

THE

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DIVISION

Volume 26, Number 1

MAY 2002

MAKE YOUR PLANS

DENVER

GSA Annual Meeting

October 27-30, 2002

PRE-MEETING FIELD TRIP

October 24-26

Leaders: Celâl Sengör and Tim Lawton

Key Rocks and Seminal Thinkers:

Classic Rocky Mountain Localities that Influenced Tectonic Thought

Begins in Salt Lake City, Utah on Thursday, October 24; ends in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, October 26.
Cost \$220.00

TOPICAL SESSION

T 46

Celâl Sengör and Michele L. Aldrich - Conveners

Contributions of American Geologists to Theoretical Tectonics on the Basis of Research Done West of the 100th Meridian in the Latter Half of the 19th Century.

Trained in the Eastern United States and accustomed to the mountains there, American geologists who encountered the Cordillera for the first time as they crossed the plains or disembarked from the Pacific faced the challenge of radically revising the tectonic ideas they had learned or formulating new theories. Among the scientists to be considered are Dutton, Gilbert, Hayden, King, Powell, Whitney, and others. Since basic biographies and institutional survey histories have already been published on these geologists, this session will stress the history of their ideas – how their tectonic concepts arose, changed in the face of fieldwork, and were received. Attention will also be focused on the adoption and modification of their work by European geologists such as Suess. Some speakers have already agreed to participate but contributed papers will be considered if space is available or be added to the general history technical session.

GENERAL SESSION - HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION

Please consider submitting abstracts for consideration as part of the general history of geology session that the Division has each year. The success of this session depends upon the support of the membership and others. So send your abstracts and put a mark next to “History of Geology” on the form.

DIVISION GENERAL RECEPTION

Building on the success of the evening reception the Division held at the Boston meeting last year (thanks to Léo and Bob), we are planning to have another one. So, consider bringing something to donate for the drawing. That was very well received last year (thanks to Ellis and others) and we need to continue this activity.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

Abstract Deadline: Submit online by **July 16, 2002**, at: <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2002AM/index.epl>

Important: The deadline for paper submittal is **sooner**. If you cannot submit your abstract online, please contact Nancy Carlson immediately at (303) 357-1061 or ncarlson@geosociety.org for more information.

Preregistration Deadline: September 20, 2002

The HoG Division events will be interesting and lively, so mark your calendars, if you haven't already.

MUNICH VISIT - Sally Newcomb

A visit to Munich can provide great resources for historians of geology. A quick trip there, courtesy of my husband's meeting and a companion fare, was interesting and instructive. Munich is home to several good colleagues and friends of the discipline, and they were most generous with their time and help. On Saturday morning Martina Kölbl-Ebert met us at our hotel, helped us with fare cards on the excellent transit system, and took us for a private viewing of "her" museum, the Geologisches Museum München, Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Geologie where she is curator. Open hours are Mon.-Fri., 8 am - 6 pm.

The lower exhibit hall contains a most innovative way to present the science of geology, conceived and designed by Martina. There is a succession of cases with the story of earth's development and processes that include graphics, text, and specimens. The innovation is in the contents of drawers beneath the exhibits that allow viewers to touch samples, test their understanding, and try properties such as hardness. Children of all ages interact freely with the samples, requiring frequent replacement of the most attractive. The hall upstairs is home to an exhibit that details the long association of German geologists and the Antarctic. Graphics, photographs, diaries, notebooks and instruments are included in the displays. Martina also showed us the classroom used for museum activities and some of the activity sheets used, as well as the extensive sample drawers. The museum is a great resource for people wishing to learn and understand geology.

Also strongly recommended in Munich is the Deutsches Museum, one of the premier science and technology museums in the world. Just be sure to give yourself enough time to emerge before closing time if you descend into the mining exhibit! Other exhibits of particular interest to me were those on glass, ceramics, and chemistry. The latter consists of a long series of windows containing apparatus that demonstrates reactions at the touch of a button. People of all ages were observing and commenting on the reactions on a Sunday afternoon. The exhibits on glass and ceramics included history, with models of furnaces and examples of the wares, up through modern processes.

Across the courtyard of the Deutsches Museum is the Deutsches Museum Library, wherein is the office of another most helpful colleague, Bernhard Fritscher. On this day he was being visited by Peter Schimkat, so the three of us had a long discussion on things of mutual interest. Bernhard had found a copy of a book I had long wanted to see, so I spent a happy Sunday afternoon with it and some other books. I had searched the library web site for that book, but apparently hadn't done it properly. He also found another publication of interest to both of us, that he will request from another library in Munich. Thus, Munich is a place of much profit to historians of geology, especially with help from friends. I should mention, food and drink are just excellent!

