

International Association of
Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry

Newsletter

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Highlights of 1994/95

- Council Meeting was held at Penn State, May 24, 1995.
- Membership has increased to 597 for 1994, already surpassed by Sept., 1995.
- Finances are in good condition despite 1994 expenditure.
- Agreement with Elsevier is near; subscription rate for Applied Geochemistry must rise for 1996 but journal will expand.
- Nominations for 1996-2000 are being sought.

IAGC Business Activities

Council Meeting

An IAGC Council Meeting was held on May 24, 1995 in conjunction with the V.M. Goldschmidt Conference at Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA. Only the Acting President G. Faure, Council Member R.S. Harmon and Working Group Chairman U. Aswathanarayana were able to attend and so actions and proposals arising from the meeting were communicated by mail for approval to other Executive and Council members. Items discussed during the meeting included 1) the status of negotiations with Elsevier regarding Applied Geochemistry, 2) Nominations for Council for 1996-2000, 3) the financial status of IAGC and 4) the Vernadsky Medal.

Other Business

The IAGC President, Hitoshi Sakai, has recovered from a prolonged period of illness and treatment and resumed his position on August 1, 1995. During his absence, Gunter Faure took over the responsibility of this post.

Preparations are underway for the IAGC General Assembly, to be held in conjunction with the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, China, August 4-14, 1996. At the Assembly, a new Council and Executive will be elected for 1996-2000 (see later notice).

In preparation for the General Assembly, a Nominations Committee has been formed to prepare a slate of candidates for positions on Council and the Executive for the period 1996-2000. The Committee consists of H. Wanke (Chairman), R.S. Harmon, U. Aswathanarayana, S.R. Taylor and R. Volkov. Nominees will be accepted by vote of National Member representatives at the General Assembly.

Conferences Supported

After last year's budget-breaker of five conferences supported, 1995 was a more moderate year with support of \$2000 each being awarded to three meetings. They were:

- 5th Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference, May 24-26, 1995 at Penn State University, PA, USA.

- WRI-8, 8th International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction, August 17-22, 1995, in Vladivostok, Russia.
- 6 IKC, 6th International Kimberlite Conference, July 30-August 19, 1995, in Novosibirsk, Russia.

In total, \$6000 was paid out to support conferences in 1995.

Membership

The IAGC had 597 paid-up members for 1994, an increase of over 12% on 1993. By August 1995, this number had been surpassed and at the time of going to press 623 had paid their dues. Approximately 85% of IAGC members also subscribe to Applied Geochemistry at the special rate for members.

National Members

At the end of 1994, 14 countries were fully paid-up National Members of the IAGC. They are: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and U.K. Annual dues for National Member countries range from as little as \$60 and depend on the number of geochemists represented in that country. Only National Members have voting power at the General Assembly. As a individual member, **if you see that your country is not a National Member and you would like it to be represented**, contact other geochemists in your country and petition your relevant governing body (e.g. Ministry of Resources, Geoscience Council, Academy of Sciences) for representation. If you would like more details of this procedure, please contact the Secretary, Mel Gascoyne (address on page 7).

Treasurer's Report, 1994/95

A complete statement of income and expenses for 1994 is given below (only a 6-month statement was given in the last newsletter). As the statement shows, expenditure exceeded income by about \$5900 in 1994,

largely due to the fact that funds were paid out to support and sponsor five meetings plus an Ingerson Distinguished Lecture.

◇ *Statement of Income and Expenses*
January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1994		\$58,914.04	
Income:			
Member Dues	\$ 4,280.00		
National Dues	2,360.00		
Other			
Interest	<u>1,614.57</u>	<u>8,254.57</u>	
			\$67,168.61
Expenses:			
Goldschmidt Lecture	\$ 1,596.00		
Newsletter	922.05		
Secretarial and Accounting	460.50		
Membership Fee - IUPAC	50.00		
Pisa, Italy - Conf. Min. Equil.	2,027.00		
WRI-8	2,000.00		
Goldschmidt Conference	2,000.00		
Pisa, Italy - IMA	2,000.00		
Edinburgh Meeting	830.00		
Set Up Account in East Lansing	77.03		
Bank Fees	40.85		
Faxes	45.86		
Legal - File Taxes	95.00		
Irkutsk Conf. Mapping	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>14,144.29</u>	
Cash Balance, December 31, 1994		<u>\$53,024.32</u>	
Total Excess Income Over Expenditures 1994			\$(5,889.72)
Chequing Account #047031 Douglas Co.	\$24,137.59		
Chequing Account #566064 Citizens Bank	<u>28,886.73</u>	<u>\$53,024.32</u>	

