

ACTIVITIES AT THE BOSTON GSA MEETING

Student-Member Reception – A Great Success

Our first-ever formal reception for students, members, and guests was very well attended. On Tuesday evening at 5:30 PM, over **60 people** gathered in room 110 of the Hynes Convention Center to share ideas, good food, and great conversation. Lèo Laporte and Bob Ginsburg arranged for several door prizes of historical interest, including a book signed by John Wesley Powell, which was taken home by a student. Many thanks to Lèo and Bob, and to those who donated the items. We wish all our members could have been there to share in this fine evening. The Division also wishes to thank the anonymous donors who covered the cost of the refreshments. We certainly hope this will become a tradition for the History of Geology Division at future GSA meetings.

Field Trip - Boston Urban Area

by James Skehan, SJ

The field trip "Urban Geology of Back Bay and Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts" was one of twenty-six offered at GSA's Annual Meeting in Boston. It is described in the "Guidebook for Geological Field Trips in New England," 2001 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Boston, MA, p. K1-K-11.

This trip, organized in memory of James V. O'Connor, was sponsored initially by The History of Geology Division of GSA and was also co-sponsored by The Engineering Geology Division (EGD) and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) in recognition of Jim's long energetic involvement in these organizations. Jim was Professor of Geology at the University of the District of Columbia and City Geologist of the District. He was an extraordinarily generous and engaging field trip leader and resource in the urban environment for inner-city teachers and students. Field trip leaders were Jim Skehan, Professor of Geology at Boston College and mentor to Jim O'Connor during his studies for the B.S. and M.S.T. degree, and Wilfred E. Holton and William A. Newman of Northeastern University.

The three-hour walking trip with 35 participants, including Jim O'Connor's mother, Mary, and siblings, began on the 50th Floor Skywalk of the Prudential Center for an overview of the 8 stops ending at the Beacon Hill Monument, marking the site 65 ft below the original crest of Beacon Hill prior to removal of sand and gravel to fill the Back Bay. Stops en route and dioramas at New England Financial, Inc. described Indian Fish Wiers from 4400 YBP, and the early Colonial Mill Dam below the present Beacon Street using tidal water impounded behind the Dam to power the mills. Pollution of the Back Bay led to its filling over a 60 year period by 1867 and construction of the elegant Back Bay public buildings and upscale housing. In Copley Square such masterpieces as the Boston Public Library faced Trinity Church, supported on 4500 vertical spruce logs 30-50 ft long; the original Museum of Fine Arts on the south side of the Square faced the original MIT building. A stop at Blackstone's well on Beacon Hill recalls the crisis for Puritans due to a polluted well in Charlestown, solved by purchase of the well in Boston. The O'Connor Family also attended the History of Geology Luncheon where Jim Skehan helped them to understand why Jim was so beloved as teacher and field trip leader.

Ophiolite Symposia

by Sally Newcomb

GSA's *History of Geology Division* convened a Pardee symposium, two topical sessions, and a poster session at the Boston meeting, all with the title of *Ophiolites as Problem and Solution in the History of Geological Thinking*. We were assisted in these sessions by the *Structural Geology and Tectonics Division* and the *International Division* of GSA, and by the *History of Earth Sciences Society* and the *Society of Economic Geologists*. Co-conveners were Sally Newcomb and Yildirim Dilek. There were a total of 39 oral papers and 7 poster papers, with presenters representing 15 countries.

Eldridge Moores began the Pardee session with a paper titled "From Brongniart to Boston: A history of the ophiolite concept from 1813 to the present." Davis Young followed with history of one of the conundrums of ophiolite emplacement in "N. L. Bowen and the origin of ultramafic rocks." Emplacement of ophiolite complexes was frequently addressed in other papers as well, with evidence from both tensional and compressional regimes. Most of the recognized ophiolite complexes throughout the world were discussed at some point in the proceedings. In keeping with the title of the sessions, the change of ideas through time in conjectures about the origin of this interesting and anomalous rock suite was addressed, as well as the relation of those ideas to larger theories in geology, including those of the ultramafic magma vs. crystal-mush question and the action of plate tectonics. Change over time as new discoveries were made could be seen. Virtually all the tools of modern geology, geochemistry, geophysics, tectonics, mapping, and computer simulation are being applied to questions about ophiolites.

