

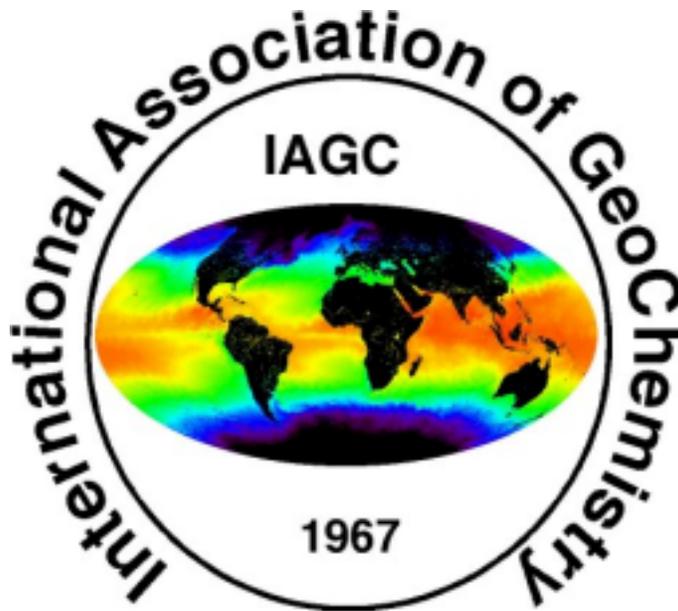
# Newsletter

of the

**International Association of GeoChemistry**

**Number 43, December 2005**

**Mel Gascoyne, Newsletter Editor**



## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

- **GSA in Salt Lake**
- **Call for Nominations**
- **Minutes of two meetings!**
- **ISEG-7**
- **Spotlight on Global Geochemical Baselines**
- **Upcoming meetings**

***Have you forgotten to renew your membership in IAGC ?!  
See p. 5 for details***

## ASSOCIATION NEWS\*

### Welcome new members!

At the GSA in Salt Lake City, the IAGC booth signed up 35 new members to the IAGC and persuaded a further 13 existing members to pay their dues early. More information is given on p.2.

### Meetings and more meetings!

The year 2005 should go down as the year of the Council meetings! Normally an annual event at best, the first took place just before the start of the Goldschmidt Conference in May and the second occurred in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Meeting in October. The minutes of these meetings and sections of individual reports are included in this Newsletter.

### Elements

Issues 1-5 have been published and distributed, on schedule, in 2005. I hope you have enjoyed reading them. The Managing Editor, Pierrette Tremblay, would love to hear if you have any comments or words of praise! ([Pierrette\\_tremblay@inrs-ete.quebec.ca](mailto:Pierrette_tremblay@inrs-ete.quebec.ca)) The new year will see bimonthly issues of Elements (an increase to 6 issues per year).

Starting with the December issue, 2005, only those paid up for dues in 2005 would receive the issue. So, if you have not renewed your IAGC membership for 2005, please do so quickly so that your supply of "Elements" issues is not

### \*Death of Al Levinson

As we go to press on this issue we have received sad news of the death of Professor Al Levinson on December 12, from cancer. A full obituary will be given in the spring Newsletter.

interrupted. Because the print run of an issue is close to the membership demand for all participating societies, it will be difficult to get back-issues after the year has passed.

### Website

Have you visited the IAGC website yet? IAGC's website was initiated in 2004 through the Business Office and the "Granite" internet server in Pinawa, Manitoba. Check it out and send us your comments: <http://www.iagc.ca>. The site is being updated regularly with new information on upcoming and past meetings, Working Group activity reports membership application details and lots more. Recent additions include updates on meetings,

### Plans for 2006

There is a lot that IAGC needs to accomplish in 2006. For instance, (i) the first set of IAGC awards are planned to be made at the 2006 Goldschmidt Conference in Australia (see '**Call for Nominations**', below); (ii) thematic technical sessions must be organised for the Goldschmidt Conference, International Symposium of Environmental Geochemistry, & Geological Society of America Annual Meeting; (iii) the Ingerson International Lecture must be organised; (iv) a new relationship must be defined between IAGC and its Working Groups; and (v) input and ideas for future issues of the geochemical magazine 'Elements' must be developed.

### **Applied Geochemistry – Are you missing any issues?**

There have been very few reports of lack of receipt of *Applied Geochemistry* issues for 2004 or 2005. If you are missing any issues, contact the Business Office with your needs. The Business Office is willing to mail out missing issues of volumes 17, 18, 19 & 20 to fill in the

gaps of members' collections, free of charge! Let us know if you are missing an issue. Note that we cannot replace large numbers of missing issues - members should contact the Business Office separately to arrange this.

## Conferences supported by IAGC

One of the main aims of the IAGC is to sponsor symposia and international meetings on various aspects of geochemistry, primarily through its Working Groups but also through an IAGC conference grants program. In 2005, IAGC sponsored a special session on Archaeological Geochemistry at the April EGU Meeting in Vienna, and joined in the sponsorship of the 15<sup>th</sup> Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, Idaho in May. IAGC also was a sponsor of the 6th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry in Prague, in September 2005. Future conferences to be supported by IAGC include Goldschmidt (in Australia), the International Society for Environmental Geochemistry meeting (ISEG-7), Beijing, and the GSA Annual Meeting, scheduled for 22-25 October in Philadelphia. For the latter, a 50-word proposal for theme sessions needs to be submitted to the GSA web site ([www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)) by 10 January 2006.