The statement for 1995 to October (below) shows an increase in revenue of over \$4000 although costs associated with the Newsletter and further conference sponsorship will reduce this amount.

◇ *Statement of Income and Expenses*
January 1, 1995 to September 29, 1995

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1995		\$53,024.32	
Income:			
Member Dues	\$ 7,540.00		
National Dues	1,920.00		
Other			
Interest	<u>509.79</u>	<u>9,969.79</u>	
			\$62,994.11
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 1,051.24		
IAGC-94 Expenses	314.34		
General Office Expenses	489.81		
Membership Fee - IUPAC	50.00		
Goldschmidt Conference	2,000.00		
6 th Kimberlite Conference	2,000.00		
Bank Fees - Douglas Co.	<u>0.10</u>	<u>5,905.49</u>	
Cash Balance, September 29, 1995		<u>\$57,088.62</u>	
Total Excess Income Over Expenditures 1995			\$ 4,064.30
Chequing Account #047031 Douglas Co.	\$26,447.28		
Chequing Account #566064 Citizens Bank	<u>30,641.34</u>	<u>\$57,088.62</u>	

Because of the IAGC's healthy finances, members should note that support for international meetings is available from the IAGC by application through any of the Working Groups listed at the end of this newsletter. Typically \$2,000 is given per meeting to allow attendance of scientists from developing countries at the meeting. Occasionally, however, the funds may be used to bring a distinguished scientist as a keynote speaker to a meeting in a developing country if he/she is not able to attend for financial reasons. In this case, the request should be specifically indicated by the meeting organizer.

General Assembly, 1996

The General Assembly of the IAGC will take place in conjunction with the 30th International Geological Congress in Beijing, China next year. A tentative date for the Assembly is 7 Aug. 1996; full details will be included in the IGC registration package. A new slate of Council and Executive Officers will be voted on by representatives of National Member countries. The Nominees will be proposed by the Nominations Committee and approved by vote of the existing Council prior to the General Assembly. The Assembly will be preceded and succeeded by meetings of the outgoing and incoming Council. Other items to be presented and discussed include possible changes to IAGC Statutes, the terms of agreement with Elsevier Science regarding *Applied Geochemistry*, the IAGC medal and future directions of the IAGC. Recommendations will also be made to deal with the recurrent problem of non-participation or inactivity of some Council members and Working Groups. **Any IAGC members attending the IGC are invited and encouraged to attend the General Assembly.** Details of time and location of IAGC meetings will be included in the IGC registration package.

Applied Geochemistry

Executive Editor's Report (R. Fuge)

During the last twelve months the journal has received 120 manuscripts. The rejection rate has been running at 40% which has resulted in a high quality of papers being published. For next year, numbers 1 and 2 are being published as a double volume which will be the conference proceedings for the Third International Environmental Geochemistry Conference which was held in Krakow in September, 1994.

Continued Sponsorship by IAGC of APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY

As noted in the last Newsletter (No. 27), the IAGC has not opted to purchase a 50% share in its journal *Applied Geochemistry*, at the end of 1995. Instead, the Executive and Council have requested the Publications Committee (Gunter Faure, Interim Chairman) to negotiate a new agreement with Elsevier Science Ltd. The principles of this agreement were laid out in Newsletter 27 and many have now been accepted. The following report by Gunter Faure describes the status of the negotiations.