Geobiography Session

by Michele Aldrich

"Geobiography: Life Histories of Geologists as a Way to Understand How Science Operates" (Co-Chaired by Michele Aldrich and Alan Leviton) was a technical session co-sponsored by the Division and the History of Earth Sciences Society. Twenty-one papers were offered and eighteen given, with some scheduled in the general History of Geology Division session to accommodate the popularity of the topic. Among the issues considered were collective biography (Patrick Wyse Jackson on 19th century Irish geologists, Robert Silliman on the Agassiz circle, Aureal Cross on palynologists, and John Fournell on Aleutian geologists), archives and other sources for filling gaps in biography (Ken Bork on William Tight and Diane Baclawski on Leverett and Taylor), family influences (Julie Newell and Michele Aldrich on the Hitchcocks), the interplay between education and personality in early careers (Gerry Middleton on Hamilton geologists and Philip Wilson on Guyot), social ecology (Lèo Laporte on G. G. Simpson), émigré scientists (Silvia Figueroa and Bill Brice on G. Schuch and C. F. Hartt, and Volker Gobel on Roemer), and scientific method as a basis for prediction (Tom Dutro on G. Cooper and Gerry Friedman on John Rich). We heard about pioneer stratigraphers (Amos Eaton by David Spanagel and H. V. Howe by Paul Krutak). The Division may organize a workshop or short course on geobiography at the Seattle meeting in 2003. If you have some thoughts on this and/or would like to assist in some manner, please contact one of the officers or Michele Aldrich.

General History of Geology Session

by Bill Brice

In addition to the Pardee Symposium and other technical sessions on ophiolites and geobiography mentioned above, the Division had its usual General Session. A few of the geobiography papers were added to this session, as reported above by Michele, and we had several very interesting papers on some very diverse topics, *e.g.*, Gary Rosenberg's contribution on Chinese art and why modern geologic thought did not arise in China. As always, Gary provided us with many fine illustrations to support his ideas. David Kile shared his work on the evolution of the petrographic microscope and its impact on geological advances; an instrument that certainly added a revolution in the understanding of rocks. The granitization controversy was the topic of Wolfgang Elston's paper, and Mark Van Baalen shared with us some of the history of the New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC) and its connection with William Morris Davis.

These general sessions are very important to the History of Geology Division, for these offer a forum for papers that are not part of the more specific special symposia and technical sessions. The Division hopes the membership will continue to participate by making a contribution for the general session and to encourage your students to participate as well. This is a marvelous platform for student contributions.

Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting

The annual business meeting was held at the Boston GSA meeting on Wednesday November 7, 2001; Sally Newcomb, presiding. [Editor's note - These minutes include the Board Meeting minutes from Tuesday November 6, 2001.]

As the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter and there were no objections forthcoming since their publication, they were assumed to be approved.

Sally acknowledged the contributions for the people responsible for various sessions and especially Léo Laporte and Bob Ginsburg for organizing the very special student-member reception held the evening before. She expressed her hope that the Division can continue this at future GSA meetings. She recognized and welcomed members of the *History of Earth Sciences Society* who were at the luncheon officially for the first time. *HESS* has recently become an Associated Society of GSA, and will be participating in up-coming GSA meetings. Sally thanked the *HESS* group for being one of the co-sponsors of several sessions at the Boston meeting. Our Division looks forward to future collaborations with the *HESS* group.

Father Jim Skehan was asked to introduce some special guests, members of the family of James O'Connor. We were honored to have members of Jim O'Connor's family with us as many at the luncheon remember Jim well and certainly miss him greatly.

(Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting continued on page 4)

Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting (continued from page 3)

Sally requested the financial report from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Financial Statement - presented by William R. Brice, Secretary-Treasurer.

Based on the statements from GSA for September 30, 2001

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD FUND:

Balance December 31, 2000			\$27,882.37
Income:	Contributions	\$1,025.00	
	Interest	76.23	
	Investment Gain (Loss)	953.41	
	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	2,199.56	
	Net Income (Loss)		\$ 2,051.74
Expenses:	Fund Disbursement	\$ 0.00	
	Service Charge	(84.37)	
	Total Expenses		(\$ 84.37)
Fund Balance September 30, 2001			\$25,746.26

Comment: The GSA foundation requires, at least as of the Boston meeting, a minimum balance of \$25,000 to be maintained. As of September, due to the negative results in the investments, our fund is just at this minimum threshold. These figures do not reflect the 2001 award expenses. So contributions are needed to maintain our fund.

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GENERAL OPERATING FUND:

Balance January 1, 2001			\$ 4,242.56
Income:	Dues	\$ 188.83	
	Total Income		\$ 188.83
Expenses:	Annual Meeting Expenses	75.00	
	Misc/Newsletters	1000.00	
	Total Expenses		\$ 1075.00
Net Income (Loss)			(886.17)
Balance August 31, 2001			\$ 3,356.39

COMMENTS: These figures do not reflect any donations made after August.

[NOTE: contributions for \$1,275.00 have been received by GSA since the Boston meeting. These have been credited to the General Operating Fund. Our thanks to all who have assisted in our operations.]

A question was asked about the *Claude Albritton Fund* of GSA. This fund is not connected with the History of Geology Division in any manner. It seems to be under the control of the Archaeological Geology Division.

The Secretary-Treasurer's financial report was accepted with the knowledge that a new financial statement will be forthcoming after the first of the year.

(Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting continued on page 5)

Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting (continued from page 4)

Kennard Bork, Past-President of *HESS*, was recognized for a special presentation. Two of our colleagues, **Ellis Yochelson** and **Gerry Friedman** were honored for their long service and many contributions to the *History of Earth Sciences Society* with Honorary Life Membership in *HESS*. [This was mentioned in the last newsletter.] Both were very instrumental in creating both the *History of Earth Sciences Society* and the History of Geology Division of GSA.

The main event of the luncheon was the annual History of Geology Award, this year going to **Walter O. Kupsch**. As neither Professor Kupsch nor his citationist, **Glen Caldwell**, were able to attend the meeting, Gerry Middleton read the citation and Ken Bork read Dr. Kupsch's acceptance. These will be published in *GSA Today* early in 2002.

The election of Division officers was held, and the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee was elected by acclamation. Charles W. Byers, Department of Geology & Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, was elected Second Vice-Chair (to be Chair and organize the 2004 meeting), and Bill Brice was re-elected to another two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer-Editor. Sally Newcomb became Past Chair, and all other officers moved up one position. [Please see the list of officers on page 7 of this newsletter for addresses, etc.]

Then Sally passed the virtual gavel over to C elal Seng or who gave the group a brief review of his plans for the Denver Meeting in 2002. A working title suggested for what he will be concentrating on is "Geology West of the 100th Meridian - What have we Learned." C elal is working to have a special field trip(s?), a large map exhibition (in cooperation with the Denver Public Library), and perhaps a visit at the meeting from some dealers of rare books. Everyone agreed it sounds like a great series of sessions and events.

Bill Brice reminded everyone that 2003 will be the 100th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and we should start to plan some special events to honor this famous expedition.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM

- Submitted by William R. Brice, Secretary-Treasurer.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

Just published (November 2001), and available at 50 percent off the list price:

The Age of the Earth: from 4004 BC to AD 2002

Edited by C L E Lewis and S J Knell.

