

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY

HISTORY and PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION at GSA BALTIMORE

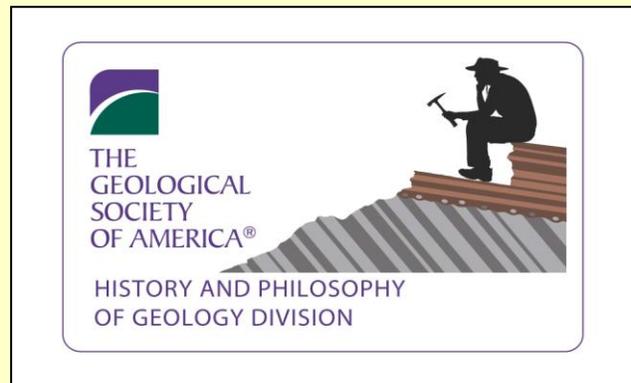
By Renee Clary

The History and Philosophy of Geology Division will have a strong showing in Baltimore! The Division is co-sponsoring a Pardee celebrating the milestone of William Smith's 1815 geologic map. Our sponsored topical session fits nicely with the William Smith celebration, as it focuses upon the "Great Images" of geology. We are also sponsoring a William Smith field excursion, and a stratigraphic/mapping workshop for K-12 educators.

Pardee. Celebrating the Immense Geological Impact of William 'Strata' Smith (1769-1839) On the Occasion of the Bicentennial Anniversary of Smith's Revolutionary Map (*George Davis, organizer*)



William Smith's 1815 publication of the Geological Map of England and Wales and Part of Scotland stands as a milestone event in the geological sciences, impacting the past, present, and future. The map not only influenced geology's formative period, but extended its impact through geological surveys, biostratigraphy and



paleoecology, and location of natural resources—to modern GIS and 3-D visualization applications. This Pardee begins with an overview of Smith's complex career path by foremost Smith historian, Professor **Hugh Torrens**, before extending investigations into current mapping techniques (seafloor mapping, tomographic mapping of the mantle), projection of future mapping toward addressing scientific and societal challenges, and reflecting on the intellectual and cognitive implications of the breakthroughs encapsulated in Smith's legacy.

Topical Session. T98. The Great Images in Geology (*Renee Clary, Jody Bourgeois*)

Presented papers will explore the great images in geology that have become cornerstones within the science, as well as the great and interesting, but incorrect, graphics that have been revised through further scientific investigations. Exceptional images arising from other sciences, which have impacted the geosciences, will also be considered. The historical period encompassed for this session is primarily sixteenth century through present, although geological images prior to the 1500s will be considered for presentation.

If your abstract does not fit into our topical session, you may submit it under the General Disciplinary sessions (History and Philosophy of Geology).

HISTORY and PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION at GSA BALTIMORE continued

Workshop. William “Strata” Smith and Geo-Education: Using the history of geology for teaching mapping, scientific practices, and nature of science (*Renee Clary, Glenn Dolphin, Brenda Kirkland*)

This interactive session demonstrates teaching strategies that emphasize storytelling, inquiry, and model-based learning for effective teaching of geology content and the nature of science. Participants will explore the history of geology while engaging in geologic mapping and stratigraphic correlation processes. Participants will solve problems through inquiry activities, similar to historic problems of stratigraphic sequencing and correlation and geologic mapping. Participants will also develop and discuss ideas of the economic and social influences (especially the increased emphasis on prospecting for and transporting coal) on the scientific process during this part of the 19th century, and receive strategies for classroom implementation.

Field Excursion

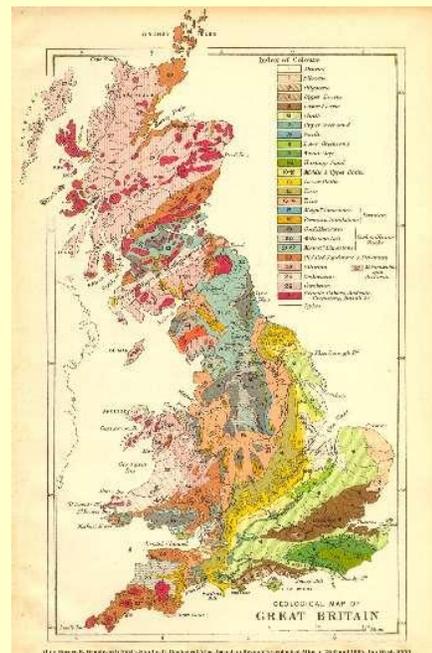
“William Smith’s Map and Other Treasures of the History of Geology at the Academy of Natural Sciences, American Philosophical Society, and Library Company” Philadelphia, PA Friday 30 October 2015

The trip will be led by Gary D. Rosenberg (Rosenberg@mpm.edu) and Sally Newcomb (senewcomb@earthlink.com). Hugh Torrens will be honorary trip leader. Please contact Gary Rosenberg or Sally Newcomb with questions.

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY:

Celebrate the bicentennial of William Smith’s geological map of Britain with preeminent Smith scholar Hugh Torrens, as we visit the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, where we will see one of Smith’s original maps and the “splendid collection [of fossils] designed to illustrate the principal English formations” that Smith’s pupil, Richard Cowling Taylor assembled. Other highlights at the American Philosophical Society, and the Library Company: James Valentine’s 4800-volume Darwin collection; the exhibit, “Jefferson, Science, and Exploration;” the rediscovered copy of Nicholas Steno’s first publication, *De Thermis*; William Parker Foulke’s papers on America’s first dinosaur, *Hadrosaurus*; Konrad Gesner’s *De rerum fossilium*.

