

THE

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DIVISION

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September 2007

TIME TO THINK OF DENVER AND REGISTER

GSA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado 28-31 October 2007

Early registration deadline 24 September 2007

Meeting website: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2007/>

DIVISION AWARDS FOR 2007

Presentations will take place at the Awards Luncheon on Monday, October 29.

Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award for 2007

The Division is proud to announce that the Mary Rabbitt award for 2007 is presented to **Kenneth L. Taylor** of the University of Oklahoma. Ken is well known to all of us for his leadership of the Division in 1999 and as one of the co-organizers for the 1994 Penrose Conference, "From the Inside and Outside..." But the Division is honoring him for his many contributions to the scholarship of the history of geology. His particular area of important research has been in French Enlightenment geology, beginning with Desmarest in the 18th century and examining the contributions of such figures as Louis Bourguet, George Louis Leclerc de Buffon, and others, many of whom would have been ignored and/or forgotten in the English speaking world were it not for Ken's contributions. Ken was previously awarded the *Sue Tyler Friedman Medal* by the Geological Society of London in recognition of his research, and we are pleased to present to him the History of Geology Division's *Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award* for 2007.

The Sue T. and Gerald M. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award for 2007

This year we honor two people whose combined contributions to the Division are legendary, namely **Michele L. Aldrich** and **Alan E. Leviton**, both of whom have been with the Division since its very beginnings.

Michele served for more than a decade as the Division Secretary-Treasurer and guided it through some rather lean times. Actually she has served in every Division office at one time or another. And she continues to take up the reins when asked to fill in for the Secretary-Treasurer when he is overseas or teaching on ship. In addition to her work with the Division, Michele has been very active with the *History of Science Society*, notably serving as the Book Review Editor for more than 10 years; she has organized symposia at both National and Sectional AAAS meetings. And the list goes on, but Michele has provided service to our Division that is truly *distinguished* and we are pleased to recognize her contribution with the *Friedman Distinguished Service Award* for 2007.

The other person in this dynamic duo is **Alan E. Leviton**, and they have, indeed, worked as a team for these

many years. Al has served as Chair of the Division, and for more than six years he wrote and edited the Division newsletter, often doing not only the editing task, but also the type-setting work as well - which saved the Division considerable money as GSA charged for this service. He served on at least two different By-Law revision committees providing the members with strike-over and edited copies of the By-Laws so we could easily see what had been added and what had been removed. At least once Al pulled together a nominating committee with about 24 hours notice and produced a slate of officers for consideration by the membership. "Arm-twisting" is another of his many talents. Beyond the History of Geology Division, for 25 years Al has served as Executive Director of the Pacific Division of AAAS and was the driving force behind many history of geology symposia and publications within that organization. He was a co-editor of a special issue of *Earth Sciences History* and organized a symposium on the history and current status of American museums. He, too, has truly provided both our Division and the history of geology in general with *distinguished* service, and we honor that service with the 2007 *Friedman Distinguished Service Award*.

[Editor's note: I want to extend to Michele and to Al my deepest and most sincere congratulations upon their *Friedman Distinguished Service Award* for 2007. No one deserves it more than they do. In my years as the Division Secretary-Treasurer, they have been my mentors and my friends, and so many times that I have lost count, they have been my "back-up" any time a need arose. I knew that I could always depend upon them to accept what ever task I asked. To express my gratitude for that support mere words are totally inadequate, but that is all I have to offer - thank you and, again, my congratulations. Bill Brice]

History of Geology Student Award for 2007

The Division is pleased to announce that **Eric J. Brown**, a graduate student in the Program in the History of Science at Princeton University, will be presented with the *History of Geology Student Award* for 2007. Eric's advisor is Professor Angela Creager. In addition to presenting his paper at the Division symposium on Tuesday afternoon, October 30, the award also includes a check for \$500. His paper and abstract are:

EXPERIMENTS IN THE FIELD: GEORGE BECKER, CARL BARUS AND GEOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTATION AT THE COMSTOCK LODGE