Geological Society of London, Special Publication 190, 2001.

This volume includes historical articles by, among others, John Fuller, Ezio Vaccari, Ken Taylor, Martin Rudwick, Hugh Torrens, Jack Morrell, Patrick Wyse Jackson, Joe Burchfield, Stephen Brush, and Cherry Lewis, and essays by Aubrey Manning, Gerry Wasserburg, Stephen Moor bath, John Callomon, Al Hofmann, Chris Stringer, and Sir Martin Rees.

For a half-price order form (\$58 instead of \$117, with additional shipping cost of \$5.80 to addresses outside the UK), contact Ken Taylor, Hist of Sci Dept, Univ of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73019; <ktaylor@ou.edu>
For more information, see: <http://bookshop.geolsoc.org.uk>

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Books of Interest (continued from page 5)

New Reprint Available

Drake Well Foundation

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

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

The Next Installment on Charles Doolittle Walcott *Smithsonian Institution Secretary, Charles Doolittle Walcott*, by Ellis L. Yochelson. The Kent State University Press, \$55.00, www.kentstateuniversitypress.com

This is the second in the biographical series that Ellis is doing on Walcott's life and is available through Kent State University Press, P.O. Box 5190, 307 Lowry Hall, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001.

Hutton et al. Re-visited *Is the Present the Key to the Past or the Past the Key to the Present?* By A. M. C lal Seng r. Geological Society of America Special Paper #355. Available through the GSA Bookstore: www.geosociety.org

History of Earth Sciences Society

Earth Sciences History

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES Volume 20, Number 1 (2001)

Barbara A. R. Mohr and Annette Vogt: German Women Paleobotanists from the 1920s to the 1970 – Or, Why did this Story Start so Late?

Kenneth L. Taylor: The Beginnings of a Geological Naturalist: Desmarest, the Printed Word, and Nature.

Haruyo Yoshida: Aikitu Tanakadate and the Controversy over Vertical Electrical Currents in Geomagnetic Research.

Peter-Noel Webb: Essay Review of T. H. Baughman, *Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition*.

Future Issues

G nther Buntebarth: Borehole Temperatures: Accuracy and Resolution of Historical Measurements (Research Note).

David E. Cartwright: On the Origins of Knowledge of the Sea Tides from Antiquity to the Eleventh Century.

Keith Miller: A European Geologist in America: Leo Lesquereaux, the Paleobotany of the Cretaceous and Tertiary Systems, and the Organic Theory of Oil and Gas Formation.

Tadas Jankausas and William A. S. Sarjeant: Boris M. Timofeyev (1916-1982): Pioneer of Precambrian and Early Paleozoic Palynology.

WEBSITE FOR THE HISTORY OF EARTH SCIENCES - GERMANY

Martin Guntau has sent information about a website organized by the German working group on the history of earth sciences. The address is: <http://www.gdgh.de/arbkreis/AKGGW.html>

ROCK STARS - Francis Parker Shepard 1897-1985 by Joseph R. Curray

Be certain to look at our latest *Rock Star* Francis Shepard who is profiled in the December 2001 *GSA Today* (v. 11, #12, p. 20-21). Our thanks to **Joseph Curray** for this contribution, and our continuing thanks go to Bob Ginsburg for his efforts to get and keep the *Rock Stars* coming. Many thanks Bob.

KUDOS - Our congratulations to **Robert H. Dott, Jr.** for receiving the *Laurence L. Sloss Award for Sedimentary Geology* presented at the Boston GSA meeting - and, of course to **Walter O. Kupsch**, the HoG Awardee for 2001. **Cêlal Sengör** was the citationist for Kenneth Jinghwa Hsu, 2001 Penrose Medalist. **Dorothy Sack** received the *GSA Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award* for her project on Lake Bonneville.

