

THE

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DIVISION

Volume 31, Number 2

<http://gsahist.org>

June 2007

TIME TO THINK OF DENVER - ABSTRACTS NEEDED

DENVER GSA

28-31 October 2007

ABSTRACT DEADLINE JULY 10, 2007

Our Division Symposium is:

T147. Exemplars and Exceptions: Using Individual and Group Biography to Understand Critical Issues in the History of Geology. *GSA History of Geology Division; GSA Geology and Society Division; History of the Earth Sciences Society [HESS].* Julie R. Newell, Stephen M. Rowland. Biographical studies of individuals, groups, or institutions use the particular to make visible broader patterns such as the development of ideas, the practices of geology, and the cultural or political roles of geology. Oral.

And don't forget the **General Discipline** session if your paper does not seem to fit into T147. Please use this session to give us updates on your work in progress, a favorite idea you have, or even maybe something new and different.

In addition to the two Division sessions, consider submitting an abstract for one of these sessions sponsored by the Hydrogeology and Geoscience Education Divisions:

T44. 50 Years of Hydrogeology in the Desert: A Tribute to Mahdi Hantush and his Legacy. *GSA Hydrogeology Division.* M. Bayani Cardenas, David Boutt. We celebrate Mahdi Hantush's contributions and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the program he chaired in New Mexico. Presentations on aquifer hydraulics, a field pioneered by Hantush, as well as semi-arid zone hydrogeology are welcome. Oral. Hydrogeology; History of Geology; Environmental Geoscience

T133. Innovative Approaches to Injecting Controversial Topics from the History of Geology into Today's Geoscience Education. *GSA Geoscience Education Division; GSA Geology and Society Division.* James H. Wandersee, Renee M. Clary. Investigates potential and actual impacts on students' geology learning resulting from innovative approaches to injecting controversial topics from the history of geology into today's geoscience education—across all phases: Classroom, laboratory, field, and online. Oral.

REMEMBER THE ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS JULY 10 !!!! To submit your abstract, to register for the meeting, or to find more information, please go to <http://rock.geosociety.org/meetings/2007>.

RECEPTION FOR STUDENTS AND FRIENDS:

And, also, while your remembering cap is on, begin checking your bookshelves for extra or unwanted copies of suitable book and papers to donate for the door prizes at our reception. This is always a great success, thanks to the generosity of our members. As you come across items you can donate, please let the Secretary-Treasurer know (wbrice@pitt.edu) so he can keep a list of what is coming. Do not send him the item unless you will be unable to attend the Denver meeting. We would rather have you bring the item and attend the reception.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT**MARCH 31, 2007**

Starting Balance		\$3,991.14
Income	Dues	\$1,242.25
Expenses	Postage/shipping	370.65
	Printing	415.00
	Awards	102.52
	Misc	129.00
Net Gain (loss)		225.08
Ending Balance March 31, 2007		\$4,216.22

AWARDS:

Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award: We are pleased to congratulate **Kenneth L. Taylor** on being selected to receive the Rabbitt Award for 2007. Ken has been an active member of our Division for many years and is well known for his scholarly works and his contributions to the history of geology. There will be more details about Ken's work in a later issue.

Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award: For 2007, our Division is honoring **Michele L. Aldrich and Alan E. Leviton** for their many years of devoted service to the Division. Both have served as an officer and have served on numerous Division committees, and they were both active in the creation of the Division. Anytime something is needed, Michel and Alan will step forward, often without being asked, to see that the task was completed. Truly this duo has kept the Division humming along through their tireless effort and we are pleased to recognize their many and multiple contributions with the Friedman Distinguished Service Award for 2007.

Student Award: This was still pending when the newsletter went to press. Details will be forthcoming in the September issue.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: Hugh Torrens (England) would like to hear from anyone who knows what happened to William Perceval [also Percival] Hunter (1812-fl.- 1839): naturalist & geologist.

