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**PROFESSOR HUGH TORRENS  
AWARDEE FOR 2000**

*Hugh S. Torrens, History of Geology Division Award, Citation by William Brice*

Mr. Chairman, officers of the Division, honored guests, members, and ladies and gentleman; once again we gather to honor a colleague for his long, and outstanding contribution to the field of history of geology, Professor Hugh S. Torrens of Keele University. Somehow it seems natural that paleontology should have been his first professional love, as it is such a historical science. He especially loved working with those beautiful, coiled ammonites of the Mesozoic. The fact that he is the generic and specific dedicatee of several ammonites speaks to his prominence in that field. But it is his dedication to and passion for the history of Geology that brings us all together here today. I must add that Hugh, often with little support and official recognition, expanded his interests well beyond the expected bounds of the subject to include the history of technology, especially investigations of the history of engineering, iron-making, steam power, and the internal combustion engine.

Professor Torrens completed his Bachelor of Arts at Oxford and his Ph.D. at the University of Leicester, and since October of 1967 he has been a member of the faculty at Keele University, where he attained his professorship in May of 1998. In addition he has served as a visiting professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz (1996); Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest Hungary (1997); and the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada (1998). In September of this year, Hugh obtained a goal that many of us in this room are seeking, whether we know it or not, for he retired and became Professor Emeritus. Our congratulations and we wish him a fulfilling retirement.

Hugh has produced over 200 books, papers, and articles and a brief look at some of the titles will provide a glimpse into the diversity of his interests and knowledge: "The stratigraphical distribution of Bathonian ammonites in Central England" (1969), "A Bathonian Crocodile new to Dorset" (1971), "Early maps of the Somersetshire Coal Canal" (1974), "The curious case of the FC Front-Drive Alvis" (1974), "The source of the lost Richard Owen lithograph" (1981), "Development of geology in Britain 1815-1840" (1982), "The history of coal prospecting in Britain 1650-1900" (1984), "The Stone Pipe Scandal. How competition bred a 19th century folly" (1988), "Hawking history - a vital future for Geology's past" (1988), "The transmission of ideas on the use of fossils in stratigraphic analysis from England to America 1800-1840" (1991), "When did the Dinosaur get its name?" (1992), "William Smith - the truth [about his wife] (1992), and "A study of 'failure' with a successful 'innovation' - Joseph Day and the two-stroke engine" (1992). Obviously, the list could go on, but I feel this will serve to illustrate the broad scope of his imagination, curiosity and the depth of his scholarship.

He has held various offices in such historically oriented organizations as: The Geological Curators' Group (Geological Society of London) (Chairman, 1976-80); The British Society for the History of Science (President, 1990-92); The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (President, 1996-2000); The History of Earth Sciences Society (Councilor, 1996-98), and The Comité Français d'Histoire de la Géologie (Conseiller étranger, 1991-92); just to mention a few.

However, I would like to draw attention to one area of his research that I feel deserves special mention, and that is his work on the life of Mary Anning (Torrens, 1981, 1995, 1997, 2000). She was neither the first nor the only woman whose accomplishments have come to light through his diligence, for of the more than 40 contributions that Hugh has prepared for the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, almost 20% have women subjects.

All of us, no doubt, have thought we know the story of Mary Anning; telling our classes that she collected fossils and that she was the subject of the old rhyme, "She sells sea shells down by the sea shore..." But generally, there it would end, and a giant in the field of paleontology would be reduced to the subject of a tongue-twisting rhyme. With the tenacity of a blood hound and a marvelous instinct for the historical trail, Hugh has been able to reconstruct the life of this extraordinary woman who left almost no written record of her own, and yet, she was a major figure in early paleontology, especially of Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs. The story of finding her first Ichthyosaur at the age of 10 is true and is the subject of several children's books, but beyond that, most stories depart greatly from the truth. She was one of the few people of her age, other than perhaps William Smith, also one of Hugh's subjects, who actually made her living with her geology.

A few years ago, my wife, Heather, and I had a wonderful time in the small town of Lyme Regis, which was the home of Mary Anning, with Hugh as our tour guide. We visited the site of her fossil shop, now, thanks in large part to Hugh's involvement, a museum to her work. I shall never forget standing in front of the building in which Mary Anning died in 1847 at the age of 48, while Hugh told the story of her death and of the many inaccurate historical accounts of the last few years of her life. There are reports that she became a drunk and spent many of her last years "in her cups" as it were. Nothing could be farther from reality. Hugh discovered that Mary Anning suffered from a form of very painful breast cancer, and the only release from the pain was laudanum, a narcotic containing opium. No wonder she gave the impression of being "in her cups." But what a privilege it was to stand near the spot where she drew her last breath and hear the story from Hugh as though it had happened only yesterday. He made it so real that we all had tears in our eyes. We then climbed the hill to the churchyard and stood silently before her grave, each of us feeling as though we had lost a friend, and in a sense we had, for Hugh's insightful scholarship had made her live again, if only for a brief moment, in our minds and hearts. The full irony of her life struck us as we gazed at the beautiful stained glass window presented to the Lyme Regis church by the Geological Society and dedicated to her memory. It has a wonderful inscription across the bottom filled with laudatory words about her contribution to the betterment of society and her concern for the poor, but not one word about her contribution to geology and paleontology. Thanks to the work of our honoree for 2000, Hugh Torrens, we now know how much she contributed to our science.