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD FOR 2002 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, but are not limited to: publication of papers or books that contribute new and profound insights into the history of geology (based upon original research or synthesis of existing knowledge); discovery of and making available rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; editing a thematically integrated collection of articles; organizing meetings and symposia in the history of geology; research into original sources; original interpretations of data; translations of key material; and exceptional service to the Division. The award, established by the History of Geology Division in 1981, consists of an embossed certificate and a Pewter Revere bowl. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is February 1st each year.

Former Awardees

1982 George W. White	1989 Albert V. Carozzi	1996 Gordon L Herries Davies
1983 Claude C. Albritton, Jr.	1990 Gordon Y. Craig	1997 Kennard B. Bork
1984 Mary C. Rabbitt	1991 William A. S. Sarjeant	1998 Hatten S. Yoder, Jr.
1985 Cecil J. Schneer	1992 Michele L. Aldrich	1999 David R. Oldroyd
1986 Ursula B. Marvin	1993 Martin Guntau	2000 Hugh Torrens
1987 Martin J. S. Rudwick	1994 François Ellenberger	2001 Walter O. Kupsch
1988 Stephen Jay Gould	1995 Robert H. Dott, Jr.	

2002 History of Geology Division Officers

Chair: A.M. Cêlal Sengör, Division of Geology & Planetary Science, California Institute of Technology, Mail Stop 100-23, Pasadena, CA 91125-0001; (626) 395-4239 (direct); (626) 395-6811 (dept); (626) 395-6028 (fax); sengor@gps.caltech.edu (Home Address: ITÜ Avrasya Enstitüsü ve Maden Fakültesi, Jeoloji Bölümü, Ayazaga 80626, Istanbul, Turkey; 90-212-285-6209; fax 90-212-285-6210; sengor@itu.edu.tr)

First Vice-Chair: Roger D.K. Thomas, Franklin & Marshall College, Dept of Geosciences, PO Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003; (717) 291-4135 (direct); (717) 291-4186 (fax); r_thomas@email.fandm.edu

Second Vice-Chair: Charles W. Byers, Dept of Geology & Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, Weeks Hall, 1215 W. Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-8960 (dept); (608) 262-0693 (fax); cwbyers@geology.wisc.edu

Secretary-Treasurer-Editor: William R. Brice, Dept of Geology & Planetary Science, University of Pittsburgh, 250 Krebs Hall, Johnstown, PA 15904; (814) 269-2942; (814) 269-2022 (fax); wbrice@pitt.edu

Past Chair: Sarah E. (Sally) Newcomb, 13120 Two Farm Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3418; (301) 622-0177; senewcomb@earthlink.net

GSA Councilor-Liaison: Rena M. Bonem, Dept of Geology, Baylor University, PO Box 97354, Waco, TX 76798-7354; Rena_Bonem@baylor.edu

Web Manager: Hugh Rance, 4310 Kissena Blvd, 11 H, Flushing, NY 11355; (718) 445-6922; hrance@nyc.rr.com



The Geological Society of America

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Call for Applications!

Apply for the GSA/USGS Congressional Science Fellowship for 2002–2003

Opportunities to serve as a Congressional Science Fellow are rare, and the experience of serving is unique. This position may be a good fit for you if you would like to work directly with national leaders and use your expertise and experience to help shape science and technology policy on Capitol Hill.

The Congressional Science Fellow will be selected from top competitors early in 2002.

Successful candidates are **GSA members** who possess either a:

- Ph.D. in the Earth Sciences (or a related field), or
- Master's degree in the Earth Sciences (or a related field) with at least five years of professional experience.

If you meet these qualifications, have experience in applying scientific knowledge to societal challenges, and share a passion for helping shape the future of the geoscience profession, GSA invites your application. The Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.

The deadline to apply is February 1, 2002.

For application information, check our website at <http://www.geosociety.org/science/csf/index.htm> or contact Ms. Karlon Blythe, Program Officer, GSA Headquarters, (303) 447-2020, ext. 1036 or kblythe@geosociety.org.