Hunter is now a completely forgotten figure. Born in 1812 in Greenwich, Kent, a son of David Hunter (1752-1822) and Helen née Maclure (sister of the so-called "father of American Geology", the Scot, William Maclure (1763-1840)), he went to Charterhouse School in 1827 and soon, in 1829, started a long and enthusiastic correspondence in Loudon's *Magazine of Natural History*, on zoology, botany and geology, although by 1830 he 'preferred mammalogy'.

After matriculating at Cambridge University in 1830, he transferred to Oxford in 1832, but graduated from neither. He now became highly itinerant; Canterbury 1829, Walthamstow (the family home, 1830 - when he proposed to join James Silk Buckingham's soon-abandoned round the world voyage - see New ODNB), Leamington, Warwickshire 1833, where he compounded his subscription to the BAAS. In 1834 he travelled in France and Spain (and was rude about Spanish attitudes to naturalists!), Sandgate, Kent, and into Sussex, 1835, whence he published his *Geological Notes*, dedicated to Gideon Mantell. In 1835 he also joined the *Société Géologique de France* (from whom only silence), described Dorset geology and visited Ireland.

By 1836 he was living in London and was admitted to the Inner Temple (but, as he was never called to the Bar, that Temple has no further data on him) and joined its Geological Society and made several donations (but who also have no further data on him, removing him only in 1892 along with a man who would then have been 115 years old!) Hunter next joined the Zoological Society in 1837 (who again have no further news of him, removing him in 1864). In 1837 his "Selections and Translations" of the work of the Spanish zoologist Don Félix de Azara (1746-1821), appeared in London 1837 and in 1838 in Edinburgh, where Hunter was then briefly based. By late 1838 he was back in London. Early in 1839 he was in Florence, where his (partial?) *Examination of Lyell's Principles of Geology* was published (in which he was rude about Florentine library facilities!) This he dedicated to "his friend - William Smith - to whose original discoveries towards the close of the last century the Science of Geology owes its rise and rank as a Science." He presented a copy, anonymously, to the Geological Society of London in September 1839, suggesting he had returned here. Thereafter he completely disappears. Any help in tracking down more on him, and what became of him, would be much appreciated. Thanks

Hugh Torrens, Lower Mill Cottage, Furnace Lane, MADELEY, Crewe, CW3 9EU,
UK. email: gga10@keele.ac.uk.

OTHER NOTES FROM ACROSS THE POND:

HOGG Newsletter: Dear All: I am pleased to inform you that Issue No 30 of the HOGG Newsletter is now available for downloading from the wonderful new HOGG web site: www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg

Please note, however, you have to scroll down the page somewhat to find it. Also, it is an even larger file than last time, so please be patient while it downloads. Well worth the wait though - this issue looks really great and has some fascinating content - don't miss the **photo competition**.

Also, while you are on the web site, take a look at the **Founding Fathers** events. The **field trip** has just three places left on it, so hurry, hurry, hurry.... and I am sure you won't want to miss the international **conference** - we have some really top-class speakers coming - or **dinner** on the site of the Free Masons' Tavern where the Society was founded 200 years ago - a chance of a lifetime.

You can also download a **registration form** from the site, if you don't want to spoil your nice invitations.

All the best, Cherry

Dr Cherry Lewis, Chairman, History of Geology Group
Affiliated to the Geological Society of London

Patrick Boylan has forwarded these two notes:

History of GSL now Available: The author of this new book received the History of Geology Division Award in 1996.

Just a note to let everyone know that the Geological Society Bookshop is now mailing out the excellent bicentennial history of the Society: Gordon L Herries Davies, 2007. *Whatever is Under the Earth. The Geological Society of London 1807 to 2007*: (London: The Geological Society, 356pp., ISBN: 978-1-86239-214-4, price #17.50). Copies can be ordered online from the Bookshop at <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/bookshop/>.

[Don't forget about the GSL's big 200th birthday celebration to be held this November; the meeting notice is listed below.]

Proceedings Available On-line:

The Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society is one of the country's oldest regional journals, published continuously since 1837. Its many thousands of pages contain a great deal of original research and other unique material relating to the earth sciences, especially in respect of Yorkshire and the north of England, both also with many national and international papers. There is quite a lot of material of significance in the history of geology - from the days of John Phillips onwards, as well as some important works on the history of geology.