## GSA in October, 2005

This year the IAGC elected to have a stronger presence at the meetings they support by organising a booth. The first was at the Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, Idaho, and was periodically staffed by attending IAGC officers with help from the organiser, Scott Wood, and students. This netted 6 new members.

In the fall, a more concerted effort was made at the GSA in Salt Lake City, in which the booth was staffed full-time by Mel and Sim Gascoyne. More aggressive techniques were used to persuade passers-by that it really was in their best interests to join the IAGC. Daily draw



*Another happy customer leaves the IAGC booth (staffed by Mel Gascoyne) after joining up*



*Simcha Stroes-Gascoyne also helping out at the booth*

prizes (back-issue sets of *Applied Geochemistry*) and a draw only for new members and renewing members (for a hot-off-the-press copy of Volume 9, *Environmental Geochemistry*, from the Treatise on Geochemistry), were helpful in attracting attention. The book draw was won by Briant Kimball.

## Working Groups

IAGC has seven Working Groups:  
Water-Rock Interaction,  
Global Geochemical Baselines,  
Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface,  
Applied Isotope Geochemistry,  
Thermodynamics of Natural Processes,  
Geochemical Training in Developing Countries  
Geochemistry of Health and Disease

Addresses of the Chairmen can be found on p.13 of this Newsletter. The activities of some of these are featured in issues of "Elements". For instance, issue #3 described the very successful Working Group, Water-Rock Interaction (WRI), issue #4 contained the work of the Geochemical Training in Developing Countries WG, and issue #5 gave details of the of the Global Geochemical Baselines WG.

## Rules for support of meetings

The IAGC is often asked by students, researchers, etc., if it can provide monetary support for the organisation of, or attendance at, meetings by The previous policy was somewhat ill-defined but essentially said that only meetings organised by IAGC Working Groups could receive support and this support should be directed at assisting students to attend the meeting and providing help for scientists from developing countries to attend..

The recent revision of the Statutes has clarified and redefined the policy of providing support and can be found in Appendix IV of the Statutes

posted on the web site. In particular, the requirements for meetings that want to publish some or all of the papers presented at the meeting are laid out. The relevant portion of Appendix IV is Item #8: ***"IAGC support for a meeting gives the Association, through the Executive Editor of the Association journal Applied Geochemistry, the 'first right of refusal' regarding the publication of the conference proceedings. The organizer of each meeting supported financially by the IAGC shall, upon receipt of the notice of meeting support from IAGC, contact the Executive Editor of Applied Geochemistry regarding publication of the meeting proceedings or a subset of conference papers before considering any other publication alternative. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of IAGC financial support for the meeting."***

## Report on AIG-6

The 6th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-6) was held in Prague, Czech Republic on September 11-16, 2005. The symposium was organized by the International Association of GeoChemistry, in collaboration with the Czech Geological Survey. Over 180 delegates from 28 countries took part, large numbers of participants came from Australia, Canada, U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Portugal, Japan, Russia and Switzerland. Over 90 oral presentations in two concurrent sessions, and over 80 posters covered all aspects of modern isotope geoscience. Isotope biogeochemistry of Cr, Cd, Fe, Ca and O was one distinct highlight. High-temperature petrochemistry-oriented papers (isotopes of Li, Mo, Fe) represented about one fifth of AIG-6 presentations. Environmental studies involving sulfur isotopes filled two specialized sessions. In all, 23 different traditional and not-so-traditional isotope systems were discussed, further including Cl, Pb, Sr, N, C and H. The symposium took place in the oldest monastery in the country, the

## Call for nominations for awards

The IAGC invites nominations for the following awards, to be given in 2006:

The *Vernadsky Medal*, for a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry.

The *Ebelmen Award*, to a geochemist of particular merit and outstanding promise who is less than 35 years old at the time of nomination.

*Certificates of recognition*, for outstanding scientific accomplishments in geochemistry, for excellence in geochemistry-related teaching or public service, or for meritorious service to the IAGC or the international scientific community.

Nominations can only be made by IAGC members in good standing and should be addressed to the IAGC Business Office (Box 501, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, Canada, e-mail: [iagc@granite.mb.ca](mailto:iagc@granite.mb.ca)) and be submitted BEFORE 31ST JANUARY 2006.

For the Vernadsky Medal and the Ebelmen Award, a letter of nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and publications list of the nominee, and four (Vernadsky) or three (Ebelmen) letters of support should be provided. Two of these letters must be from IAGC members in good standing, and not more than two may be from persons residing in the same country as the nominee.

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Brevnov Abbey, founded 1012 years ago. Field excursions took the participants to the famed 14-th century Carsbad spa, the North Bohemian coal mining area plagued by spruce die-back, and the Krkonose Mts. National Park where Czech researchers study global change and historical Pb pollution using isotope systematics in ombrotrophic peatlands.

The organizers awarded four prizes for outstanding student presentations. The winners were Scott Wankel of USGS for his study of mass-independent oxygen isotope fractionation of atmospheric nitrate, Juraj Farkas of University of Ottawa for Ca isotope profiles of Phanerozoic sedimentary sequences measured on a Neptune MC ICP MS, Katja Rinne of Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge, for a tree-ring study, and Patrie Tycova of the Czech Geological Survey for finding Fe isotope differences between taenite and kamacite in iron meteorites. The next AIG symposium will be held in South Africa in 2007.