Martina kindly provided the web sites of the four large libraries in Munich, the first two of which have a section in English. One can search their collections, and also find hours and conditions for use. They are:

Deutsches Museum: http://www.deutsches-museum.de/bib/biblio/e_biblio.htm

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/index2_e.htm

Technical University: <http://www.biblio.tu-muenchen.de?>

University of Munich: <http://www.ub.uni-muenchen.de/bibliothekssystem.htm>

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Sally for sharing her visit with us (please see page 2), and the list of papers below.
Note to All Members: When you have something that you feel will be of interest to the membership, please send it to me for the newsletter. – Bill (wbrice@pitt.edu; fax 814-269-2022)

PAPERS, BOOKS, AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Fritscher, B. 2000. Review of N. Oreskes *The rejection of continental drift*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1999. *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, 23, 55-56.

Fritscher, B. & F. Urbani. 2000. Bringing Latin America on stage: Alexander von Humboldt's contribution to earth sciences in Latin America. *Zeitschrift für angewandte Geologie*, Sonderheft 1, 27-32.

Kölbl-Ebert, M. 2000. Geschichte der Geochemie. *Spektrum Lexikon der Geowissenschaften*, 2, 253-254.

Kölbl-Ebert, M. 2001. On the origin of women geologists by means of social selection: German and British comparison. *Episodes*, Vol.24, No.3, 182-193.

Kölbl-Ebert, M. 2001. Inge Lehmann's paper: "P" (1936). *Episodes*, Vol.24, No.4, 262-267.

Drake Well Foundation

Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum & other Distilled Oils. By Abraham Gesner, 1861.

The Drake Well Foundation has reprinted this historically significant book by one of the pioneers of the oil industry. Gesner's book, long out of print, is more difficult to find in libraries than the 1865 Second Edition, but now it is available again, thanks to the Drake Well Foundation. The cost is \$35.00 plus \$5.00 (shipping and handling). To order, send check payable to The Drake Well Foundation, for \$40.00 to: Mr. Samuel T. Pees, 628 Arch Street, Suite A-104, Meadville, PA 16335. (No credit card orders, please.)

Oil-Industry History (New Journal). Vol. 1 (2000) \$35.00*; Vol. 2 (2001) \$35.00*, Vol. 3 (2002) \$35.00* (*\$5.00 postage for orders outside the US). All available from: Drake Well Foundation, PO Box 233, Titusville, PA 16354. Make check/money order (no credit cards please) in US \$ payable to: Drake Well Foundation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2001

OPERATING FUND

These figures are from the GSA final report for 2001 for the History of Geology Division operating fund.

1 January 2001	Balance		\$ 4,242.56
Revenue	Dues	\$ 557.12	
	Contributions	1,275.00	
Total			\$ 1,832.12
Expenses	Annual Meeting	\$ 75.00	
	Speaker Support	1,000.00	
	Newsletter	175.47	
	Awards	53.44	
Total			\$ 1,303.91
Net for 2001			\$ 528.21
Balance for 1 January 2002			\$ 4,770.77

Secretary-Treasurer's Note: Thanks to the generosity of our membership with their many contributions (which

we were able to get credited to the operating fund), our Division is financially sound, at least as of the first of the year. However, we still need donations to help fund the special events that we do, such as the reception, and we have discussed offering financial assistance for students who present papers in the Division sessions. Our dues alone will not cover these costs. Please do not let the figure of \$ 4,770.77 fool you. We still need your help. Also, our Award Fund still needs contributions because the minimum amount the GSA Foundation requires keeps going up. I will include more information on this later.

Donna Russell (GSA Foundation) sent the following note concerning donations for the meeting expenses: As for donations to the HoG Award Fund, if the donors will note on the check, or attach a note, telling me they want this contribution to be spent in Denver, we will add it to the HGA Fund, but designate the dollars for use this year. Those donations can be turned over to your GSA Division account with no problem. But it is imperative that these contributions be marked for the Denver meeting. So send your contribution directly to Donna Russell marked as indicated above, and she will see that we do get the money.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

History of Science Society will meet in Milwaukee, November 7-10, 2002

Proposed Symposium: "Cross-Fertilization and Intense Competition: American and European Scientists in the 19th Century"; Organizers: Julie R. Newell and Marc Rothenberg.

Chair: Marc Rothenberg, Smithsonian Institution; Commentator: David Spanagel, Harvard University;

Presenters: Julie R. Newell, "To See and Be Seen: Transatlantic Relations in Antebellum American Geology"; Robert H. Silliman, Emory University, "The Americanization of the Neuchatel Naturalists: the Agassiz Circle in the New World"; Brad D. Hume, University of Dayton, "Colonial Complexes: Or, the Reflexivity of American Anthropologists in their Encounters with the "Old World."

Decision on the proposed sessions to be made in mid-May, 2002.

Call for Papers: History of Geophysics

The History of Geology Group (HoGG) of The Geological Society, London, is to hold a meeting on the History of Geophysics on 12-13th March 2003 at the Society's premises at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

Offers of papers (the conference language will be English) should be sent, preferably as soon as possible (but no later than 30 September 2002), to the Convenor, Professor Richard J. Howarth, Department of Geological Sciences, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, England; e-mail:

r.howarth@ucl.ac.uk.

Intending participants should note that HoGG only has limited funds to offer travel grants, etc.

OIL INDUSTRY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - DRAKE WELL FOUNDATION

March 26-29, 2003 Shreveport, LA

Dr. Mary Barrett, Centenary College of Louisiana, is the organizer.

