



The Geochemical News

Biannual Newsletter of the Geochemical Society

Number 67

May 1985

The Geochemical Futures Fund

The Council at its Fall meeting decided to establish the Geochemical Futures Fund at the request of Arden Albee, Chairman of the Gifts and Endowments Committee. This fund will be used for exceptional activities and not for operating expenses of the Society. Such activities are envisioned to include initially: 1. funding for travel to the award ceremonies by medalists, an implicit obligation of the Society which cannot be met either from current income or from medal endowments; 2. funding for awards that are not presently completely endowed for the purchase of medals; 3. support of North American speaking tours by foreign councilors to supplement the international travel costs to council meetings in the United States which are now provided from current income; and 4. special conference, publishing or other unusual opportunities that advance the scientific goals of the Geochemical Society.

The Committee is considering which types of gifts and endowments would be most suited to the needs of the Society, and the procedures that should be used to attract and accept such support. Suggestions and comments from the membership are encouraged and can be sent to the Secretary (Bryan Gregor, Dept of Geological Sciences, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 45435) for forwarding to the Committee.

Arden Albee, Chairman, Gifts and Endowments Committee
Hu Barnes, President

Meetings and Symposia

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- June 17-19 - Symposium on Degradation of Materials due to Acid Rain. Arlington, Virginia. (Co-sponsored by the Geochemical Society.) Information from Bryan Gregor, Dept of Geological Sciences, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 45435; (513) 873-3442/3455.
- July 10-12 - Conference on Stable Isotopes and Fluid Processes in Mineralization. Brisbane, Australia. Information from John W. Rynn, Dept of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland 4067, Australia.
- July 11-13 - IAGC Conference on Antarctic Meteorites. Mainz, Germany. Information from L. Schultz, Max-Planck Institut für Chemie, Postfach 3060, D-6500 Mainz, West Germany.
- July 14-30 - Magmatic Sulfides in Mafic Rocks. Ketchikan, Alaska (IGCP symposium and field trip). Information from G.K. Czamanske, USGS, MS 984, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
- July 16-19 - Meteoritical Society Annual Meeting. Bordeaux, France. Information from G. Simonoff, Université de Bordeaux, C.E.N.B.G, Le Haut-Vigneau, 33170 Gradignon, Fr.
- July 28-August 2 - International Clay Conference. Denver, Colorado. Information from Western Experience Ltd, 2450 Central Avenue, P2, Boulder, CO 80302; (303) 449-3352.
- August 11-17 - Archaean Geochemistry (field meeting). Wind River Range, Wyoming. Information from John Stuckless, MS 963, USGS, Denver, CO 80225.

- August 5-16 - Modern Industrial Spectroscopy. Tempe, Arizona. Information from Dr Jacob Fuchs, Chemistry Dept, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287; (602) 965-4496/3461.
- August 11-14 - Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists 2nd Annual Midyear Meeting. Golden, Colorado. Information from Steve Sonnenberg, 1000 Writer Square, 1512 Larimer St, Denver, CO 80202.
- August 12-14 - 2nd International Symposium on Hydrothermal Reactions. University Park, Pennsylvania. Information from 2nd Intl Symposium on Hydrothermal Reactions, The Pennsylvania State University, Keller Conference Center, University Park, PA 16802. (See also The Geochemical News No. 66, September 1984, p. 9.)
- August 12-16 - Zeolite '85. Budapest, Hungary. Information from J. Engelhardt, Central Research Institute for Chemistry, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, H-1525 Budapest, P. O. Box 17, Hungary.
- August 26-30 - International Symposium on Geothermal Energy. Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Information from Geothermal Resources Council, P. O. Box 1350, Davis, CA 95617-1350; (916) 758-2360.
- September 16-20 - Organic Geochemistry. Jülich, West Germany. Information from Helga Bongartz, KFA Jülich GMBH, Box 913, D-5170 Jülich, West Germany.
- September 17-21 - 2nd International Mine Water Congress. Granada, Spain. Information from R. Fernandez Rubio, School of Mines, Technical University of Madrid, Rios Rosas 21, Madrid 3, Spain.
- September 22-25 - High Heat Production Granites, Hydrothermal Circulation and Ore Genesis. Cornwall, England. Information from Conference Office, Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 44 Portland Place, London W1N 4BR, England; 01-580 3802.
- October 9-10 - International Symposium on Management of Hazardous Chemical Waste Sites. Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Information from Norman R. Tilford, Dept of Geology, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX 77843-3115; (409) 845-9682.
- October 27-31 - Geochemical Society Annual Meeting. Orlando, Florida. (In conjunction with the 98th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America.) Includes: Organic Geochemistry Symposium: Geochemical Fossils, Recent to Precambrian (Sunday afternoon, October 27; John Zumberge and Robert Gagosian, convenors); Organic Geochemistry Division 25th Anniversary Dinner (Sunday October 27; Information from Richard Mitterer, Programs in Geosciences, University of Texas at Dallas, P. O. Box 688, Richardson, TX 75080); Presidential Address by Hu Barnes; Geochemical Society Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, and the usual technical sessions for unsolicited papers. Details will be published in The Geochemical News No. 68 (Fall 1985) and in GSA News and Information Vol. 8 No. 8 (August 1985). Abstract forms from Abstracts Coordinator, GSA, P. O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301 (Tel. 303-447-8850); abstract deadline June 7.
- October 28-November 1 - Evaporites and Hydrocarbons (symposium). Banff, Alberta. Information from Pat Larlham, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G4, Canada.