One need look no farther than Hugh's own family to see the inspiration for his exploration into the contributions of women, for with him all these years has been his wife, Shirley, who has made her own special contribution to the Red Cross of Great Britain. We very much appreciate her understanding and acceptance of the fact that many times he was preoccupied with other women, even though they had been dead for many years. Sometimes, no doubt, she must have found it hard to compete with ghosts.

But any one who knows Hugh knows the depth of his feelings for the history of science; a passion that shows itself in his conversation, especially if one happens to be standing on one of his subjects as I was one afternoon in 1993. We were literally standing on the Iron Bridge at Trentham (Torrens, 1982) as he described for me its own history and how its construction marked the turning point in the use of modern building materials. I should add that the bridge was still in use as we spoke. On another occasion we stood before an outcrop of coal and sandstone exposed along the Guyandotte River in West Virginia as Hugh read the description of that exact same outcrop written by James Buckman in 1858. What a thrill to know that we were seeing the same rocks almost 150 years later. I must admit we both were deeply moved by this experience, and I was privileged to share this moment with Hugh.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Division, ladies and gentleman, in recognition of his many contributions to the history of geology, it is with great personal honor and pride that I present to you, my friend and colleague, Professor Hugh Torrens, the winner of the History of Geology Division Award for the year 2000.

#### **References Cited:**

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- Torrens, Hugh S. (M. A. Taylor), 1997, Fossils by the sea and the sea monster of Dorset: *Annual Editions: Geology*, Dushkin/McGraw-Hill (In Press).
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### *Hugh S. Torrens, History of Geology Division Award, Response*

"I heard your glad tidings while listening to Elgar's rarely performed First World War cantata For the Fallen, on the BBC. I remembered his wife had been assistant to the geologist W. S. Symonds and how very vital wives are, particularly mine! Then I recalled Benjamin Britten's opinion of this music; tender, grieving, agonized, splendid. My presence at the first performance of Britten's War Requiem will remain, like today, never-to-be-forgotten. Britten also owed much to Americans. One, in a 1941 Californian bookstore, sold him the book through which he rediscovered his roots; George Crabbe's Poems. These inspired his return to England (and Peter Grimes). Crabbe, too, had deep interests in geology. But why discuss music? Because music needs to be composed (or sometimes elaborated like Anthony Payne's reconstruction of Elgar's Third Symphony) and, like history, published. But music also must be performed. Rutland Boughton only heard his fine, still unpublished, Third Symphony (1937) once (privately!). Its only recording drew the comment "for a symphony as beautiful as this to be unknown, doesn't say much for promoters of music". We historians of geology might ponder how we better promote what we do.

Because there is a paradox, academic interest in the history of geology is minimal back home (as no sane person plays cricket in Reno?). The all-pervading bureaucracy in our universities demands only "Impact Factors" (to three decimal places!) and "Research Quality Assessment" of "Groups". 'One Person Groups' are as undesirable as attempts to be both scientist and historian, supposedly "diminishing" both. Those who try, become marginal, moving in more than one world, but not at home in, or of interest to, either. I hoped for better at my former University, set up in 1949 to encourage breadth in education, through its Joint Honors Degree programs (why aren't joint honors graduates equally diminished?) and - abandoned - Foundation Year. But that university demonstrated its indifference to the history of science by the secret sale of its precious Turner Collection of rare books in 1998 (Physics Today, April 1999, 64).

My greatest feeling is of gratitude, both for this award from friends, and the help I received to get here. To receive it in 2000 was a particular delight, as this year has slightly involved me in three fine new books; Simon Knell's Culture of English Geology, Cherry Lewis' Dating Game, and Debbie Cadbury's Dinosaur Hunters. We might see that these are now read, used and quoted (i.e. 'performed'). It is only through such scholarship that we can render justice to those who preceded us in studying our unique planet. Henry Ford was right about the importance of such history. But how we urge it, and its fascination, more, whether in the academy or on geologists (who should be the most historical of scientists), remain intractable problems. Peter Medawar was equally right to assert that "the history of science bores most scientists stiff". But here is another paradox. According to a 1995 Roper poll for the American 'History Channel', "the item of greatest interest to the public is the History of Science and Technology". What are we to make of these different perceptions?"