"Between 1865 and 1877, three different distinguished mining experts studied the prolific silver mines of the Comstock Lode on three separate occasions. Despite this attention, in 1880 Clarence King, first director of the United States Geological Survey and one of those experts, tasked geologist George Becker with performing a definitive study of the Comstock as one of the bureau's first monographs. King instructed Becker to investigate several specific geophysical problems concerning the ore deposits, including the controversial proposition that the extraordinary heat at depth in the mines was due to the exothermic decomposition of feldspathic rocks to kaolin, and whether the lode had detectable electrical activity. Becker hired physicist Carl Barus to lead both research projects. Through a series of delicate experiments measuring heats of decomposition, Barus found that the temperatures at depth could not be explained by kaolinization, supporting Becker's larger geological claim for local volcanic action as the source. Barus also determined that the electrical activity of ore bodies though faint was detectable and could potentially be used as a means of mapping and prospecting. This incorporation of physical analysis into geological reasoning proved a powerful tool for Survey geologists as they looked to establish an authoritative voice in the field of mining geology with its abundance of private, well-paid experts. The story of the experiments also illustrates the physical and epistemological difficulties of doing experimental work in the field and how the Survey's mining geological work guided the growth of experimental analysis in American geology."

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION SESSIONS

AWARDS LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

Our luncheon will be held on Monday, October 29, 2007, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m., in the Hyatt Regency (immediately adjacent to the Convention Center), Capitol Ballroom 2.

THE SPECIAL DIVISION SYMPOSIUM

Session No. 141

Tuesday, 30 October 2007

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: 702

T147. Exemplars and Exceptions: Using Individual and Group Biography to Understand Critical Issues in the History of Geology

Julie R. Newell and Stephen M. Rowland, Presiding

Paper #	Start Time	
	8:00 AM	Introductory Remarks
141-1	8:05 AM	EXPLORING EARLY GEOLOGY'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BIOGRAPHY: THE CASE OF FRANCE IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY : TAYLOR, Kenneth L. , History of Science, University of Oklahoma, 601 Elm Street, Room 625, Norman, OK 73019, ktaylor@ou.edu
	8:25 AM	Discussion
141-2	8:35 AM	RICHARD KIRWAN (1733-1812): GEOLOGICAL GADFLY : NEWCOMB, Sally , retired, 13120 Two Farm Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904, senewcomb@earthlink.net
141-3	8:50 AM	EDWARD HITCHCOCK AS EXEMPLAR AND EXCEPTION IN THE RECEPTION OF THE GLACIAL THEORY : MARCHE, Jordan D. II , Physical Sciences, Kutztown University, P.O. Box 730, Kutztown, PA 19530, marche@kutztown.edu
141-4	9:05 AM	MICHAEL TUOMEY AS EXEMPLAR AND EXCEPTION: CAREER PATTERNS AMONG ANTEBELLUM AMERICAN GEOLOGISTS : NEWELL, Julie , Social and International Studies, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 S. Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060, jnewell@spsu.edu
141-5	9:20 AM	MURCHISON IN POLAND: AN EXAMPLE OF 19TH CENTURY FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY : DIEMER, John A. , Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223, jadiemer@uncc.edu and KRZYWIEC, Piotr , Polish Geological Institute, ul. Rakowiecka 4, Warsaw, 00-975, Poland
141-6	9:35 AM	MAKING IT PAY: THE STRANGE (?) CAREER OF DAVID T. ANSTED : VAN RIPER, A. Bowdoin , Department of Social and International Studies, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060, bvanriper@bellsouth.net
	9:50 AM	Break
141-7	10:05 AM	THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRANK TAYLOR'S GEOLOGICAL THEORIES AS ILLUSTRATED FROM HIS LETTERS -- AN EXAMPLE OF BIOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL ISSUES : BACLAWSKI, Diane K. , Division of Science & Math Ed, Michigan State University, 102 North Kedzie Lab, East Lansing, MI 48824-1031, baclaws2@msu.edu
141-8	10:20 AM	RELIGIOUS ASSUMPTIONS IN LORD KELVIN'S ESTIMATES OF THE EARTH'S AGE : WILSON, Leonard G. , Saint Paul, MN 55105, wilso004@umn.edu
141-9	10:35 AM	THE LEGACY OF ARTHUR LAKES : SIMMONS, Beth , Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Metropolitan State College of Denver, P.O. Box 173362, CB 22, Denver, CO 80217-3362, simmonse@mscd.edu and HONDA, Katherine, A.M. Bailey Library, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd,