The negotiations with Elsevier concerning *Applied Geochemistry* (AG) have produced positive results, but have not yet been completed. Several items have been agreed to, including:

1. The accumulated operating deficit amounting to more than \$200,000 has been written off by Elsevier as a business loss.
2. Elsevier will pay a royalty to IAGC of at least \$10,000 per year or 8% of the net income from institutional subscriptions. The first such payment will be due in January of 1997.
3. IAGC will select the Executive Editor and will present his/her credentials to Elsevier before the person is formally appointed. Elsevier will not withhold its approval unreasonably.
4. The Executive Editor will be solely responsible for the content of the journal with advice from the Publications Committee.
5. Elsevier will provide an adequate budget for the editorial office including travel by the Executive Editor to an annual meeting with representatives of Elsevier and IAGC.
6. The annual subscription rate to AG for members of IAGC will be based on the actual cost of printing and mailing issues of the journal to them.
7. The Executive Editor will determine the size of the annual page budget based on the expected submission of high-quality manuscripts.

However, several important issues are still under discussion. These include:

1. The annual member subscription rate for 1996, 1997 and 1998. The problem here is the recent increase in the price of paper;
2. A reduced subscription rate (50%) for students in degree programs who are members of IAGC; and
3. Fifty free offprints for the corresponding authors of papers published in AG.

Unfortunately, an increase in the subscription rate for AG is unavoidable. However, I expect that the increase in the subscription rate will be accompanied by an increase in the number of pages published.

The agreement concerning royalties contains the incentive for all of us to recommend to our librarians to subscribe to AG. You can justify your recommendations by pointing out that AG publishes high-quality papers in environmental geochemistry, that the journal is now under new management and will start to grow, and that the price of a subscription is less than the price back-issues will be in the future.

I am convinced that we can help AG to become the leading journal in environmental geochemistry in the broadest sense. As AG grows in stature and in size, it will attract new members to IAGC and will enable the Association to play a more effective role in promoting geochemistry and cosmochemistry around the world.

Activities of Working Groups (1994/95)

The IAGC has nine Working Groups in various areas of geochemistry and cosmochemistry (see list of groups and chairpersons, at end). While many of these are active and hold international meetings at frequent intervals, some appear to have become defunct or lack international activity and a recommendation to terminate these groups will be made at the next Council Meeting.

Reports of the more active groups are given below.

1. Geochemistry of the Earth Surface
(R.A. Berner)

Ilkley (Yorkshire, England) has been selected as the venue for the **Fourth International Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth Surface (GES)** by the Executive Committee of the Working Group on the Geochemistry of the Earth Surface (previously named the Geochemistry of Weathering, Diagenesis and Sedimentary Processes). Symposium themes include geochemistry of estuarine, coastal and marine processes, the geochemical record of terrestrial environmental change, organic matter cycling in the terrestrial environment, anthropogenic geochemical impacts on the terrestrial environment, land-atmosphere-hydrosphere interactions and the geochemistries of catastrophic events and authentication (e.g. of artifacts in archeology). The main mode of contribution to the Technical Sessions will be by posters. The Organizing Committee will additionally invite oral contributions to be presented in English from leading scientists for each of the themes. These papers will act as the foci for the poster sessions which will be held each day.

The deadline for abstracts is December, 1995. See page 6 for contact address.

2. Applied Isotope Geochemistry
(A. Raheim)

Following on from the success of AIG-1, (the 1st International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry in Geiranger, Norway, in August, 1993), plans are now being made for AIG-2, to be held in 1997. Possible venues include Hangchow (China), near Calgary (Canada), near Prague (Czech Republic) or Orléans (France). A poll of the Geiranger participants will likely decide. See page 6 for contact address.

3. Water-Rock Interaction
(W.M. Edmunds)

The main activity of the working group this year has been the successful WRI-8 symposium, in Vladivostok, attended by 180 participants from 23 countries. This was considerably smaller than the previous meetings in Utah and Malvern, but in view of the challenge of the venue and the rapid changes in Russia since the decision to proceed, represented a successful outcome (Edmonton and Prague had in fact, lower attendances). Some 25 people

attended the Lake Baikal Trip and 55 the Post Session trip to Kamchatka. This was a tremendous achievement by Oleg Chudaev and his organizing committee who had to overcome some bureaucratic nightmares to bring this to the undoubted success it represents - not least the arrival of the symposium proceedings on the last day of the meeting!