#### SUCCESSFUL PARDEE SYMPOSIUM

##### **ANNUAL GSA CONVENTION AT RENO, NEVADA** by *Gerald Friedman*

For members of the Division and others, the core of the 2000 GSA Annual Meeting in Reno with its business meetings, awards, and other events, was our Pardee Keynote Symposium. "The Pardee Keynote Symposia" are made possible by a grant from the Joseph T. Pardee Memorial Fund. These sessions are special events that should be of broad interest to the geoscience community. Topics appropriate for these keynote symposia should be on the leading edge in a scientific discipline or area of public policy, address broad fundamental problems, are interdisciplinary or focus on global problems. The primary criterion for selection is excellence. Selection is on competitive basis with only four to eight half-day, non-concurrent (one per half day; minimum of one per day) sessions being offered. All speakers are to be invited". The title of our Symposium was "Lamont and Plate Tectonics: History of Geology Division Millennium Symposium: Lamont 1949-1999".

Our proposal to the GSA Annual Program Committee included the following rationale: This may be the last opportunity to bring together the surviving founders of the global plate tectonics theory, which has been called one of the most profound addition to geology since Hutton's revolutionary eighteenth-century approach to the geologic record. Today the theory is taught as fact to children even in grade school.

The History of Geology Division wished to show how this theory progressively evolved, and to let the geological

pioneers responsible for discovery relate for themselves the scientific observations and events that shaped geologic thinking. The proposed program consisted of twelve speakers of whom nine have a Lamont background. These included Penrose medalist (and GSA Past President) Jack E. Oliver who used seismology to create major parts of the plate tectonic revolution; James Heirtzler was the first to make use of recent technological development of a self-operated, medium-sized computer to organize the massive amount of magnetic data collected on cruises; Marie Tharp discovered the Mid-Ocean Ridge, and the fundamental morphology of the ocean floor based on study of continuously recorded echo profiles and mapped the tectonic fabric of the world's oceans; Lynn R. Sykes discovered geomagnetic reversal and noted that the initial motion of earthquakes provides impressive confirmation of drift movements along fracture zones in the rift valley; Manik Talwani studied the structure of the Puerto Rico Trench and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge; Neil D. Opdyke studied the history of polarity inversions of the Earth's magnetic field; and geochemists Heinrich D. Holland and Karl K. Turekian related geochemistry to plate tectonics. Two non-Lamont geologists were included in the symposium to provide an outside scientist's view; W. Jason Morgan developed a method for finding pole locations from variations in the rate of seafloor spreading, as determined from magnetic stripes, and also produced the first map showing the major plates of the world, and Naomi Oreskes who is not a Plate Tectonic pioneer, but provided important questions for the younger generation of scientists. The final speaker William Glen, a historian, gave an overview of the symposium from a historian's point of view.

## **HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION - MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR FOR 2000-2001**

*Gerald M. Friedman*

### **INTRODUCTION**

As the chair of the History of Geology Division, there are many time-consuming efforts spread across the entire year. The purpose of this summary is to alert the membership to the most important efforts and events as seen by the Chairman.

### **TURNOVER AT GSA HEADQUARTERS IN BOULDER**

This past year was extremely difficult, as there was a lot of turnover in personnel at GSA headquarters. Sadly, the coordinator for the division left. Her replacement lasted only briefly before she left and was replaced. The less said the better about past year's experience with headquarters. We now have a new coordinator and things seem to be going smoothly once again.

### **HISTORY OF EARTH SCIENCES SOCIETY RETURNS TO GSA**

Back in 1981, I met with the GSA Executive Committee to plan publication of a journal on the history of geology. At first, the executive committee members expressed the need for such a journal, but on second thought, they felt it should be outside GSA. My scribbled and pencilled shorthand notes in the back of the 1981 GSA program list the names of those involved in helping to found a separate society to be used as a vehicle for publication: Gordon Winder, Dan Merriam, Michelle Aldrich, Al Carozzi, Claude Albritton, Cecil Schneer, George White, and Ellis Yochelson.

We called the society History of Earth Sciences Society or HESS, and it was to have both national (North America) and international coverage. The reason for bringing up this event at this time relates to the steps taken in 1999/2000: HESS became an affiliated society of GSA and became co-sponsor of the history of geology programs held in the year 2000 in Reno, Nevada; especially including the impressive Pardee Symposium (see previous article).