Martin Novak

Chairman, Working Group on Applied Isotope Geochemistry

## Report on GES-7

The 7th symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface (GES-7) was held at the Congress Center in Aix-en-Provence, France, August 23-27, 2005. The symposium was organized by Jean Dominique Meunier (CEREGE). The GES organization is a working group of the IAGC. Past meetings were held in Granada, Spain (1986), Aix-en-Provence, France (1990), University Park, Pennsylvania, USA (1993), Ilkey, England (1996), Reykjavik, Iceland (1999) and Honolulu, Hawaii (2002). The principal focus of the GES meetings is on processes operating at the surface of the Earth rather than on deep crustal geochemical processes. The GES-7 meeting continued that

overall theme with some greater emphasis on the multiscale environmental biogeochemistry of the Earth's surface. GES-7 encompassed the following themes : 1-Environmental impact of waste management ; 2- Water cycle and resources : geochemical tracers and contaminants ; 3-Biogeochemical processes in soils and ecosystems: from molecular to landscape scale ; 4-Weathering : processes, rates and age ; 5- Coastal biogeochemistry : from land to continental slope and 6-Global element cycles and climate change through the Earth history (in honour of Prof. Fred Mackenzie). The symposium was attended by approximately 130 participants from 27 countries. The 104 reviewed and accepted extended abstracts will be published in a Special Issue of Journal of Geochemical Exploration.

The following sponsors contributed significantly to the success of symposium: City of Aix-en-Provence, Agence Nationale pour la gestion des Déchets Radioactifs, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières, Centre Européen de Recherche et d'Enseignement de Géosciences de l'Environnement, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Conseil Général des Bouches-du-Rhône, Conseil Régional de la Région PACA, Communauté des Pays d'Aix, European Association for Geochemistry, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, International Association of GeoChemistry, Syndicat Mixte de l'Arbois, Université Paul

### **How to contact us:**

**To join or renew your membership in the IAGC, subscribe to or track down errant issues of *Applied Geochemistry*, or to send in comments, etc., contact: IAGC Business Office, Box 501, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, Canada.**

Cézanne (formerly Aix-Marseille III). GES-8 (2008) will be held in Reading, UK and will be organized by Mark Hodson.

Jean Dominique Meunier,  
Secretary-General, GES-7

## **Minutes of the IAGC Council Meeting, May 2005**

An official IAGC Council Meeting was held from 8:00-10:30pm on 22 May during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual V. M. Goldschmidt Geochemistry Conference in Moscow, ID (USA). The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

**Present:** John Ludden (President), Eric Galimov (Past President), Russell Harmon (Vice President), Gunter Faure (Treasurer), Ron Fuge (Journal Editor), John Gray (Council Member), Berry Lyons (Council Member). Quorum is reached. Invited and attending: Rod Ewing and Pierrette Tremblay of the 'Elements' magazine. Invited and not attending: Friso Veenstra of Elsevier.

Items in order of the Agenda prepared by the IAGC Secretary.

1. Minutes of the previous Council Meetings. The Minutes of the previous two Council Meetings, held during the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geological Congress in Florence, Italy, were reviewed. Following a motion from G. Faure, seconded by B. Lyons, these Minutes were accepted without revision by a unanimous vote.

2. President's Report. An oral President's Report was presented by J. Ludden. The report noted that IAGC was increasingly active over the past nine months and as a result was gaining more visibility within the international geochemistry community, having sponsored a special thematic session (Geochemistry in Archaeometry, supported at the \$2000 level) at the 2005 European Union of Geosciences biennial meeting and two sessions ('The Geochemistry of Mercury' - J. Gray, Organizer, 'Watershed Scale Geochemistry' - B. Lyons, D. Long, & R. Harmon, Co-Organizers) at the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference (supported at the \$8000 level).

3. Treasurer's Report. A written report was submitted and presented by G. Faure. This Treasurer's report noted that the transfer of just over \$75,500 of IAGC funds from D. Long to G. Faure had been accomplished, and that all IAGC funds were presently residing at a bank in

Columbus, OH (USA), expect for three Certificate of Deposit for ~\$50,000 that would remain at the Citizens Bank of East Lansing, MI (USA) until they reached maturity. In addition, it was noted that just over \$10,000 in member dues for 2003 and 2004 had been collected from Elsevier and just over \$250 of interest had been earned during the past six months. Approved expenditures during the previous six months totaled just over \$21,500, so that the net funds and assets of IAGC totaled \$114,683.05 on 2 May 2005. Following a motion from B. Lyons, seconded by J. Gray, this report was accepted without revision by a unanimous vote.

4. Secretary's Report. A written report for the past calendar year was submitted by A. Demény. This report detailed the activities and tasks undertaken during 2004. The Council noted its satisfaction with the operation of the Business Office, which is critical in the Association conducting its day-to-day business in a timely and efficient manner. Following a motion from E. Galimov, seconded by G. Faure, this report was accepted without revision by a unanimous vote.