Denver, CO 80205-5798

- 141-10 10:50 AM [THE CAREER OF JAMES E. THURSTON AND THE EXTINCTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD COLLECTOR IN NORTH AMERICAN VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY](#): **ROWLAND, Stephen M.**, Department of Geoscience, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Box 454010, Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010, steve.rowland@unlv.edu and **TANKE, Darren**, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0, Canada
- 11:05 AM Break
- 141-11 11:15 AM [IRISH GEOLOGISTS AND ENGINEERS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIA: INTERTWINED PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIVES](#): **WYSE JACKSON, Patrick N.**, Department of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin, 2 Ireland, wysicknp@tcd.ie
- 141-12 11:30 AM [GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGISTS AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, 1853-1906: A COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHY](#): **LEVITON, Alan E.**¹, **ALDRICH, Michele L.**², and **WILLIAMS, Gary C.**¹, (1) California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, aleviton@catalacemy.org, (2) California Academy of Sciences, 24 Elm Street, Hatfield, MA 01038
- 141-13 11:45 AM [THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STATE GEOLOGISTS: 1908-2008](#): **COBB, James C.**, Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 MMRB, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0107, cobb@uky.edu

THE GENERAL DIVISION SESSION:

Session No. 151

Tuesday, 30 October 2007

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: 702

History of Geology

Julie Newell and Stephen M. Rowland, Presiding

Paper #	Start Time	
	1:30 PM	Introductory Remarks
151-1	1:35 PM	A NEW ASPECT OF A RENAISSANCE GEOLOGIST: GEORGII AGRICOLA'S DE ANIMANTIBUS SUBTERRANEIS (1549 AND 1556) : ALDRICH, Michele , California Academy of Sciences, 24 Elm Street, Hatfield, MA 01038, maldrich@smith.edu, LEVITON, Alan E. , California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, and SEARS, Lindsay , Classics, Cornell University, 95 Ambrose Cove Lane, Belgrade, ME 04917
151-2	1:50 PM	THE INFLUENCE OF ATHANASIUS KIRCHER'S HERMETIC AND NEO-PLATONIC WORLDVIEW ON MUNDUS SUBTERRANEUS : PARCELL, William C. , Department of Geology, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount Ave., Box 27, Wichita, KS 67260-0027, william.parcell@wichita.edu
151-3	2:05 PM	EDUARD SUESS, EUSTATIC MOVEMENTS, AND GLOBAL BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC CORRELATIONS : ATAYMAN, Saniye and SENGÖR, A.M. Celâl , Avrasya Yerbilimleri Enstitüsü, Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Ayazaga, Istanbul, 34469, Turkey, atayman@itu.edu.tr
151-4	2:20 PM	E. SUESS AND RUSSIAN GEOLOGISTS : NATALIN, Boris , Faculty of Mines, Istanbul Technical University, ITU, Maden Fakültesi, Geology Bolumu, Ayazaga, Istanbul 34449 Turkey, natalin@itu.edu.tr
151-5	2:35 PM	ETYMOLOGY OF PANGEA : RANCE, Hugh , Biological Science and Geology, Queensborough Community College, M-213, 222-05 56th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11354, hughrance@rcn.com
151-6	2:50 PM	DEVELOPMENT OF THE CYCLOTHEM CONCEPT BY CYCLIC GEOLOGISTS : MERRIAM, Daniel F. , Kansas Geological Survey, Univ of Kansas, 1930 Constant Ave, Campus West, Lawrence, KS 66047, dmerriam@kgs.ku.edu
	3:05 PM	Break