### **JAMES HALL (1811-1898), NEWLY INDUCTED ALUMNUS**

In 1999 James Hall was sponsored as an honorary alumnus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York and on October 15, 1999 was elected an honorary and distinguished member of the Rensselaer Alumni Association. His citation reads "Celebrated Geologist. One of the greatest scientists of the 19th century. James Hall internationally respected geologist and paleontologist, founded the American Association of Geologists, was a charter member of the National Academy of Sciences, and State Geologists for Iowa and Wisconsin. He surveyed several states, including New York, where he produced a seminal report on its paleontology and became director of the State Museum". He returned to Rensselaer as a professor late in his career and was a founder of the Alumni Association.

## **ARCHIVAL GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL TO BE PRESERVED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

November 10 and 11 Sue and I spent in Laramie, Wyoming at the University of Wyoming American Heritage Foundation. The University of Wyoming boasts Gearchives, which it collects, preserves, and makes available to researchers in geology. At this stage more than 285 collections of individual geologists and geophysicists make up the cornerstone of the collection. Among those listed are some of my professors as well as fellow scientists. The building in which these collections are stored is fully climatized and secured. The documents are in boxes on automatically moving shelves.

Members of our Division have been extended an invitation and are encouraged to store their archival material at the Heritage Foundation. There are 25 boxes of my own archival /manuscript materials that are accessioned there. In fact, upon my arrival home the Foundation had shipped 20 of their standard boxes at its expense and so I am busy getting further archives for dispatch.

I want to thank Sally Sutherland [SallyS@uwyo.edu] and Rick Ewig, Development Officers; Bill Hopkins, Shipping and Handling of Collections [whopkins@uwyo.edu]; Ginny Kilander, Archivist [papyrus@uwyo.edu]; and Anne Marie Lane, Curator [amlane@uwyo.edu] for their hospitality. Members please contact any of these staff members at the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center, Centennial Complex, P.O. Box 3924, Laramie, Wyoming 82071 or via e-mail. Please contact me (Gerry) if you have questions or comments.

### **THANKS**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who have made the chairmanship of the Division a very pleasant experience for me, especially the Management Board members Ken Taylor, Sally Newcomb, Cêlal Sengör and Bill Brice. Many thanks. Further, I want to thank all of those Division members who volunteered their time and effort, especially Rena Bonem, Dorothy Sack, Stephen Rowland and Michelle Aldrich. Thank you for making this past year a rewarding experience. Best wishes to everyone for the New Year! **Gerry**

### **NOTES FROM HISTORY OF GEOLOGY CHAIR SARAH NEWCOMB FOR 2001-2002**

#### ***Boston 2001***

Here is a list of sessions in some stage of planning for Boston. The call for papers will be in the April GSA *Today*. Please consider submitting an abstract for the general history session. We will still need papers for that. Two field trips are planned, but the final dates and times have not been settled:

1. Jim Skehan leading a Boston history and geology trip, Sun. p.m., (HoG and NAGT sponsored), proposal submitted and approved.

2. Paul Washington has a proposal in for a 'steps of Amos Eaton' field trip, for two or three days before the meeting (HoG sponsored).

3. Geobiography: Michele Aldrich, topical session. (See the Call for Papers) (HoG).

Classic educational field trips: Brian Tormey combined poster and oral session. This session, like Jim Skehan's field trip, will be held in honor of Jim O'Connor. NAGT and HoG sponsored. I hope this will be Sunday morning, but don't know if that will work out. Gerry has promised to put the papers in a following issue of *Northeastern Geology* as we did with the first 3 that Jim headed.

History of women in the geosciences: Joanne Kluessendorf. Michele and I are keeping in touch with Joanne on this (AWG and HoG sponsored).

Ophiolites and ultramafic rocks as problem and solution: Sally Newcomb and Yildirim Dilek. We will submit for a Pardee and a topical, and maybe end with 1 or 2 topical sessions (HoG and Structure and Tectonics Division sponsored). The symposium will look at the interaction of theory, fieldwork, and the laboratory over -200 years.

Management board meeting: Past Chair, Chair, 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs, Secretary-Treasurer-Editor.

### **STUDENT RECEPTION**

There have been discussions for a number of years on how to make the Division more attractive to students. Leo Laporte and Bob Ginsburg have offered to host a reception for students that ideally could be scheduled at 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM right after one of our sessions. Their idea was to have the geologists' favorite beverage in an appropriately sized room set up with a number of tables manned by all of us in a show and tell session. In other words, we (and the students) could bring materials that indicate our areas of interest. Somehow my description came out a whole lot duller than Bob's presentation of the idea to me in the Reno airport! When we get a chance we hang around talking to each other after the award lunch, but often we must go somewhere else immediately. This would be a great way to have informal exchanges. My impulse is to let Leo and Bob do their thing in organizing this, and we will all thoroughly enjoy it. I'll be in contact with them on what is needed and will work with them to get it into the schedule. **LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS. I'VE HEARD ONLY POSITIVE REACTIONS.**

