has a number of differences from otherwise similar ores. However, these omissions constitute only a minor detriment to the book as a whole.

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REPORT ON SEC. 53, CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, FOR 1972

The abstracts published in volumes 76 and 77 in Sec. 53 totalled 8674, a decrease of 519 or 5.6%, the largest decrease, both in number and percentages, for many years. Table 2 shows that the decrease was very largely in Russian papers; we do not know whether this represents a real decrease in number of papers published, or a failure of coverage.

Table 1 shows that speed of coverage, far better than that of any comparable abstract journal, improved slightly in 1972.

Table 2 shows that the distribution of papers abstracted from the leading countries remained nearly the same, except for the decrease in papers from the USSR. We are informed that publication of geological journals in mainland China is likely to be resumed soon, after several years in which there has been none; this is likely to cause a serious problem in coverage.

We thank the many abstractors and the staff at Columbus for their excellent work.

Michael Fleischer
E.E. Angino
Section Editors

Table 1. -- Year of abstract compared to year of issue of papers, Sec. 53
(by percentage of total)

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Total no. abstracts	8674	9193	9045	6919	5986
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Dated					
1. same year	37.8	37.0	32.0	35.9	37.9
2. 1 yr. earlier	47.8	48.4	47.3	47.9	44.8
3. 2 yrs. earlier	10.7	11.5	17.1	12.7	15.8
4. 3 yrs. earlier	3.5	2.5	2.6	3.2	1.3
5. >3 yrs. earlier	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.2
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1 + 2	85.6	85.4	79.3	83.8	82.7

Table 2. -- Country of origin of papers abstracted in Sec. 53
(leading countries)

	1972		1971		1970	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
USSR	3702	42.7	4144	45.1	4227	46.7
USA	1584	18.3	1612	17.5	1514	16.7
France	334	3.9	297	3.2	297	3.3
Gt. Britain	289	3.3	281	3.1	262	2.9
Germany (W & E)	284	3.3	282	3.1	318	3.5
Japan	276	3.2	324	3.5	236	2.6
Canada	276	3.2	278	3.0	270	3.0
Australia	195	2.2	175	1.9	198	2.2
India	184	2.1	183	2.0	179	2.0
Czechosl.	175	2.0	197	2.1	119	1.3
Poland	137	1.6	129	1.4	133	1.5
Italy	118	1.4	129	1.4	138	1.5
All others*	1120	12.8	1162	12.7	1154	12.8
	8674	100.0	9193	100.0	9045	100.0

*70 countries in 1972

CALENDAR

- March
26-27 Remote sensing of Earth resources, mtg, Tullahoma, Tenn. (Firouz Shahrokhi, University of Tennessee Space Institute, Tullahoma, 37388)
- April
1-5 Institute of Environmental Sciences, ann. mtg, Anaheim, Calif. (IES headquarters, 940 East Northwest Highway, Mt. Prospect, Ill., 60056)
15-18 Chemistry of sedimentary & diagenetic processes, symposium at University of Sheffield. (P. Wilkinson, Dept. of Geology, University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, England)
15-18 Symposium on salt, Houston. (John E. Curry, Hooker Chemical Corp., Niagara Falls, N.Y., 14302)
15-19 Canadian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy, ann. mtg, Vancouver, B.C. (L.G. White, C.I.M.M. headquarters, 906-1117 Ste. Catherine St. W, Montreal 110, Quebec)
16-18 Intl Assn. for Great Lakes Research, ann. mtg, Sawmill Creek, Ohio. (Center for Lake Erie Area Research, 484 West 12th Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43210)
16-20 American Geophysical Union, ann. mtg, Washington, D.C., (AGU headquarters, 1707 L St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036)
- May
21-23 Natl Instrumentation Symposium, Las Vegas, Nev. (Sidney Harman, Bourns Inc., 6135 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif., 92506)
- June
4-9 Water resources, intl mtg, Madrid. (D.R. Dawdy, Engineering Research Center, Colorado State University, Ft Collins, Colo., 80521)
11-14 Remote sensing of water resources, symposium, Burlington, Ont. (K.P.B. Thomson, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Box 5050, Burlington, Ont.) Abstracts deadline: Jan. 15.
12-14 Trace substances in environmental health, mtg at University of Missouri, Columbia. (D.D. Hemphill, 426 Clark Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, 65201)
18-22 American Association for the Advancement of Science, ann. mtg, Mexico City. (AAAS headquarters, 1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20005)
- September
3-8 Volcanism & associated metallogenesis, mtg, Bucharest, Rumania. (Dan Radulescu, Facultatea de Geologie, Bul. Balcescu 1, Bucuresti, Rumania)
17 Commission for Petrography of Organic Matter in Sediments and Appl. to Geol. of Int'l Comm Coal Petrog., Colloquium. Invited: optical indicators of paleotemperatures, recognition of the main phase of generation and of the commercial and ultimate "deadlines" for oil and gas, relationship between clay diagenesis and organic metamorphism, relation between lithofacies and petrography of dispersed organic matter. (B. Alpern, CERCHAR, Verneuil-en-Halatte, B.P. 27, Creil (Oise), France)
18-21 Organic geochemistry, mtg, Paris. (B. Tissot, Institut Francais du Petrole, 1 Av. de Bois Preau, 92-Rueil-Malmaison, France)
17-Oct. 8 Kimberlites, mtg (Sept. 17-22) with field trips (Sept. 17-22 & Sept. 30/Oct. 8); Cape Town, South Africa (J.J. Gurney, Dept. of Geochemistry, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, C.P., South Africa)
- November
11-17 Latin American Geological Congress, Caracas, Venezuela. (Servicio Geologico Nacional, Ministerio de Minas e Hidrocarburos, Centro Simon Bolivar, Torre Norte Piso 19, Caracas, D.F., Venezuela)
12-14 Geological Society of America & associated societies, ann. mtg, Dallas. (GSA headquarters, 3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, Colo., 80301)
12-14 Geochemical Society, ann mtg, Dallas (Dr. Ernest Angino, State Geological Survey, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044)
(GSA mtg.) OGD Symposium, Diagenetic Changes in Sedimentary Organic Matter During the Quaternary, Dallas. Contrib. invited. (Earl Baker, Chemistry Dept., Univ. of Northeastern Louisiana, Monroe, La.)
- April, 1974
1-4 Ass'n Explor. Geochem., 5th Int'l Geochem. Explor. Symposium, Vancouver, B.C., Canada (I.L. Elliott, Chmn, Symposium Committee, 1314 W. 71st Av., Vancouver 14, B.C., Canada)

ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION NEWSLETTER

R.M. Mitterer, Editor for OGD

January, 1973

COMMENTS OF RICHARD D. McIVER, CHAIRMAN

We were very pleased with our annual meeting in Minneapolis, November 13-15, in conjunction with The Geological Society of America. Dick Scalen and Al Rogers worked diligently, and pulled together an outstanding program on "Advances in Petroleum Geochemistry" for our featured symposium this year. Peter Given, next year's Chairman, has already started the ball rolling on the next symposium.

Reports are that we have been successful in our attempts to convince the Joint Technical Program Committee that sessions of various groups within the Geochemical Society should be scheduled at different times. Vern Swanson presented this case to the Committee so that we could avoid last year's unhappy conflict of the sessions of the Coal Group and of our Division.

Apparently the matter of our Newsletter has also been resolved. After considering several options, the Geochemical Society decided that our Newsletter would become a part of *The Geochemical News* rather than a separate publication. While this limits the amount of material we may include, it now assures us of a regular communication with the membership.

Since this is the last Newsletter to which I will be contributing as your Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation to Vern Swanson, Keith Kvenvolden, Dick Mitterer and the aforementioned symposium chairmen for their outstanding contributions to our Division during this past year. Their faithfulness has certainly made my job as Chairman an easier one.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

According to the By-laws, the slate of candidates selected by the nominating committee shall be considered elected unless other nominations are received at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting. As no other nominations were received, the nominating committee's candidates are considered elected. Taking office at the closing gavel of the OGD Annual Meeting were:

Peter H. Given - Chairman

W.E. Robinson - Chairman-elect

Vernon E. Swanson - Secretary

COMMENTS OF PETER H. GIVEN, INCOMING CHAIRMAN

I am very pleased and flattered that you should select me to serve as your Chairman at this very interesting period in the development of our subject. We are all aware of the highly interdisciplinary nature of organic geochemistry and of how difficult it is to see that the geological, biological and chemical aspects of a problem each receive adequate consideration. From the presentations at last year's Gordon Conference and the GSA Meeting, it is clear that geological and biological aspects are increasingly receiving the attention they deserve. It is good to see, in particular, a real microbiological input.

The meeting on biogeochemistry to be held at Utah State University (21-24 March, 1973; J. Skujins, Organizer) is supported by NSF and co-sponsored by OGD. It is, I believe, a significant milestone because of its microbiological component, its inclusion of biosphere-lithosphere interactions, and its deliberate effort to bring geochemists and soil scientists together.

I shall, of course, be very happy to hear from any of you during the year if you have any suggestions of ways in which OGD can better serve its members. And, by the way, please do what you can to get us new members!