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- January 28-31 - 6th Offshore SE Asia Conference. Singapore. Information from D. H. Morgan, Marathon Petroleum Exploration Ltd, P. O. Box 227, Tanglin P. O., Singapore 9124.
- February 1-9 - International Volcanological Congress, New Zealand. Information from John A. Gamble, Victoria University, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand.

- March 1-5 - Society of Economic Geologists and American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers Winter Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana. Information from Bruce MacKenzie, 1597 Gillespie Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.
- April 2-5 - Geochemistry and Mineralization of Proterozoic Volcanic Suites. Nottingham, England. Information from Tim Pharaoh, Deep Geology Research Group, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, England. (Abstract deadline May 1 1985.)
- April 23-25 - Geochemistry of Coal. Kent, Ohio (in conjunction with North Central Section Meeting of GSA). Information from Lindgren L. Chyi, Dept of Geology, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325; (216) 375-7630.
- May 19-21 - Geological Association of Canada-Mineralogical Association of Canada Annual Meeting. Ottawa, Ontario. Information from J. A. Donaldson, Dept of Geology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada; (613) 231-2630.
- June 30-July 4 - 6th International Conference on Geochronology, Cosmochronology and Isotope Geology. Cambridge, England. (Co-sponsored by the Geochemical Society.) Information from Organizing Committee, Sixth International Conference, Dept of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, England.
- August 8-12 - Water-rock Interaction (symposium followed by field trip 13-17 August). Reykjavik, Iceland. (Sponsored by IAGC.) Information from Halldor Armannsson, Orkustofnun, Grensasvegur 9, 108 Reykjavik, Iceland.
- August 11-15 - Kimberlites. Perth, Western Australia. Information from A. F. Trendall, Geological Survey of Western Australia, 66 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000.
- August 18-22 - Genesis of Ore Deposits (symposium and field trips). Lulea, Sweden. Information from Ebbe Zachrisson, Geological Survey of Sweden, Box 670, S-751 28 Uppsala, Sweden.
- August 25-29 - International Sedimentological Congress. Canberra, Australia. Information from Graham Taylor, Geology Department, School of Applied Sciences, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Box 1, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616, Australia.
- September 7-12 - International Conference on Paleooceanography. Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Information from W. A. Berggren, Dept of Geology and Geophysics, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 02543.
- November 9-13 - Geochemical Society Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. (In conjunction with the 99th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America.) Information from Jean Kinney, GSA, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301; (303) 447-2020.

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta

John King has been appointed Editorial Manager effective May 16 1985. We wish him every success in his new post.

Thirtieth Anniversary of the Geochemical Society

The Society will be thirty years old next November 7th. Bruce Doe has sent us the following excerpt from The Geochemical News No. 1 of May 8 1956, together with his evaluation of the Geochemical Society's progress since 1955.

Organization Meeting

For the information of members not present at the historic event, the Geochemical Society was formally organized on November 7, 1955, during the annual meeting of The Geological Society of America at New Orleans. The objective, as stated in the newly adopted constitution, is to "encourage the application of chemistry to the solution of geological and cosmological

problems." It was the sense of the organization meeting that this should be interpreted broadly, to include all scientists interested in problems in the earth sciences. Such fields as the following are particularly pertinent: geochemistry of elements and groups of elements, isotope geology, chemistry of meteorites, experimental and theoretical studies of systems of geochemical interest, chemistry of the hydrosphere and atmosphere, biogeochemistry, and geologic thermometry.

Why a Geochemical Society?