Over the years the Society has published three cumulative indexes to the Proceedings but only that for 1970 - 1995 is still in print. Now, thanks to the sponsorship of Pinpoint Digital Systems, all three have now been scanned and converted to searchable PDF files, in order to help members and everyone else the possibility of searching and exploring the rich resources available in the Proceedings.

These are now available, on line and free of charge, via the Yorkshire Geological Society website at: <http://www.yorksgeolsoc.org/uk/> as follows:

Index to PYGS volumes 1 to 25 (1837-1946); Index to PYGS volumes 26 to 37 (1947-1970);
Index to PYGS volumes 38 to 50 (1970-1995).

A Request to the Division:

Hello Julie

I am the Chair of the International Union of Soil Sciences' Commission on History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science. In planning for the 2008 joint meeting of the Soil Sci Soc Amer with GSA, we would like to organize a session focused on historical links between soil science and geology.

We are in the early planning stage and would like to enlist a counterpart from GSA ranks.
Any suggestions most welcomed.

Thanks Edward R. Landa, U.S. Geological Survey,
Water Resources Division-National Research Program (Geochemistry)
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 430, Reston VA 20192
erlanda@usgs.gov PH 703-648-5898

[Editor's note - I think this is a great idea and I hope someone can follow through and contact Ed. When someone contacts him, please let Julie and me know, so we can assist. Thanks, Bill]

NOTICE OF INTEREST:

Dear Colleagues

Would you please call [the following] to the attention of anyone you know who might be suitable? Many thanks, Naomi Oreskes

Post-doctoral Research Associate in History of Science/Science Studies - University of California, San Diego, and Princeton University, The Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy.

The use of scientific assessment as a formalized process for evaluating knowledge for the specific purpose of

informing government decision-making has expanded since the mid-1970s, but how well have these assessments worked? As part of the initial stage of a multi-year collaborative project between University of California, San Diego and The Woodrow Wilson School's Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Program at Princeton University, we seek a post-doctoral fellow to examine the history of scientific assessments of the stability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and its role in sea level rise caused by global warming. The ideal fellow will have a Ph.D. in history of science or a closely related field, and sufficient scientific background to understand the technical issues at stake in the scientific evaluations. The fellow will work under the joint supervision of Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego, and Michael Oppenheimer, Woodrow Wilson School and Department of Geosciences, Princeton University.

The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of renewal. The successful candidate will be based primarily at the University of California, San Diego campus but must be flexible enough to travel to the Princeton to conduct research there as needed. Research could begin anytime after July 1, 2007. Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

The Postdoctoral Research Associate's position is open to all regardless of citizenship, but requires a completed doctorate and does not support work towards the completion of a degree. The postdoctoral fellow will be eligible for salary and full employee benefits in accordance with Princeton University guidelines.

Applicants should send a CV and a cover letter describing their areas of expertise and interest via email to Charles Crosby at ccrosby@princeton.edu.

For more information about applying to Princeton please link to:

<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/dof/ApplicantsInfo.htm>

Candidates may choose to complete the "Invitation to Self-Identify" form at:

<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/dof/forms/PSoftSelfID.pdf>. Providing the self-identification information is completely voluntary and declining to submit the information will not adversely affect your candidacy.

Princeton University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Another New Book of Interest: A new book entitled *Geology of Coal Fires: Case Studies from around the World*, edited by Coal Geology Division First Vice-Chair Glenn B. Stracher, is being published by the GSA Engineering Geology Division (Reviews in Engineering Geology, V. 18).

This book includes chapters devoted to spontaneous combustion, greenhouse gases, mineralogy and petrology of coal fires, geophysics of coal fires, and public policy. It will be available in November or December 2007. Order forms for the book will be available at the 2007 GSA Annual Meeting in Denver.

A Note from Léo Laporte: Dear Friends: I have recently put my Darwin course on an educational web site that can be found at <http://campus.digication.com/darwin/Home/>.