### **LUNCHEON**

BUT--there is another consideration. Several people have felt that the awards lunch was getting a bit tiresome, and not drawing enough attendance. They would like to shift and have the DIVISION AWARD (we only have one) given at the evening reception as well. Personally, I have mixed feelings about this. The lunch allows us not only to have a portion of the program focused on the awardee, but we also have a short and necessary division business meeting that includes electing our new officers. However, the election of officers can be moved to an electronic or mail-in ballot. So the business meeting can be done at the luncheon (as it is now) and move the award to a separate reception; (1) Can we get people's attention to do the award with the reception format? And (2) can the citation and reply of the recipient be given enough attention if honored at an afternoon/evening reception? I intend to nominate someone for the award that is a rather dignified type. **THINK HARD** if you want (A) The lunch; (B) The reception; or (C) Both. **PLEASE** let me know. My always-cautious vote is (C), but wonder how many people would come to the lunch just for the business meeting. Ken Taylor's suggestion of buying several tickets to the lunch and giving them away to students (or interested parties) is a very good idea. I hope to invite the people with whom HoG is cosponsoring sessions.

### **HISTORY OF EARTH SCIENCES SOCIETY (HESS)**

I (Sarah) mentioned at Reno the possibility of there being a check-off for the HESS journal on the GSA membership form. Our management board agreed, as did Greg Good, enthusiastically. I didn't speak to Ken Bork specifically about that. I shall contact Ken Bork and Silvia to be sure that they are in agreement, then arrange it with GSA for next fall. [Note: Bill Brice has been nominated as President-elect for HESS for 2001. This should assist with communication between the two groups.]

### **COMMITTEES FOR 2001**

Our award committee for this year is Hatten Yoder, David Oldroyd and Hugh Torrens, with Gerry serving as nonvoting chair. All nominations and supporting material should be sent to Bill Brice who will forward everything to the committee. This way each year will keep the same address for submissions.

Our nominating committee consists of Dorothy Sack, Steve Rowland, and a new member Gretchen Leupke Bynum. If you would like to serve the membership in some capacity, please contact one of the nominating committee members or Division officers. Volunteers needed and most welcome!!!

Please send me your comments on any or all of these items. All the best for the New Year!!! Sally

### **MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING - RENO (HIGHLIGHTS) by *Bill Brice***

Sally will investigate our web page with GSA. She has some materials supplied from GSA, and actually knows someone knowledgeable who will look at it for us. Some people have commented that it is in need of assistance, but none of the officers are big 'surfers,' it seems to us (board) to have what we need on it. Again, **SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOMED.** We could post calls for papers and meeting notices on it. The HoG Division needs someone to serve

as the "Webmaster". If you can work with HTML and are willing, please contact Sally or Bill. There will not be many changes or updates, but there will be some activity. Please, we need some help here.

Sally will pursue the ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER with Bill Brice. It will save us money on postage and printing costs, and still assure that the people without e-mail can receive the paper newsletter. We can also set up an ELECTRONIC BALLOT if we don't have elections at the Annual Meeting.

The management board considered the suggestion that our division should have a historian and keeper of the division archives with general approval. I will pursue this, and have a person who has (cautiously) said that he would at least think about it after he had more information. If you have any suggestions as to the wisdom of having an official "Historian" position and the duties of this person, please send your ideas and comments to Sally or Bill. To do this officially, we will need a change of By-laws, but we could begin on an informal basis at first and then look at it again in a few years.

### ACTIVITIES

For past activities, please refer to previous newsletters. The Executive Board approved the involvement of the Division as a co-sponsor of the History of the Oil Industry Symposium to be held at Oil City, Pennsylvania June 20-23, 2001. The co-sponsorship of the Division does not involve any financial commitment.

MEMBERSHIP	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000 (October 24)</u>
	324	316	317	326

### FINANCIAL

- History of Geology Fund Balance as of June 30, 2000 was \$4097.59
- Note that this total includes a correction of \$1075.00 that was mistakenly charged to us for the luncheon in Denver. The money was returned to the fund.
- GSA will not have the end of the year (2000) reports ready until sometime in February. Therefore the Award Fund balances etc. will be in the next newsletter.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Note to those who may wish to contribute to the HoG Division: If you contribute to the GSA Foundation it goes into our award fund. We may designate use of some of the interest for uses other than our HoG award, in other words, 'award' it for other things. If you want to make a contribution to the operating fund of our Division, send the check to GSA, NOT GSA Foundation, and it will go in there. If you make your wishes clear and send the donation to Donna Russell, at the GSA Foundation office, and she will see that your check goes to the Division's operating fund (consisting mainly of dues).

### NECROLOGY

With regret and sadness, the name of the Division member who died this year is given below. The Division extends an expression of sympathy to the family and friends; we share their loss.