The man best qualified to speak on this question is Earl Ingerson, President of the Society. At the request of the Secretary he prepared the following statement for this issue of the Geochemical News:

Response to invitations to Charter Membership in the Geochemical Society has been most gratifying. It has been less than five months since the first invitations were sent out and the Society has already almost 550 members. All of these are highly qualified professional individuals who are active in several different fields of science. There has not been time for complete returns from other countries, but already there are many members in seventeen countries outside the U.S.A., from India and Japan to Yugoslavia and from Canada to Brazil. In view of this worldwide response it is fortunate that the name Geochemical Society was chosen rather than a more restricted one.

This favorable response has given a satisfactory answer to questions raised in pre-organization discussions as to whether a society devoted entirely to geochemistry was necessary or desirable since it was generally agreed that there was not any need for the establishment of another journal in this field. The workers most active in geochemical research have, by joining it in large numbers, indicated a belief that there is an important place for such a society and that it should be started now.

This attitude and the need for a specialistic society in geochemistry were predicted long before the organization meeting in New Orleans by people who have been concerned with fellowships and research grants in the earth sciences. They are in agreement that geochemistry is not only one of the most active disciplines but also the one that is growing most rapidly. To them, therefore, it was not a question of whether a geochemical society was called for, but rather of when and where it would be organized, with what other groups it would be associated, and other organizational problems.

No matter how great the initial enthusiasm, however, a society cannot settle down and run on it from year to year. An active and well informed membership and a sound and adequate committee structure must supplement the council in order for the society to operate efficiently and effectively. The committees that have been appointed are assuming their responsibilities promptly and working hard, but they need the opinions, cooperation and encouragement of as large a percentage of the membership as possible. The current committee structure will be given in the second number of the NEWS.

The primary objectives of the society at its inception are:

- 1) To increase and improve educational facilities in geochemistry.
- 2) To foster coordination of research in geochemistry and dissemination of information relative thereto.
- 3) To secure the recognition of geochemistry as an independent earth science correlative with geophysics, mineralogy, etc., and to urge the establishment of positions with the title of Geochemist in government bureaus, industrial and

endowed research laboratories, universities, etc. A few organizations do this now, but the number is far too small; if it could be made universal the task of getting schools to establish departments and/or curricula in geochemistry as such would be greatly simplified.

Update by Bruce Doe

Fellowships and granting programs in geochemistry are now well recognized and growing. The increase in geochemistry educational facilities and students is, however, even more brisk so that funding problems remain critical. As to dissemination of information, Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta (GCA) in 1952, its first year of publication, contained 634 pages in two volumes at a cost to individuals of \$21.30. Subsequently the individual subscription price rose, but in 1957 Geochemical Society members were offered a price of \$20. That year GCA contained 700 pages. In 1982 GCA contained 2691 pages with a format size 25% larger, equivalent to 3364 pages in the old format. The subscription in 1982 was still only \$25, so that the size of the journal has increased by 430% between 1952 and 1982 while the cost to members, adjusted for inflation, has shown about an 80% decrease. The concept of departments or curricula in geochemistry has not materialized to any great degree, and "geochemist" has never been recognized as a job classification by the Federal government although "geologist" and "geophysicist" both are. Yet Item 3 in Earl Ingerson's objectives is perhaps no longer as pressing as it once seemed; large numbers of geochemists occupy influential positions under other designations. A greater concern today is that geochemistry is included only in a very minor way in programs involving societal interests, or else is omitted altogether. The degradation of our environment by acid rain, mine waters, industrial wastes and other hazardous materials is a challenge to geochemistry that still waits to be met adequately. Continued effort and expressions of interest on the part of geochemists will no doubt create more opportunities of taking it up.

Tschermak lives again

Reprints of J.A. and E.M. Wood's translation (1964) of G. Tschermak's "The Microscopic properties of Meteorites" (1885) are again available, free of charge thanks to a grant administered by the Smithsonian Institution. Write to K. Fredriksson, NHB Stop 119, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560.

Obituary

Helen Margaret Roberts (nee Westcott), 1947-1985

Although she had suffered for some time from diabetes, Helen (Elliott) Roberts's death last February 19th was unexpected. After settling in Canada in 1968, Helen was successively secretary, editorial assistant and editorial manager of Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta. In this last capacity she was largely responsible for reorganizing the editorial office to implement the new publication arrangements with Pergamon Press, and for initiating improved procedures for handling papers. At the time of her death she was preparing to adapt the office routines for processing by microcomputer. Her colleagues Lynn Falkiner, Linda Hillier and Denis Shaw write: "Helen was well known in the geochemical community. Some met her on visits to McMaster University or when she occasionally attended Geochemical Society meetings, but most will remember her by the friendly letters and telephone calls through which she managed the journal's daily affairs with efficiency and an infectious humor that earned her far and wide the affectionate sobriquet 'Ms Geochimica.' She will be sadly missed." We join them in offering our sympathy to Helen's husband Michael.