On the left of the Home Page, there is a menu of topics under "Discovering Darwin," followed by a series of images under "Evolution of Darwin. Simply click on individual items listed, as usual, to advance through the site. Some of this will be familiar to those who took the Jasper Ridge Darwin class in Fall, 2005, but there is additional material that I hope will also be of interest.

You'll be glad to know that this is my Swan Song with respect to my Darwinian pedagogical efforts. Hence, I won't pester you about this again. (Well, perhaps not.) Cordially, Léo

MEETINGS OF INTEREST:

BICENTENARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

The Geological Society, founded 13 November 1807, is the oldest national geological society in the world. **The History of Geology Group (HOGG)** will be holding an international two-day conference on **12-13 November 2007** to celebrate the Geological Society's bicentenary.

Conference: The conference will focus on the achievements of the Society, the founders, and some of its members and their activities over the past 200 years.

- **Theme 1:** The status of geology in comparison to other sciences in the UK and to geology in other countries around 1807
- **Theme 2:** The foundation and founders of the Society
- **Theme 3:** The first 100 years
- **Theme 4:** Towards the 21st Century

Field Trip: The conference will be preceded by a field trip to the Isle of Wight on the **10-11 November 2007** to visit some of the classic geological localities of historic interest.

Dinners: On the evening of **12 November 2007** a dinner will be held in the Connaught Rooms, which now incorporates the Free Mason's Tavern where the Geological Society was founded. A plaque commemorating the founding of the Society will be unveiled.

On the evening of the **13 November, 2007**, the Geological Society will be holding a dinner in the Natural History Museum.

Register your interest: Anyone wishing to go on the mailing list to receive further information about this event should email cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk. Put 'HOGG bicentenary event' in the subject line.

For information on this and other HOGG events, go to: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/HOGG>.

CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

1) Division Officers: Please consider nominating someone, or doing a "self-nomination," to be an officer in the Division. The commitment is for three years based on a sliding system where a person starts as Second Vice-Chair the first year, moves up to First Vice-Chair the second year, and in the third year becomes the Division Chair. The duties are varied, but basically the First and Second Vice-Chairs assist the Chair organizing and running our annual meeting activities. In this way a person gets to see how the system works and who to contact before having to do her/his own session. The Secretary-Treasurer-Editor position is a two-year (renewable) term. This person looks after the Division finances and prepares the Division Newsletter four times a year, with much able assistance from the current and past officers and Division members. Serving as an officer is a great way to get to know other members of the Division and to work with your colleagues to support and further our Division's mission. Please consider serving as an officer or nominate someone to serve (with his/her knowledge and permission, of course) who you feel will make a good Division leader. Contact James Dawson, Nominating Committee Chair, at james.dawson@plattsburgh.edu by August 31 with your suggestions. **For 2008, the Committee is seeking both a Second Vice-Chair and a Secretary-Treasurer-Editor.**

2) History of Geology Student Award: The History of Geology Division is soliciting proposals for a student award for the amount of \$500, and the selected paper will be given at the annual national GSA meeting for that year. This award, established in 2004, is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mary C. Rabbitt. Consideration will be given to both undergraduate and graduate students, provided the person is a student in good standing at the time of application; the presentation at the GSA Annual Meeting

may take place after graduation. While both oral and poster presentations are acceptable, but oral presentations are preferred. Faculty advisor(s) may be listed as second author(s), but not as the lead author of the paper. The proposed paper may be, but not limited to: (1) A paper in the history of geology; or (2) A literature review of ideas for a technical work or thesis/dissertation; or (3) Some imaginative aspect of the history of geology we have not thought of before.

The award consists of \$500 presented at the Division luncheon, and the student will present the winning paper in the History of Geology Division disciplinary session. It is open to all students regardless of discipline, provided the proposed paper is related to the history of a geological idea/person/etc. After the applications have been received and reviewed by the Award Committee, the winner will be notified. The winner should then register for the GSA Annual Meeting and present his or her paper at the History of Geology Division disciplinary session. A ticket to the History of Geology luncheon will be provided for the student and a guest. The \$500 award will be presented at the time the paper is presented, and the student will also be recognized at the annual luncheon. If there are multiple authors, the cash award will be presented to the senior author, and further distribution is up to that person.