5. Business Office Report. A combined Business Office Newsletter Editor's Report for the past year was submitted by M. Gascoyne. The Business Office report, which included an expenditure report for the period from 26 June '04 to 31 March '05, detailed the activities undertaken in four broad categories: Membership (currently holding steady at just under 400), the 'Elements' magazine (the Business Office is responsible for assembling and submitting the recurring IAGC section of the magazine), Financial, and Other (e.g. new IAGC logo, IAGC booth at the Goldschmidt Conference, Vernadsky Medal, IAGC banners, IAGC Working Groups, Ingerson Lecture, IAGC information brochure). The Newsletter Editor's report noted that two Newsletters #41 & 42) were prepared and distributed to the membership during the past year. The next issue is planned for September '05. The Council noted the importance of a properly functioning Business Office to the long-term stability and growth of IAGC and expressed its satisfaction with its very dependable operation over the past year. The Business Office expenditure report for the period 26/6/04-31/3/05 was reviewed and the proposal for operation of the Business Office and preparation of the IAGC Newsletter for the 2006 fiscal year was considered. Following a motion from J. Gray, seconded by G. Faure, the combined report and future operations proposal was accepted without revision by a unanimous vote.

Discussion. It was noted that (i) the IAGC web site address is not listed on the trifold information brochure and membership application form distributed at the Goldschmidt Conference, (ii) the web site address listed for IAGC by the Goldschmidt Conference in its

promotional literature was the 'old' MSU address, (iii) that the web site link for IAGC on the 'Elements' home page takes one to the 'old' web site, and that the web site one is directed to when one 'Googles' IAGC is the 'old' web site. Items (i), (iii), and (iv) need to be rectified. The 'new' web site address needs to be the one cited in Applied Geochemistry and in all IAGC promotional literature and the old MSU web site need to have an automatic link to the new web site. (Action Item: Mel Gascoyne - Business Office)

It was suggested that a 'Current and Future Events' column be developed for each issue of the Newsletter. The column would contain information about upcoming meetings and other happenings of general interest to IAGC members. It would be the responsibility of each Council Member to contribute at least one item for each Newsletter issue. Additional information could be obtained by an e-mail call for input to the entire IAGC membership a few weeks before each Newsletter was prepared. (Action Item: Mel Gascoyne - Newsletter Editor & IAGC Council)

7. Working Group Reports. No reports were received from the seven IAGC Working Groups. It was noted that 3 Working Group Meetings were scheduled during the upcoming year. It is the direction of Council that each organizer of a Working Group meeting be sent the IAGC policy paper on sponsored meetings at the time that the Treasurer provided funding to the meeting organizer.

8. Publications Committee Report. The written report previously submitted to the Secretary was not available for the meeting so an oral report was presented by J. Gray. First, it was noted that the Publication Committee had been staffed in November 2004 according to the terms of the IAGC Statutes. Present membership of the Publications Committee is: John Gray (USA - IAGC Council Member) - Chair, Ron Fuge (UK, AG Executive Editor) - Member, Xiangdong Li (China) - Member, and W. Berry Lyons (USA) - Member. Second, a new 3-year contract for future subscription rates for Applied Geochemistry was negotiated with Friso Veenstra at Elsevier In November 2004. As part of our contract, Elsevier offered to set up a 'Society Service' for members of IAGC, which allows full-text journal access to the journals *Geochemica Cosmochimica Acta* and *Organic Geochemistry*, as well as *Applied Geochemistry*, dating back to 1995. The new subscription rates for AG for the next three years are: 2005: \$56 (student rate: \$42), 2006: \$58 (student rate: \$43.50), 2007: \$60 (student rate: \$45). Third, the Chair of the Publications Committee represents IAGC on the 'Elements' Editorial Advisory Board, which assists the Editors in developing themes, news, and special articles to be published in the magazine. A meeting of the 'Elements' Editorial Advisory Board

was held during the Goldschmidt Conference. Finally, it was noted that there had been several instances of communication with Ron Fuge during the past nine months regarding the operation of “Applied Geochemistry. There are no problems associated with the journal at the present time.

9. Report of the Editor of ‘Applied Geochemistry’. The written report previously submitted to the Secretary was not available for the meeting so an oral report was presented by R. Fuge. It was noted that ‘Applied Geochemistry’ is doing very well. There is no editorial backlog at present and the journal impact factor has been steadily growing. A total of 246 manuscripts were received in 2004 and approximately 20 manuscripts a month have been received during the first half of 2005. Elsevier has agreed to a 10% increase in the number of pages for ‘Applied Geochemistry’ in 2006, and three special issues on papers from IAGC-sponsored sessions at the 2004 International Geological Congress and the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference are underway for 2006. Recently, three Associate Editors have retired with one replacement Associate Editor being negotiated at present. No review articles were published during the past year; one is presently in preparation on the ‘Geochemistry of Archaeological Glasses,’ but others are needed. The Council concurred with the Editor’s assessment of the state of ‘Applied Geochemistry and, following a motion from G. Faure that was seconded by B. Lyons, the combined report and future operations proposal was accepted without revision by a unanimous vote.

