

Acceptance of the 2014 Friedman Service Award of the History and Philosophy of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America

I am very flattered to be the 2014 recipient of the Division's Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award. At the same time, I am also puzzled to have a second award from the division after receiving the Mary Rabbit Award in 1995. Gary Rosenberg rejected my protest that "I must not be eligible" by presenting the exaggerated arguments that you have just heard. (I should have engaged Gary years ago to be my publicity agent.)

I attribute my initial interest in history to both of my parents. My mother majored in history in college. My father grew up on Missouri River in Sioux City, Iowa and as a youth dreamt of the passage by there 100 years before by Lewis and Clark on their great exploration. As an adult he was a voracious reader of exploration history. My PhD dissertation fieldwork in northern Nevada introduced me to Clarence King and his 1878 geology of the route of the future transcontinental railroad, the only significant publication on the area in 1952. Later research in the upper Midwest introduced me to pioneer work by David Dale Owen, Josiah Whitney before he went to California, Charles Whittelesy, and even James Hall. Around the eastern states I followed Charles Lyell's extensive travels. Still later in Tierra del Fuego I stumbled over outcrops first studied by none other than Charles Darwin. The list goes on. History is all around us – how could one not get interested?

Soon after I came to the University of Wisconsin, a tall, lanky fellow named Robert Siegfried darkened my door. He had just joined the department of the History of Science. He was a fellow Unitarian and somehow had heard of me so had dropped by to get acquainted. Bob's specialty was Chemistry with a great interest in Humphry Davy. After discovering Davy's handwritten notes for a series of geological lectures given in London in 1805, Bob enlisted my help in transcribing the lectures. He introduced me to the pleasures of the microfilm reader. Somehow we persuaded the University of Wisconsin Press to publish the lectures, but in spite of our brilliant commentary, it was never a big seller. Siegfried also convinced me to create a course in the history of geology, which proved more successful -- enough to eventually bring seven of its alumni into this Division. Bob was my history mentor and inspiration.

In preparing for this occasion, I reviewed my files about the history of the Division and also about HESS, the History of the Earth Sciences Society. It made no sense to consider the one without the other as they have developed as hand maidens and the Friedmans were important to them both. Gerry began organizing meetings about the history of geology in the 1960s. These were low-key affairs held at his base in Troy, New York with proceedings produced in a low-cost format. Around 1970, Gerry and Ellis Yochelson began floating the idea of a national organization dedicated to the history of our field and in 1976 the History Division was formed within GSA. By 1977 there were 231 Affiliates. The list included some of the people here today. The 1979 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the U.S.

Geological Survey soon provided a boost to our fledgling Division, especially through the monumental summaries of the history of the Survey then being prepared by Mary C. Rabbitt aided by Clifford Nelson. Two symposia organized by Cecil Schneer in 1967 and 1976 had also stimulated interest in the history of geology in America.

Meanwhile, the Friedmans continued their labor of love publishing low-budget articles on the history of geology, which they edited and produced themselves. By 1982 there was a groundswell of support for a professionally-produced journal of top quality. This effort was pressed primarily by Ellis Yochelson, who adroitly convinced the Friedmans that they should welcome relief from all of the production chores while still keeping their hands in the editing process. Like Michele Aldrich, Claude Albritten, Kennard Bork and a few others, I was recruited by Ellis (a former classmate at Columbia University) into his little conspiracy and in 1990 I became simultaneously President of HESS and Chair of this division – something else that ever-persuasive Yochelson talked me into. So it was I who visited the Allen Press in Lawrence, Kansas in 1990 and negotiated the contract to publish *Earth Sciences History* as we now know it. But why HESS rather than the Division as publisher? The structure of GSA could not accommodate its Divisions as publishers, for that would produce competition with GSA's publications. There were other problems as well, such as who would hold the copyright and the fact that some potential members could not qualify for GSA membership.

And so we have the two parallel, closely linked organizations. Happily this initially tenuous arrangement has served us very well in spite of a few growing pains. Our symbiotic relationship has been symbolized with the publication in 1985 of the first volume in the GSA's *Centennial D-NAG Publications* about the history of geology in America edited by Division members William Jordan and Ellen Drake. In 1992 GSA published *Memoir 180*, a collection of articles derived from a Division-sponsored symposium on the important concept of eustasy. And in 1994 the organization by Naomi Oreskes of a GSA Penrose Conference titled *From the Inside and the Outside: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the History of the Earth Sciences* helped bring together historians of geology, the Insiders, with professional historians, the Outsiders. Then in 1995 we initiated the very successful *Rock Stars* series of short profiles of important Earth scientists, which are published in *GSA Today*. *Rock Stars* was the brainchild of Robert N. Ginsberg, a man of great vision and abilities of persuasion rivaling even those of Ellis Yochelson. I hope that *Rock Stars* will continue to thrive. Yet another volume sponsored by the Division was Gary Rosenberg's *GSA Memoir 203* about geology from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment published in 2009.

It is sad that the Friedmans, Ellis Yochelson, Kennard Bork, Robert Ginsburg, and others of our Division's pioneers could not be with us today to share credit for Service to the Division. I am honored to represent them.

Robert H. Dott, Jr.