The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural sciences institution in the Western Hemisphere, founded in 1812 by artist and inventor Charles Willson Peale “for the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.” The American Philosophical Society is America’s first learned society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 for the pursuit of “all philosophical Experiments that let Light into the Nature of Things.” The Library Company was founded in 1731 by Franklin and his colleagues, with the motto, “To pour forth benefits for the common good is divine.”



DIVISION CHAIRS MEETING, BOULDER, CO (March 28-29, 2015) By Renee Clary

GSA's new executive director, Vicki McConnell, joined us for the meeting. McConnell is the former state geologist of Oregon, assumed the reigns of GSA in April from interim director Judy Parrish.

Open Access for GSA Publications.

The next *GSA Today* issue will introduce open access to the membership. This will result in a huge change for GSA, since half of GSA revenue is currently generated from publications. The open access transition will occur over several years, with roll-out of journals to open access to occur through 2019. The current plan for open access release is

2017 *Geology*

2018 *Geosphere / Lithosphere*

2019 *Bulletin*

To address the shortfall in revenue that will result, GSA plans to implement the following: (1) increase in membership dues (about 50% more, implemented over the next two years), with members having online access to all journals; (2) a Foundation campaign to generate new revenue (about \$5 Million annually needed); and (3) streamlining of GSA Headquarters. Jack Hess later reported that the new Foundational Campaign will kick off in May, as a "silent" campaign. There will be no goal identified in the campaign (but \$10-15M was mentioned).

***Divisions and Interdisciplinary Interest Groups.***

There are now 18 Divisions, as Karst was approved by Council in Vancouver. There is one IIG, Soils.

New Policies and Statements.

GSA established a new field trip safety policy. It is now on the website.

The Student Advisory Council is established. Students elected a representative, Robert Mahom, for Council meetings. Holbrook reported that there was an organizational meeting for the Student Advisory Council at GSA Vancouver, and by-laws were developed. The SAC has 35 representatives. The typical term for a student division representative is 2 years, with an optional 1 year extension. A motion was made to invite a Student Advisory Council representative to the Division Chairs meeting (to join the group in person, or electronically).

New position statements are available for scientific infrastructure and land use management. Johann Varakemp reported that the energy position statement, and a transition to low carbon economy was problematic. There is a climate change position statement that outlines changes that occur with climate change. GSA has white papers on Hydraulic fracturing and Geoseismicity as critical issues (but not as position statements). There will be an upcoming position statement on the credits assigned to laboratory contact hours at community colleges and universities (i.e., instructor loads should be based on contact hours as opposed to credit hours).

There is a new award for geologic mapping, to be awarded for the first time in Baltimore (at which time it should have an official name). The award will recognize maps of high quality that impacted the Society. Its premier will coincide with the William Smith celebration, as GSA is helping the Geological Society of London celebrate the bicentennial of William Smith's first geologic map of a country. GSA has planned exciting Smith events, to include a "Smith look-alike" who will roam the conference; a Pardee with keynote Hugh Torrens, the premier Smith scholar; two field excursions, workshops, and a public lecture by Simon Winchester.

Update on GSA Baltimore.

The meeting will be held November 1-4, 2015. There are 5 Pardee sessions, 219 topical sessions, 39 field trips, and 32 short courses/workshops. The information will be published in *GSA Today* in the May, 2015 issue.

Digital posters no longer incur an extra fee for abstract submissions. However, authors are responsible for equipment rental fees. In Baltimore, our Division will be provided a booth at no extra charge, but we are now expected to pay for furniture.

Melissa Cummisky reminded chairs that there is \$10,000 available for a Penrose conference, and up to 4 Penrose conferences will be awarded each year.

Connected Communities.

All divisions are encouraged to migrate to Connected Communities. The suggestion was made that the GSA Division page needs to be revised, so that each division will have a short mission statement, list of awards, current officers (including student representative), grants/opportunities, and the weblink to the Connected Communities page. Division logos should be included.

Three New Committees Created.

Committee to Revise the Process for a New Division. This topic generated a lot of discussion since the process the new Karst division encountered was not explicit, nor did it seem to follow the posted guidelines. (Chair: Cory BlackEagle; Christopher Carleson, Renee Clary)

Committee to Define Interdisciplinary Interest Groups' and Divisions' Purposes.

There is little information to delineate the two. A committee was formed to detail what separates IIGs from Divisions. (Chair David

Dethier; Johann Varekamp, Michael Young, Renee Clary)

Committee to Develop Procedures for Retiring or Merging Divisions. This is the discussion of most relevance to our division. The preliminary discussion suggested that evidence of inactivity should be grounds for retiring a division, where inactivity could be defined via 1) low membership numbers; 2) lack of representation at division chairs meetings; 3) lack of formal reports to GSA; 4) lack of actively (topical sessions) at GSA. A probationary period was suggested. Divisions can only be merged or dissolved by Council vote, and the Division Council Liaison (currently John Holbrook) could initiate the process, which may be triggered by a Division's Annual Report. (Chair: Deborah Buczkowski; Renee Clary, Thomas Darrah)

**Student Award**

Deadline for nominations is JUNE 15
Please email nominations to Kathy Lohff at kathylohff@msn.com

For nomination applications and more information please use the following link:

[Student Award Application](#)