Historian Dr. Diana Olien will speak Friday night. She and her spouse, David Olien, are probably the most prolific oil history writers these days. Their co-authored books include: *Oil in Texas--The Gusher Age 1895-1945* (2002); *Oil and Ideology--The Cultural Creation of the American Petroleum Industry* (2000); *Easy Money--Oil Promoters and Investors in the Jazz Age* (1990); and *Life in the Oil Fields* (1986)

Headquarters will be at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Shreveport (318/222-7717). A block of rooms is available through March 5, 2003, for \$72/night plus taxes. Ask for the Drake Well Foundation rate.

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The meeting site web address is: <http://personal.centenary.edu/~mbarrett/Drakesite/index.htm>

A downloadable registration form will be available starting July 1, 2002. Registration fee of \$180.00 will cover the meeting, all field trips, program and guidebook, and all meals.

NOTE: The Drake Well Foundation, in addition to holding symposia, publishes an annual journal *Oil-Industry History* and also does re-prints of early oil literature (see announcements above). For more information, contact The Drake Well Foundation, P. O. Box 233, Titusville, PA 16354.

28TH INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM – “GEOLOGICAL TRAVELLERS”

Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

July 14-18, 2003

A **mid-conference field trip** to Mount Jerome Cemetery in Dublin will visit the gravesites of eminent Irish geologists such as John Joly, Sir Richard Griffith, and Charles Oldham. There will also be a visit to Killiney Beach where Robert Mallet for the first time produced seismic waves by controlled explosions. **Costs:** Registration *EU 380 (accompanying members: *EU 100). Accommodations will be available on Trinity College campus: *EU 50.50/person sharing; *EU 58.00 single. Nearby hotels: approximately *EU 70-130/night; Hostels *EU 30.00/night. *Cost is given in the new European currency, not in pounds sterling.

An optional **post-meeting field trip** will involve an anticlockwise circumnavigation around Ireland to visit classic areas of Irish geology, *e.g.*, Giant’s Causeway. This trip will be limited to 30 persons, so book early and don’t be disappointed. Projected cost for this will be around *EU 500/person, plus food other than breakfast.

Call for Papers: Abstracts for papers due to Dr. Wyse Jackson (address below) **by October 31, 2002.**

Contact: Dr. Patrick N. Wyse Jackson, Department of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Telephone: 353-1-6081477; fax: 353-1-6711199; e-mail: wysjcknp@tcd.ie

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD FOR 2002

The History of Geology Division gives this award to an individual for contributions of fundamental importance to the understanding of the history of the geological sciences. Achievements deserving of the award include, but are not limited to: publication of papers or books that contribute new and profound insights into the history of geology (based upon original research or synthesis of existing knowledge); discovery of and making available rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; editing a thematically integrated collection of articles; organizing meetings and symposia in the history of geology; research into original sources; original interpretations of data; translations of key material; and exceptional service to the Division. The award, established by the History of Geology Division in 1981, consists of an embossed certificate and a pewter Revere bowl. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee each year is Feb. 1st.

FORMER AWARDEES

1982 George W. White
1983 Claude C. Albritton, Jr.
1984 Mary C. Rabbitt
1985 Cecil J. Schneer
1986 Ursula B. Marvin
1987 Martin J. S. Rudwick
1988 Stephen Jay Gould

1989 Albert V. Carozzi
1990 Gordon Y. Craig
1991 William A. S. Sarjeant
1992 Michele L. Aldrich
1993 Martin Guntau
1994 François Ellenberger
1995 Robert H. Dott, Jr.

1996 Gordon L Herries Davies
1997 Kennard B. Bork
1998 Hatten S. Yoder, Jr.
1999 David R. Oldroyd
2000 Hugh Torrens
2001 Walter O. Kupsch

2002 Division Officers

Chair: A. M. C lal Seng r, IT  Avrasya Enstit s  ve Maden Fak ltesi, Jeoloji B l m , Ayazaga 80626, Istanbul, Turkey; 90-212-285-6209; fax 90-212-285-6210; sengor@itu.edu.tr

First Vice-Chair: Roger D. K. Thomas, Dept Geosciences, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604; 717-291-4135; fax 717-291-4186; r_thomas@email.fandm.edu

Second Vice-Chair: Charles W. Byers, Dept Geology & Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; 608-262-8960; fax 608-262-0693; cwbyers@geology.wisc.edu

Secretary-Treasurer-Editor: William R. Brice, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, PA 15904; 814-269-2942; fax 814-269-2022; wbrice@pitt.edu

Past Chair: Sarah E. (Sally) Newcomb, 13120 Two Farm Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904; 301-622-0177; senewcomb@earthlink.net

Councilor-Liaison: Rena M. Bonem, Baylor University, Department of Geology, P.O. Box 97354, Waco, TX 76798; Rena_Bonem@baylor.edu

Webmaster: Hugh Rance, 4310 Kissena Blvd, 11 H, Flushing, NY 11355; hrance@nyc.rr.com