<i>Willard B. Phelps</i>	<i>Athens, Ohio</i>	<i>Date Unknown</i>
<i>John E. Sanders</i>	<i>Dobbs Ferry, NY</i>	<i>October 20, 1999</i>
<i>François Ellenberger (HoG Awardee 1992)</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Fall 2000</i>

### SPECIAL CONDOLENCES

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Bob and Sally Newcomb on the death of their son, Robert Whitney Newcomb, 1956-2000. He received his Ph.D. in neurochemistry from the Biophysics Dept. at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and was senior scientist and project coordinator at Elan Pharmaceuticals (formerly Neurex Corp.) in Menlo Park CA. His work was concerned with the molecular basis of brain function.

## **NOTICE TO STUDENTS**

At our Management Board Meeting in Reno we approved having the Division Ray GSA meeting registration fees for students who give papers. Also, we agreed that the HoG Division membership dues (not GSA dues) be paid for the year in which the students give the paper or the year following, whichever is easier. Now, it's up to those of you that have students to solicit papers, encourage them to attend and join the Division. Please let me know if you have a student sending in an abstract or who wants to join the Division, or they can do it directly through GSA.

## ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

### **GSA ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON NOVEMBER 2001 IN GEOBIOGRAPHY**

History of science finds enlightenment from biographies of scientists to understand how science operates over time. The session requests papers on past geologists as case studies for analyzing the merits and limitations of biography as a way to write history of geology. What are the effects of social, political, economic, educational, and family context on what geologist's study and how they go about their science? Is there any meaning to the cliché "ahead of their times"? Does gender or ethnic backgrounds determine aspects of a geologist's career and research? Scientists hesitate to generalize from a sample of one; can we generalize from biography to history? Speakers will be asked to present the life and career of a geoscientist (or a group for a collective biography) and then tell the audience what they learned about how biography enhances our understanding of geological knowledge generally.

Organizers:

**Michele Aldrich**, 24 Elm St., Hatfield MA 01038,

(E-mail) 73061.2420@compuserve.com (Phone) 413-247-5828

**Alan E. Leviton**, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco CA 94118-4599

(E-mail) aleviton@calacademy.org (Phone) 415-752-1554.

## **NEW JOURNAL**

### ***OIL-INDUSTRY HISTORY***

The first edition of the new journal Oil-Industry History appeared in September 2000 as a publication of the Drake Well Foundation. Its focus was on the experience of the oil industry, its major contribution to our history, and its prospect in shaping our future. The founding editor, Gerry Friedman, recruited papers from India, Canada, United States and Europe. The next issue of the journal will appear in mid-2001.

To enter your subscription for the 2000 issue (Volume I, no. 1) send \$35.00 to:

Mr. Robert Dowling, Treasurer, Drake Well Foundation, P. O. Box 233, Titusville, PA 16354

## **MEETINGS PAST**

The following reports are by Gerry Friedman

### **HISTORY OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGY**

On April 16, 2000 I served as moderator of a forum on the history of petroleum geology during the annual convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in New Orleans. Topics and speakers included: Sam Pees who led off with a wonderfully illustrated talk on the history of Oil Creek Valley, Pennsylvania (the birthplace of the American oil industry) and the artifacts from that bygone era that are still to be found there. Larry Woodfork followed with a presentation on the legacy of Colonel James M. Guffey and John H. Galey, our nation's first great exploration team. From 1868 in Oil Creek Valley, discovery after discovery, across the nation, culminating in the immense discovery at Spindletop in 1901, their saga is unparalleled in early exploration. Larry Wickstrom and Brian Keith then presented the story of the nation's first giant oil field, the Trenton Limestone Lima-Peru Field of eastern Indiana and western Ohio. That is particularly appropriate in light of the current activity in the Trenton of the Appalachian Basin.

### **ERIE CANAL CELEBRATION**

On May 18 and July 9, 2000 I participated in the Erie Canal celebration and on August 6, I listened to authors Andy Olenick and Richard O. Reisen discuss their new book "The Erie Canal Legacy." The Erie Canal is the single most important public work ever built in the United States, for no other government project, state or federal, has had a more profound influence upon the United States. In 1810, Stephen Van Rensselaer together with a surveyor and

several others personally inspected and explored the geology of the route of the prospective Canal from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. The Erie Canal dramatically changed the course of American History. The success of the Erie Canal was rooted in the underlying geology and stream patterns. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1824 clinched New York's position as America's premier port. Thanks must be extended to Stephen Van Rensselaer and Amos Eaton whose creativity in geology generated unsurpassed wealth or as New York State Governor George E. Pataki recently expressed it "our eighth wonder of the world".