## 10. Matters Arising.

### 10.1. IAGC Financial Management – Present and Future.

The IAGC Treasurer, G. Faure, pointed out that IAGC was very healthy financially and was expecting to accrue some \$45,000 in income this year from Elsevier and member dues. The concern was expressed that IAGC could become subject to a US Internal Revenue Service audit, if it did not spend a sufficient amount of its liquid assets each year on its charitable activities, as described in the IAGC Mission Statement and Statutes. Therefore, Council informally agreed that IAGC should look to spend \$35-40K this next year.

It was also requested that, beginning in January 2005, the IAGC Business Office obtain an official statement of number of participants from the organizers of all meetings sponsored and financially supported by IAGC. The information about the meeting (name, date, location, organizer) and the number of participants would be recorded in a database kept by the IAGC Business Office and provided to the IAGC Treasurer at the end of each

calendar year. (Action Item: Mel Gascoyne - Business Office)

### 10.2. ‘Elements’ - An International Magazine of Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Petrology.

P. Tremblay, managing editor of ‘Elements,’ and R. Ewing, one of three scientific editors, provided an invited briefing on the state of the magazine. The following information was provided in briefing:

(i) Eight scientific societies currently sponsor the magazine and an additional one, the Mineralogy Society of France, should join this consortium in the very near future.

(ii) The current cost of producing ‘Elements’ is \$200,000/year of which \$30,000 is presently contributed from paid advertising. The cost of ‘Elements’ to the societies is \$2.00(US) per member per issue in 2004/05 for five issues, which will rise to \$2.50 per member per issue in 2006 for six issues. It is hoped that the per member cost can be reduced after 2006.

(iii) Three issues of ‘Elements’ have been published (with issue #3 in the process of being mailed). Two additional issues will appear in 2005 and then six will be published in 2006.

(iv) 9000 copies of issue #3 were printed. Over 4000 copies were sent to addresses outside the US, over 3000 to addresses within the US. Some 1400 went to libraries and the remainder to individual society members.

(iv) Topic selection is the responsibility of the ‘Elements’ editors (not the sponsoring societies) and the issue topics for upcoming issues through 2006 have been decided and issue editors selected. Upcoming topics include ‘Toxic Metals in the Environment’ and ‘Arsenic – Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemical Aspects and Toxicity.’ One role of the Editorial Board, which consists of representatives from the sponsoring societies (the Chair of the Publications Committee for IAGC), is to suggest thematic topics for ‘Elements’.

(v) A business plan for ‘Elements’ is being prepared. Each sponsoring society will need to approve this business plan, which will constitute the formal agreement between the sponsoring societies and the magazine.

(vi) ‘Elements’ operates on a rotating scientific editor basis. The three current editors are R. Ewing (U Michigan), M. Hocella (Virginia Polytechnic U), and I. Parsons (U. Edinburgh). One editor, R. Ewing, will retire at the end of 2005 and be replaced by B. Watson of RPI, who will serve a 3-year term from 2006-08.

(vii) The role of the ‘Elements’ Executive Committee, which consists of representatives from the sponsoring societies (the Vice-President for IAGC), is twofold; to represent the interests of the individual societies and to act as a board to act in the best interests of ‘Elements’ and to represent ‘Elements’ to the individual societies.

10.3. IAGC Medals and Awards. An example of the Vernadsky Medal, as modified by the Business Office to correct a typographical error in the original set of medals, was displayed at the Council meeting to the satisfaction of all. The report of the ad-hoc Awards Committee (J. Kramers - Chair, N. Clauer – Member, & M. Gascoyne – Member), established at the previous Council meeting in Florence, was read by R. Harmon. The report described the committee ideas about the purpose of the IAGC Vernadsky Medal and a second IAGC medal proposed at the Florence meeting. It was agreed that a draft Appendix to the IAGC Statutes on Awards and Medals should be prepared based upon the recommendations of the committee and the Council meeting discussion and that this document be circulated for Council discussion and action. The need for a permanent Nominations Committee was noted.

(Action Item: Russell Harmon)

#### 10.4. IAGC Statutes and Appendices.

This item was not discussed to a lack of time. R. Harmon was directed to prepare a revision of the Statute Appendices based upon input received from various Council members over the past three months.

(Action Item: Russell Harmon)

10.5. Council Activity and Terms of Office. The IAGC Secretary reported prior to the Goldschmidt Conference that once again, the response of Council Members to IAGC business was declining. In some instances, the response of some Council Members to calls by the Secretary for votes on IAGC business matters was too slow, and in other cases votes were not even cast so that it was difficult to obtain the number of votes required for Council action. It was also noted that the 2004 Council meeting in Florence was unusual, in that 9 of the 10 Council positions were filled because of a combination of normal vacancies and Council Member retirements. As a result, IAGC is presently in the situation where the second terms of 1 Council Member (Kramers) and the first terms of the other 9 Council Members (Clauer, Frape, Gray, Herczeg, Lyons, Notsu, Novak, Parker, Roychoudhury) will expire in 2008. After some discussion of these two issues, it was decided that the term of the four least active Council Members over the period from 2005-2007, would end (without eligibility for a second term) at the 2008 IAGC Council meeting in order to generate a staggering of Council Member Terms as mandated in the IAGC Statutes. The five most active Council members would be eligible for a second term of service as described in Part II, Section A of the IAGC Statutes. The record of Council Member activity would be determined by the Secretary as a combination of timely voting on IAGC business and involvement in IAGC activities (e.g. committee work, business meetings, conference session organization, etc.).