It has been agreed that WRI-9 will be held in Taupo, New Zealand in 1998 (probably in April) with Brian Robinson as Secretary General. There is interest from three European countries to hold the first meeting of the next Millennium (WRI-10).

4. Thermodynamics of Natural Processes
(G. Kolonin)

Several Working Group members made oral presentations at the 5th Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference at Penn State, USA, during May, 1995 and at WRI-8 in Vladivostok, Russia during August, 1995. As a result of discussions at the Penn State meeting, the Working Group is planning to prepare a suite of presentations on thermodynamics of natural processes, to be given in the Environmental Geochemistry Symposium at the next Goldschmidt Conference in Heidelberg.

5. Global Geochemical Mapping
(A.G. Darnley)

The WG on Global Geochemical Mapping is working in parallel with IGCP Project 360, Global Geochemical Baselines, and together they constitute Phase 2 of the International Geochemical Mapping project (IGCP Project 259). The IUGS Bureau has recently recommended that in view of the environmental importance of the activity, as soon as alternative sources of funding can be identified, the existing projects should be consolidated into a new working Group reporting directly to the IUGS Board. The new Working Group will be called Continental Geochemical Baselines. Subject to confirmation, it is expected to supersede the existing administrative arrangements in 1997.

A.G. Darnley attended the Annual IGCP project review meeting in Paris in February, 1995 as a representative of the IAGC to discuss with UNESCO staff and members of the IUGS Board the distribution of the 'Global Geochemical Database' report and the long-term future of the project. A one-day seminar describing the project was held in Ottawa in conjunction with an IAEA

Training Program on Exploration and the Environment, on 08 September 1995. Participants from nine countries attended: China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Ukraine. (The IAEA is one of the co-sponsors of the report.)

A project review and planning meeting was held in Turku, Finland, 18-21 September 1995. Twenty scientists attended from 11 countries, including Brazil, China, Czech and Slovak Republics, Jordan, Russia and Ukraine. The project's co-leaders were present. Each of the project's technical committees were represented.

A.G. Darnley, J.A.C. Fortescue and Xie Xuejing (from China) attended the Brazilian Geochemical Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23-27 October 1995, to conduct a workshop on International Geochemical Mapping. CPRM, the Brazilian Geological Survey, has commenced the partial implementation of the published recommendations in a pilot area of about 750,000 km² in NE Brazil and they organized the workshop to publicize and discuss the activity.

Several meetings are planned for 1996. These include: Environmental and Legislative Uses of Regional Geochemical Baseline Data for Sustainable Development, 26-28 March 1996, BGS, Keyworth, UK; Environmental Geochemical Baseline Mapping in Europe, Bratislava, 21-24 May 1996; A session on International Geochemical Mapping and Continental Geochemical Baselines at the IGC, Beijing, August, 1996; and, Continental Geochemical Baselines, Ottawa, Canada, 24-27 September 1996.

Further details of the many activities and meetings of this Working Group can be obtained from the Chairman (address on page 7).

IAGC-Sponsored Meetings in 1996

◇ 4th Int. Symp. on the Geochemistry of the Earth Surface

1996 July 22-28

Ilkley, England

Contact: GES-IV Conference Secretariat, Continuing Education Building, University of Leeds, LS29NG U.K.
Fax: 44-113-233-3240

Other Meetings of Interest

◇ 6th V.M. Goldschmidt Conference

1996 March 31-April 4

Heidelberg, Germany

Contact: Goldschmidt Conference Secretary
Laboratorium Für Geochronologic
Ruprechts-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
Im Neuenheimer Feld 234
69120 Heidelberg (Germany)
Fax: 49-6131-371-051

◇ AIG-2, 2nd Int. Symp. on Applied Isotope Geochemistry

1997 - to be announced

Contact: A. Raheim, IFE,
P.O. Box 40, N-2007 Kjeller, Norway
Fax: 47-63-81-55-53

◇ 4th Int. Symp. on Environmental Geochemistry

1997 October 5-10

Vail, Colorado, USA

Contact: R.C. Severson or L.P. Gough
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