#### **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON - GSA JOINT CONFERENCE**

On June 28 and 29, 2000 the Geological Society of London jointly with GSA and the Royal Society held its William Smith Millennium Meeting at Geological Society Headquarters in London, England. Several GSA fellows participated, including Ken Taylor who helped make arrangements for this meeting. My function was to present a welcoming address titled "Birthplace of the Geological Sciences in America: New York State and the Erie Canal", *Geoscientist*, v. 1 January 2001, p. 8-11 (Gerald M. Friedman).

#### **CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGIC PIONEERS AUGUST 3-5, 2000**

The conference consisted of theme-oriented and volunteer papers, a field trip, and a memorial dinner and lecture series titled "John E. Sanders Geoceleration" in honor of sedimentologist John Sanders. Sponsors included GSA, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The meeting was held at the Northeastern Science Foundation (Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology) affiliated with Brooklyn College and the City University of New York, Troy, New York. This location is the founding site of the journal *Earth-Sciences History*. Abstracts and presented papers were published in *Northeastern Geology and Environmental Sciences*, v. 22, Nos.3 and 4 (2000). Bronze memorial plaques were installed at the graves of the founders of the Geological Society of America, James Hall and Henry B. Nason and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ebenezer Emmons. Grateful thanks are extended to the GSA for providing the funds for the cost of the Memorial Plaques. Visits to the graves of pioneer geologist Amos Eaton and Co-Founder of the American Association of Petroleum geologists Sidney Powers were likewise on the field-trip itinerary, as were visits to Eaton's Erie Canal, the Emmons-Line Overthrust, and James Hall's 19th century lab.

#### **NORTHEASTERN SECTION - AAPG SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2000**

##### **OIL-HERITAGE IN LAMBTON COUNTY (PETROLIA), ONTARIO: THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CANADIAN OIL INDUSTRY**

In 1852-55 Charles N. Tripp from Schenectady (Troy), New York, sampled asphalt in Lambton County, Ontario, and with others started an oil boom by 1858-63. Exploration and refining expanded and in 1880 the Imperial Oil Company Limited was formed, which supplied petroleum products across Canada. Exxon-Mobile Corporation acquired Imperial Oil, an interest it still holds to this day. On September 24, 2000, Robert O. Cochrane took my wife Sue and me on an oil-heritage driving tour of Lambton County to see the petroleum museum, the town of Petrolia, the Canadian Oil Refinery property, Oil Well Supply Company Limited, Petrolia East Oilfield, Oil City, Oil Springs, James Rig and Fairbank Oil Property. This field program was part of the 2000 Eastern Section - American Association of Petroleum Geologists 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Thanks are to be extended to Claudia and Bob Cochrane for the field trip, guidebook, and many courtesies. Gerry

#### **MEETINGS UP-COMING**

##### **ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF HYDROLOGY**

Dijon, France, May 2001

For more information contact, [www.cilea.it/history/DHS/0h2.htm](http://www.cilea.it/history/DHS/0h2.htm) or Dr. J. P. Carbonnel (oh2@biogeodis.jussieu.fr)

##### **INHIGEO MEETING - PORTUGAL**

Lisbon, June 17-27, 2001; Aveiro, June 29-July 1, 2001

Topics: History of Mining, Metallurgy, & Economic Geology; The Use of Stone Through the Ages; and Dinosaurs and Megafauna in the History of Geology. Three days of field trips.

*Abstract Deadline: February 7, 2001*

For more information contact: Prof Manuel Serrano Pinto (mpinto@geo.ua.pt), President of INHIGEO, Dept. of Geosciences, University of Aveiro, 3810-Aveiro, Portugal, (Fax) 351 2 34 370 605 or contact Dr. Silvia Figuerôa, UNICAMP, IG, Campinas, SP, Brazil (figueroa@ige.unicamp.br)

### **OIL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AND FIELD TRIPS**

The Drake Well Foundation

June 20-23, 2001 at the Holiday Inn, Oil City, PA

Abstracts: 250 words for poster presentation on any subject related to the development of the oil industry, either upstream or downstream. Papers are to be published in *Oil History Journal*, a new publication from the Drake Well Foundation.

*Abstract Deadline: April 20, 2001*

*For Information and Abstract Submission:* Contact William R. Brice, Geology & Planetary Science, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904, wbrice@pitt.edu, 814/269-2942, (Fax) 814/269-2022  
For Registration Form: (Early-bird registration until March 31, 2001) <http://www.pitt.edu/~upjgeol/>

### **EARTH SYSTEM PROCESSES**

Edinburgh, Scotland, June 24-28, 2001 For more information contact, Ian Dalziel, University of Texas at Austin (Ian@utig.ig.utexas.edu) or Ian Fairchild, Keele University (i.j.fairchild@keele.ac.uk).