A motion for this action was received from R. Fuge, seconded by B. Lyons, and adopted by a unanimous vote.  
(Action Item: Attila Demény)

10.6. IAGC Membership – Recruiting New Members. A brief discussion was held about the need to increase IAGC membership from its presently static level. One idea was discussed, that of sending a letter to each author and co-author who had a paper published in ‘Applied Geochemistry’ at the end of each calendar year pointing out the relationship between IAGC and the journal and extending an invitation to become an IAGC member. A motion for this action was received from B. Lyons, seconded by G. Faure, and adopted by a unanimous vote.  
(Action Item: Journal Editor – Ron Fuge and Business Office – Mel Gascoyne)

Another idea surfaced after the Council meeting, that of requiring that a 1-year membership to IAGC be included in the conference fee for the large meetings sponsored by IAGC (which is what the Geochemical Society does with the Goldschmidt Conferences and many other Associations do with their periodic meeting), is an idea that should be considered expeditiously by the Council.

10.7. IAGC Working Groups. No Working Group reports were received. It was noted that Robert Finkelman (USA) has submitted his resignation as Chair of the Health and Disease Working Group and had put forward the nomination from the Working Group of Dr. Harvey Belkin (USA) as his replacement. A motion for this action was received from G. Faure, seconded by R. Fuge, and adopted by a unanimous vote.

10.8. IAGC Sponsorship of Future Goldschmidt Conferences. A brief discussion was held on the topic of IAGC sponsorship of meetings. It was agreed that sponsorship of the 15<sup>th</sup> Goldschmidt Conference had been positive and should be continued through (i) an offer to the Australian Organizing Committee of the 16<sup>th</sup> Goldschmidt Conferences and then (ii) a proposal from the IAGC President to the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry requesting permanent IAGC sponsorship of future Goldschmidt Conferences at the financial level of \$10,000/year. In return for this sponsorship, IAGC would request the ability to organize multiple technical sessions, have a booth at the conference, and include the presentation of its medals and awards at the conference awards ceremony.  
(Action Item: IAGC Executive, John Ludden and Russell Harmon)

Because of the situation that IAGC sponsors scientific meetings of various types on a regular basis, the idea of establishing a permanent Meetings Committee was briefing discussed. A motion for this action was received

from G. Faure, seconded by R. Fuge, and adopted by a unanimous vote. A proposal to do so will be prepared and submitted to Council.

(Action Item: Russell Harmon)

10.9. IUGS. This item about the IUGS 'Year of Planet Earth' was not discussed due to a lack of time.

10.10. IAGC Booth at the GSA 2005 Annual Meeting. There was a consensus that IAGC should have a booth at the 2005 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, to be held in Salt Lake City, UT (USA) on 16-19 October 2005. The booth would be staffed by the IAGC Business Office and Council Members attending the meeting. A motion for this action was received from G. Faure, seconded by B. Lyons, and adopted by a unanimous vote. (Action Item: IAGC Business Office – Mel Gascoyne)

11. The meeting was adjourned.

## Summary of IAGC Business Meeting held on 17 October 2005 during the GSA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Minutes of this business meeting are given as follows:  
Present:

G. Faure (Past President), R. Fuge (Journal Executive Editor), R. Harmon (Vice President), B. Lyons (Council Member), M. Gascoyne (Business Office Manager), J. Gray (Council Member), H. Belkin (Chair Geochemistry and Disease Working Group)

Minutes: recorded by R. Harmon

1. **Semi-Annual Business Office Report:** Mel Gascoyne summarized the formal report on the operations of the IAGC Business Office during the past six months that previously had been formally submitted to the Executive. This report is given below. The financial statement was reviewed and the proposal for \$9K for Business Office operations for the next year presented. The cost of each Newsletter issue is an additional \$2K, and the incidental costs of printing, copying, software support, fax, web site, etc. is reimbursed directly. In total, excluding travel costs, the cost of operating the IAGC Business Office is about \$18 K/year.

2. **Journal Report.** R. Fuge reported that the IAGC journal *Applied Geochemistry* was in an extremely healthy state. Over the past year, manuscripts had been submitted at a rate of about 21/month and the final page

count for 2005 will be approximately 2500. Completed manuscripts for a special issue on "Frontiers in Analytical Geochemistry", arising from the Florence IGC, had been turned over at the GSA meeting, and the Editor had been approached by three different Goldschmidt Conference session chairs interested in special issues.

3. **IAGC Presence at GSA '05:** IAGC had an enhanced presence at the GSA meeting. Two technical sessions were sponsored: (i) a half-day session on "Sources, Transport, Fate, and Toxicity of Trace Elements in the Environment" co-chaired by B. Lyons and D. Long and (ii) a full-day session on "Environmental Issues Related to Oil and Gas Exploration and Production" co-chaired by IAGC Working Group Chair Y. Kharaka. M. Gascoyne reported that a concerted effort had been made by IAGC to have a significant presence at the meeting. During the conference, R. Harmon represented IAGC at the semi-annual meeting of the GSA affiliated societies. As a GSA affiliated society, IAGC was entitled to a booth in the exhibition area, which was staffed throughout the conference. The large banner and Business Office promotional activities drew attention to the booth and the connection between IAGC and *Applied Geochemistry*, resulting in 35 new memberships and 13 renewals. The total cost of the GSA booth (including the airfare, hotel cost, and transport expenses for the Business Office Manager plus the mailing and delivery of booth supplies, chair, banner stand, and table rentals, and book raffle prize was about \$2250 US. Overall the booth investment was judged a success. A motion was made by G. Faure to maintain a high IAGC presence for the future. This was seconded by B. Lyons and affirmed by a unanimous voice vote. Acting on this decision, a booth reservation was made for the 2006 GSA meeting in Philadelphia.