SUMMARY OF MINUTES, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 1972, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (ATTENDANCE: 27)

- I. Richard D. McIver, Chairman of OGD, called meeting to order. Vernon E. Swanson, Secretary of OGD, read minutes for 1971 Annual Business Meeting of OGD held at Washington, D.C.; on recommendation by chairman, minutes were accepted as read by unanimous vote.
- II. Chairman McIver asked for reports from standing OGD committees.
 - A. J.B. Smith, chairman of membership committee, reported that as of November 1, 1972, there were 312 members in the OGD. This represents a net loss of 63 members since last year; but this is misleading, because when the annual GS dues were increased to \$15, exactly 100 OGD members did not renew their membership. However, 38 new members were added, resulting in 312 current members.
 - B. G.J. Schroyer, chairman of standards committee, reported that no new standard samples were selected or prepared during the last year.
 - C. K.A. Kvenvolden, associate editor (organic geochemistry) of *Geochemica et Cosmochimica Acta*, reported that a total of 34 papers were reviewed during the year -- 24 by former associate editor J.M. Hayes, and 10 by Kvenvolden.
 - D. R.M. Mitterer, editor of OGD Newsletter, described the complex history of the OGD Newsletter issues in 1972, and that the GS now has ordered that OGD news will hereafter be incorporated in the GS Newsletter. After general discussion, it was agreed that OGD will not attempt to finance their own newsletter, but will review the subject again at the next business meeting.
 - E. J.G. Erdman, OGD councillor on GS Council, reported the progress and actions taken by GS to improve availability of up-to-date membership lists, and decisions relative to the GS Newsletter. On completion of Erdman's report, Chairman McIver requested and got a standing ovation of thanks to Erdman for his years of excellent devoted service as OGD's GS councillor.

- F. On recommendation of Chairman McIver, the committee reports were approved as read.
- III. Announcements by Chairman McIver of events during last year.
- A. Harold M. Smith has been appointed to assemble material and write history of OGD.
 - B. The proposed GS Environmental Committee was not formed, and the idea has been dropped.
 - C. At the request of the chairman, Swanson reported on the two formal actions endorsed by the membership during the past year: 1) Amendment of the Bylaws. 2) Election of the slate of OGD officers for 1973 -- Peter H. Given, Chairman; W.E. Robinson, Chairman-elect; Vernon E. Swanson, Secretary.
- IV. New business.
- A. Chairman R.D. McIver announced that P.H. Given will send letter to Secretary of the Interior and heads of other appropriate government agencies offering OGD's independent objective views and expertise on matters regarding pollution and organic chemical methods.
 - B. MOTION (by W.L. Orr): K.A. Kvenvolden be selected to serve as councillor from OGD on GS Council. (Seconded by S.R. Silverman; passed by show of hands unanimously.)
 - C. After description and discussion by P.H. Given, the following motion was passed. MOTION (by J.G. Erdman): The OGD will give active nonfinancial support to preparation and conducting of a field trip in the Everglades, to be held in conjunction with the GSA Annual Meeting at Miami, Fla., in 1974. (Seconded by K.A. Kvenvolden; passed by show of hands unanimously.)
 - D. After an explanation and discussion by V.E. Swanson, the following motion was passed. MOTION (by P.H. Given): A committee of three be selected by the OGD chairman (one member to be replaced each year) to select the best organic geochemistry paper published during the calendar year, and the author(s) awarded a certificate at the OGD Annual Business Meeting. (Seconded by R.M. Mitterer; passed by show of hands, 12 ayes, 10 nays; 4 abstaining.)
- V. R.D. McIver then "turned over gavel" to the new OGD chairman, P.H. Given.
- A. P.H. Given announced title of OGD symposium at next year's meeting, "Diagenetic and metamorphic changes in sedimentary organic matter during the Quaternary," Earl Baker, chairman.
 - B. P.H. Given announced and reviewed the program of the "Symposium on Environmental Biogeochemistry," co-sponsored by OGD, to be held at Logan, Utah, March 21-24, 1973.
 - C. S.R. Silverman announced and reviewed the program for the symposium, "Accumulation and diagenesis of organic matter in sediments," to be held at the AAPG Annual Meeting at Anaheim, Calif., in May 1973.
 - D. K.A. Kvenvolden reported on plans for the 6th International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry to be held at Paris, France, September 18-21, 1973.
 - E. F.M. Swain reported on the "Conference on Humic Compounds" held in Holland last summer, and stated that the proceedings of the conference will be published next year.
- VI. E.E. Bray requested and got a vote of acclamation for retiring OGD Chairman R.D. McIver.
- VII. Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman P.H. Given at 12:35 PM.

Vernon E. Swanson, Secretary

FUTURE MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Due to space limitations the four items originally included here have been incorporated in the Claendar on the last page of the News, specif. Symposium on Environmental Biogeochemistry, Mar. 21-24, 1973, 6th Int'l Mtg. Org. Geochem., Sept. 18-21, 1973, CPOMSAG of IMCP Coll., Sept. 17, 1973, and OGD Symp., Nov. 1973.

NEWS ITEMS

Pat Parker, UT Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, is spending a year in Washington, D.C., as Program Director for Environmental Quality Division of IDOE (International Decade of Ocean Exploration).

Philip A. Meyers has completed Ph.D. requirements in Oceanography (Marine Organic Geochemistry) at the University of Rhode Island and is now Assistant Professor of Oceanography in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at the University of Michigan.