### **XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

Mexico City, July 8-14, 2001

Theme: Science and Cultural Diversity

Abstract Deadline: March 2001. For more information go to: [www.cilea.it/histoy/DHS](http://www.cilea.it/histoy/DHS) or contact Prof Juan Jose Saldañã, Apartado Postal 21-873, 04000 Mexico, D.F., MEXICO

**KUDOS:** **Kennard B. Bork** - Received the *Neil Miner Award* for 2000. Presented annually by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers to a college-level professor for exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the earth sciences. Ken is Alumni Professor of Geology at Denison University and was the HOG Awardee for 1997, and currently is serving as President of the History of Earth Sciences Society. **Samuel T. Pees** - Received the John T. Galey Medal awarded by the Eastern Section/AAPG in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the petroleum profession. **Michele Aldrich** - Publication of her book *New York State Natural History Survey 1836-1842* by the Paleontological Research Institution, 1259 Trumansberg Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (\$35 [cloth]; \$20 [paper]; \$3.00 shipping). It includes a reproduction of Eaton's 1842 state geologic map. **Michael T. Ghiselin** and **Alan E. Leviton** (Editors) - Publication of their book *Cultures and Institutions of Natural History* by the California Academy of Sciences (\$40 [cloth]; \$3.00 shipping). **Leo F. Laporte** - Publication of his biography *George Gaylord Simpson - Paleontologist and Evolutionist* by Columbia University Press (\$50.00 [cloth]; \$16.00 [paper]; plus shipping). **Clifford M. Nelson** (Editor) - The release of the CD-ROM *Records of the United States Geological Survey* - USGS Circular 1179.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

A note via Michael Diggles: Autobiography of Philip B. King is now on the web at:

<http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/ofOO-443/>

- From Samuel T. Pees: his registered web page <http://www.oilhistory.com>, which is a good source for information about the early days of the oil industry.
- Founders of American Geology, 2000, Endeavour, v.24, (4), p.145-146, (Gerald M. Friedman).
- Conference on the History of Geologic Pioneers, 2000, Northeastern Geology and Environmental Sciences, v.22, (3), p. 241-263 (Abstracts of papers given at the Conference held at Troy).
- Birthplace of the Geological Sciences in America: New York State and the Erie Canal, 2001, Geoscientist, in press (Gerald M. Friedman).

**POINT TO CONSIDER** *From Bill Brice*

Our newsletter does not have a fancy name-as you may have noticed, or any name at all. What about using some catchy name as a communication device? Good idea? Bad idea? Any suggestions????

**THE HISTORY OF "THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD"**

*Adapted from material sent by Ursula Marvin (February 2000)*

With respect to naming the History of Geology Award, a little history might be of interest. Back in 1980, Ursula Marvin, Ellen Drake, and Hollis Hedberg (Chair) formed the committee that was charged with deciding whether or not the Division should give an award, and if so what it should be. The first duty was to decide whether so small a group could sustain the giving of an award every year without running out of worthy candidates within the first decade. The Committee decided the award could be sustained and that the Division should institute an award. Hollis wanted it to be a medal and said he knew of an anonymous gift that would be forthcoming to support it. Many awards, such as the Penrose, are named for benefactors, but "The Anonymous Medal" would not do, and Hollis wasn't naming the donor (although the other members of the Committee assumed it would be named for Hollis himself or his wife). So the group originally decided to name it the History of Geology Medal. But at that time, GSA management was unwilling to adopt any more medals, fearing, perhaps rightly, that it would debase the currency of their existing medals. Thus, the Committee had to choose another type of award and the anonymous gift vanished into thin air. Thus the Division has the *HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD*, which is, as yet, still unnamed.

**HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD FOR 2001  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

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 publication of papers or books that contribute new and profound insights into the history of geology (based on original research or a 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 materials; and exceptional service to the Division. The award, established by the History of Geology Division in 1981, consists of an engrossed certificate and a Pewter Revere bowl. The deadline for receipt of nomination by the selection committee chair is April 1 each year.

1982 George W. White	1992 Michele L. Aldrich
1983 Claude C. Albritton, Jr.	1993 Martin Guntau
1984 Mary C. Rabbitt	1994 François Ellenberger
1985 Cecil J. Schneer	1995 Robert H. Dott, Jr.
1986 Ursula B. Marvin	1996 Gordon L. Herries Davies
1987 Martin J. S. Rudwick	1997 Kennard B. Bork
1988 Stephen Jay Gould	1998 Hatten S. Yoder, Jr.
1989 Albert V. Carozzi	1999 David R. Oldroyd
1990 Gordon Y. Craig	2000 Hugh S. Torrens
1991 William Anthony Swithin Sarjeant	

Please send the names and supporting information for your nominees to: *William R. Brice, Secretary-Treasurer* (see "Division Officers" for address), and mark the envelope AWARD NOMINATION. As the chair of the review committee changes each year, Bill will forward the material to the current committee chair.

## 2001 Division Officers

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