4. **Goldschmidt Conference.** R. Harmon noted that the 2006 Goldschmidt Conference would be held during the last week of August '06 in Melbourne, Australia and that IAGC Council had agreed to support the conference financially. He suggested that the December issue of the IAGC newsletter make this announcement to the membership and urge IAGC Council members planning to attend the conference to consider proposing a topical theme session.

5. **Recruitment.** The recruitment issue was discussed and future opportunities identified. B. Lyons proposed that IAGC continue its current recruitment activity by staffing a booth at the 2006 International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (ISEG) to be held in Beijing in Sept '06 in addition to staffing the booth that would be provided to IAGC through its support of the 2006 Goldschmidt Conference in Melbourne, Australia, seconded by G. Faure, this motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. **2006 Ingerson International Lecture.** The last Ingerson International Lecture was delivered by Prof. S. Moorbath of Oxford University at the 2004 at the International Geological Congress (IGC). After a brief discussion about possibilities for the next lecture, B. Lyons moved that the ISEG meeting in Beijing be the venue. Seconded by R. Fuge, the motion was endorsed by unanimous voice vote.

7. **IAGC Support for IGC.** The matter of IAGC support for IGCs was briefly discussed. Following a reported on a previous discussion of the subject with a past President of IUGS, G. Faure proposed that IAGC support for future IGCs be limited to the organization of technical sessions in areas of Association interest. Seconded by B. Lyons, the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

8. **IAGC Awards.** R. Harmon noted that the organizers of the 2006 Goldschmidt Conference had agreed to include IAGC awards in the conference awards ceremony. Thus, the Nomination Committee needs to be mobilized to issue a call to the IAGC membership for nominations for the three major IAGC awards for inclusion in the December Newsletter issue. A discussion of the timing of the nomination process ensued. J. Gray proposed the following schedule for the nomination process: (i) the deadline for receipt of nominations by the IAGC Nominations Committee be 15 Feb '06, (ii) that the Nominations Committee report and recommendation should be sent to Council no later than 1 April '06, and (iii) that the IAGC Council should act on the nomination no later than 1 May '06 in order to give the IAGC Business Office adequate time to prepare the awards. B. Lyons seconded the proposal and the motion was endorsed by a unanimous vote.

**IAGC Working Group Relations.** The meeting concluded with a brief discussion about how the connection of Working Groups to the Association might be enhanced. The idea was advanced that one Working Group should be represented on Council and that this could be accomplished by a rotation of one of the Working Group Chairs on a periodic basis. It was also suggested that the registration fees for all Working Group meetings should include an IAGC membership for the year of the meeting. Both of these issues are referred to Council for action.

**IAGC Business Office: Status Report on Business Office Activities and Newsletter Editor, 30 September 2005**

### **Membership**

1. Membership so far this year is about 350. This includes Life Members (8), Gratis Members (10) and

Honorary members (5). About 90 members (in 2003) have not renewed for either 2004 or 2005 (I gave them lots of opportunity including 'free' copies of Elements and the Newsletters over the last two years; however, I am going to cut them off this fall).

2. A few completely new members have signed up (approx 10, half of which joined at or after Goldschmidt). The low number may be that they might be members of the other, larger geochemical societies and now realize they can get copies of Elements without having to join IAGC as well.
3. The e-mailing of invoices and paper copies for those not in the database was followed up by reminders and, finally, a mailed letter (in May) to 149 members who had not renewed. Several have since responded but because of a double mailing of invoices by Elsevier's UK office (despite my many requests that this not happen, again) resulted in a few terse notes from members that they had already paid! This has now been sorted out and I have compared and corrected Elsevier's list with our list.
4. About 360 members during 2004 are now in the IAGC's electronic database.
5. A few past members have been dealt with that have reported missing AG issues. Elsevier continues to send the Business Office a package of 5 sets of each new issue and these have been sent to the members, where needed.

### **"Elements" and Newsletters**

6. Newsletter 42 was produced and sent out in spring. It was agreed at the Denver council meeting in November 2005, that the NL should continue to give details about the Association's activities as well as provide a summary of these activities to be published in Elements.
7. Five sets of contributions to Elements (January, March, June, September & December 2005) have been assembled by the Business Office to meet deadlines for Elements issues set by the Managing Editor. A current theme being followed in the IAGC pages is to publicize the activities of our Working Groups. WRI has been featured in issue #3 (June), followed by Geochemical Training in Developing Countries in issue #4 (Sept). and, most recently, Global Geochemical Baselines (#5, for December). I would like to thank the Chairmen (Kharaka, Aswathanarayan & Smith) of these Working Groups for providing me with information on their Group to make this possible.