Proposal guidelines and application forms are available from the Division web site at <http://gsahist.org>, or if there are any questions about the award, please contact the Division Secretary-Treasurer. All applications and proposed abstracts should be forwarded to the Division Secretary-Treasurer, please see the address given in the Division Officers list.

Due date for proposals and application is **May 1** each year so that the proposal content can be reviewed and the selection made for the award in time to meet the official GSA deadline. Also in this way, the GSA abstract, perhaps, can be refined. The Division award committee will make the selection.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2004 Michael C. Rygel
2007 ???

2005 Lee J. Florea

2006 Alistair Sponsel

3) Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award: The Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award is presented annually by the Geological Society of America's History of Geology Division to an individual for exceptional scholarly contributions of fundamental importance to our understanding of the history of the geological sciences. Achievements deserving of the award include, but may not be limited to, 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. The award was established by the History of Geology Division in 1981 and renamed in memory of Mary C. Rabbitt in 2005. The award consists of an embossed certificate and a pewter Revere bowl. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is **February 1** each year. Nominations should be sent to the Division Secretary-Treasurer; address is given in the Division Officers list on page 8 of this Newsletter.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

1982 George W. White
1985 Cecil J. Schneer
1988 Stephen Jay Gould
1991 William A. S. Sarjeant
1994 François Ellenberger
1997 Kennard B. Bork
2000 Hugh Torrens
2003 Ellis Yochelson
2006 Sandra Herbert

1983 Claude C. Albritton, Jr
1986 Ursula B. Marvin
1989 Albert V. Carozzi
1992 Michele L. Aldrich
1995 Robert H. Dott, Jr.
1998 Hatten S. Yoder, Jr.
2001 Walter O. Kupsch
2004 Stephen G. Brush
2007 Kenneth L. Taylor

1984 Mary C. Rabbitt
1987 Martin J. S. Rudwick
1990 Gordon Y. Craig
1993 Martin Guntau
1996 Gordon L. Herries Davies
1999 David R. Oldroyd
2002 Dennis Dean
2005 Gerald M. Friedman
2008 ??

4) The Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award: The Friedman Distinguished Service Award of the Geological Society of America's **History of Geology Division**, created in 2005, may be given from time to time to an individual or individuals, for exceptional service to the advancement of our knowledge of the history of the geological sciences. This service may include, but not be limited to, the discovery of and making available rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; organizing meetings and symposia in the history of geology; exceptional service to the Division. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is **February 1** each year. Nominations should be sent to the Division Secretary-Treasurer; address is given in the Division Officers list below.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2006 Robert Ginsburg

2007 Michele L. Aldrich and Alan E. Leviton

2007 DIVISION OFFICERS

CHAIR: Julie Newell, Social & International Studies, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060-2896; (678) 915-7481; Fax (678) 915-4949; jnewell@spsu.edu

FIRST VICE-CHAIR: Steve Rowland, Department of Geoscience, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010; (702) 895-3625; steve.rowland@unlv.edu

SECOND VICE-CHAIR: Yildirim Dilek, Department of Geology, 116 Shideler Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056; 513-529-2212; Fax: 513-529-1542; dileky@muohio.edu

SECRETARY-TREASURER-EDITOR: William R. Brice, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Geology & Planetary Science, Johnstown, PA 15904. (814) 269-3950; Fax (814) 269-2022; wbrice@pitt.edu

PAST CHAIR: Gary D. Rosenberg, Department of Geology, Indiana University-Purdue University, 723 W. Michigan Street, SL118, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317) 274-7468 (Office); (317) 274-7484 (Department); Fax (317) 274-7966; grosenbe@iupui.edu

WEB MASTER: Hugh Rance, 4310 Kissena Blvd, 11 H, Flushing, NY 11355; hughrance@rcn.com.