8. Several members (myself included) had previously expressed the need for Elements to also reflect low-T geochemistry and environmental geochemistry. This needed to be formulated by our representatives on the Elements board. We appear to have been successful because issue #4 was subsequently published, focusing on toxic metals in the environment.
9. It is getting difficult to find sufficient material for publication on our two society-news pages. We may have to go to one page or even skip an issue in 2006 unless I receive more material (currently I am asking for information on conferences (past and upcoming), Working Group activities, items of policy, minutes of meetings, and photos or figures to illustrate an entry). Anything else would be welcome.

### Financial

10. Some time has been spent in dealing with problems such as members payments that were made out to the IAGC (not Elsevier), arranging payment to Elsevier for Gratis and Honorary subscriptions, chasing up unpaid or late-paying dues and AG subscriptions, as well as dealing with the Elsevier problems as described in item 3.
11. Expenses and the Statement of Accounts are detailed in Attachment 1. They include costs for items such as mailing, photocopying, cost of maintaining the web-site, assistance payments to Council members, and various banners for conference shows, etc. The Pinawa account is currently standing at about \$6000 (CAD).
12. Payments by the IAGC to the Manager of the Business Office increased (starting last October) to \$9000 US per year, payable semi-annually, to cover the additional scope of work as requested in the Florence Council meeting. In addition, a further \$2000 is paid for each Newsletter. The revised scope of responsibilities proposed for 2005/06 is summarized in Attachment 2.
13. Problems have been reoccurring in trying to increase the profile of the IAGC web-site. The old one, set up by Dave Long, has finally been removed but a Google search finds our site on the fifth page of a search. Resubmitting the application and keywords, as well as asking Google to remove 'dead' sites has not helped much. The reason for such a distant location in the listing may be due to 1) we don't pay for our site (I have looked into a paid location but they can get quite expensive), 2) there are a number of other societies that also go by the acronym IAGC and so we are up against strong competition for a

first-page listing, and 3) these societies have been around longer than we have (on the web with our current address) and have inched their way further along the line-up. Time may help to resolve it but apparently, the number of links that we have from other web sites may work too.

### Other activities

14. Arrangements for the IAGC booth at the GSA have been made and several draws for prizes are planned. The prizes include a set of back-issues of AG for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, free membership and subscriptions, and a geochemical text book (or fine mineral sample). The booth will be staffed mainly by me and my wife (Simcha) but attending members of Council and Working Groups have offered to help. I aim specifically to try and attract students to join as they will be least likely to be a member of any society. I am offering a cut-price deal (\$10) on membership dues for this year (they will get back-numbers of Newsletters and Elements (where I have copies)).
15. A list of Officers and their addresses, etc. has been prepared and has been e-mailed to all Council and WG Chairmen. It is on the web site and it will be published in Newsletter 43 (Fall, 2005).
16. Three IAGC banners have been made for use at conferences. One is an acrylic poster, a second is on cloth and a third is a vertical ('Roman Legion type) banner. The total cost was about \$872 (CAD). They are available for use at any IAGC-sponsored meeting and should be returned to the Business Office after use.
17. A new leaflet on the IAGC has been produced. It is slightly revised and updated from the leaflet given out to registrants at the Goldschmidt meeting. Members organizing meetings should contact the Business Office to obtain leaflets for their delegates.
18. Corrections were made to one of the Vernasky Medals (to remove 'Cosmochemistry' from the title) using a local jeweler. This medal can now be embossed with the name of the first recipient, when selected.
19. The current IAGC Information Sheet and Application Form were amalgamated into a single IAGC leaflet. This is our primary advertising mechanism at conferences, workshops, and other events.

Respectfully submitted.

M Gascoyne

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **IAGC-Sponsored Meetings**

The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 23rd, 2006. More details can be found at <http://www.gacmac2006.ca>

#### **Goldschmidt 2006**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 27<sup>th</sup> August to 1 September, 2006. The deadline for abstracts is 13 April 2006. Full details can be found at [www.goldschmidt2006.org](http://www.goldschmidt2006.org)

#### **ISEG-7**

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (ISEG-7) will be held in Beijing, China, on 25-30 September, 2006. Details can be found at [www.iseg2006.com](http://www.iseg2006.com)

#### **GSA**

The Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held in Philadelphia, USA, from 22-25 October, 2006. and details can be found at [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)

### **Other Meetings of Interest**

#### **GAC-MAC 2006**

A special session will be held at the GAC-MAC 2006 Annual Meeting in Montreal, May 14-17, 2006. The session is entitled: "Isotopic and chemical approaches for understanding the sources, transport, and biogeochemical cycling of solutes in aquatic systems". The session will address recent advances in the application of isotope ratios as biogeochemical and/or hydrological tracers in both freshwater and marine environments.

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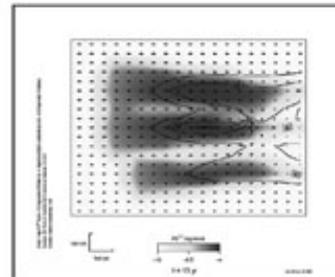
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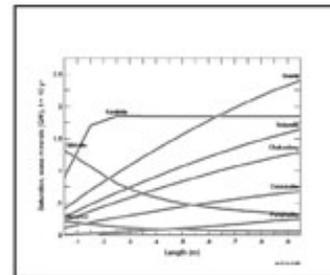
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