- 151-7 3:20 PM [EXPERIMENTS IN THE FIELD: GEORGE BECKER, CARL BARUS AND GEOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTATION AT THE COMSTOCK LODGE](#): **BROWN, Eric J.**, Program in History of Science, Princeton University, 721 Upshur St., NW, Washington, DC 20011, ebrown@umbc.edu
- 3:40 PM Discussion
- 151-8 3:55 PM [TRACKS, TRAILS, AND THIEVES: THE ADVENTURES AND DISCOVERIES OF FERDINAND V. HAYDEN'S 1868 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WYOMING AND ADJACENT TERRITORIES](#): **DEIBERT, Jack E.**, Geosciences, Austin Peay State University, P.O. Box 4418, Clarksville, TN 37044, deibertj@apsu.edu and **BREITHAUPT, Brent H.**, Geological Museum, Univ of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071
- 151-9 4:10 PM [THE "GRAND EXCURSION" OF THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS \[1891\]: CELEBRATING GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION IN THE AMERICAN WEST](#): **AALTO, K.R.**, Geology, Humboldt State Univ, Arcata, CA 95521, kra1@humboldt.edu
- 151-10 4:25 PM [A HISTORY OF FIELD STUDIES AND OBSERVATIONS ON VOLCANIC ROCKS OF THE SIERRA MADRE OCCIDENTAL, MEXICO](#): **SWANSON, Eric**, Earth & Environmental Science, Univ of Texas at San Antonio, 6900 N Loop 1604 W, San Antonio, TX 78249, eswanson@utsa.edu

History of Geology Division Reception:

The Division Reception will be held on this same Tuesday, October 30, from 5:00 PM till 7:00 PM, in the Colorado Convention Center, Room 608. This will be a busy Tuesday.

Also - **Please, we need items for our door prizes.** Check your book shelves and offices, surely there are a few duplicates there somewhere. Bring them along to the reception, but let Bill wbrice@pitt.edu know what you have so we will know what is coming. Thanks, and **please we need door prizes!!!**

Additional Sessions of Interest to the History of Geology Division Members:

Session No. 29 Sunday, 28 October 2007

3:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: 601

Geoscience Education I Wm. Jay Sims and Keith Montgomery, Presiding

29-1 3:30 PM TEACHING LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSIES TO IMPROVE GEOSCIENCE LEARNING: RELEVANT RESEARCH FINDINGS: WANDERSEE, James H., Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice, Louisiana State University, Room 223 F, Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, jwander@lsu.edu and CLARY, Renee M., Geosciences, Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 5448, Mississippi State, MS 39762

29-2 3:45 PM JUDGING SIDES IN A CONTROVERSY: THEORY CHOICE AS APPLIED TO EARTH EXPANSION AND SEA FLOOR SPREADING: MONTGOMERY, Keith, Geography - Geology, U. Wisconsin Marathon County, 518 South 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401, keith.montgomery@uwc.edu

29-3 4:00 PM INCORPORATING THE GREAT DINOSAUR FEUD IN GEOSCIENCE CLASSROOMS: A RESEARCH STUDY: CLARY, Renee M., Geosciences, Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 5448, Mississippi State, MS 39762, rclary@geosci.msstate.edu and WANDERSEE, James H., Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice, Louisiana State University, Room 223 F, Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

29-4 4:15 PM THE BIG RED CARROT - MARS AS A TOOL FOR GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION: ANDERSON, Marion, School of Geosciences, Monash University, School of Geosciences, Monash University, Victoria 3800 Australia, marion.anderson@sci.monash.edu.au

29-5 4:30 PM USING A MOCK TRIAL TO TEACH SCIENCE TO UNSCIENCE STUDENTS: BAIR, E. Scott, Geological Sciences, Ohio State Univ, 275 Mendenhall Laboratory, Columbus, OH 43210, bair.1@osu.edu and SVITANA, Kevin, Department of Life and Earth Science, Otterbein College, One Otterbein College, Westerville, OH 43081

29-6 4:45 PM WHAT TO DO? PALGARISM AND ORIGINALITY IN ONLINE GEOSCIENCE COURSES: SIMS, W. Jay, Department of Earth Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas, Little Rock, 2801 S. University, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099, wjsims@ualr.edu

29-7 5:00 PM ACCESS TO GEOLOGIC EDUCATION IN SECTARIAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: RITTERBUSH, Linda Anita, Department of Geology, California Lutheran University, 60 Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, ritterbu@clunet.edu

And Another one:

T50. Hydrogeology in the Desert: A Tribute to Ronit Nativ and Mahdi Hantush
GSA Hydrogeology Division Monday, October 29, 0800 hrs M. Bayani Cardenas, David Boutt
We celebrate the contributions of Mahdi Hantush and Ronit Nativ and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the program Hantush chaired in New Mexico. Presentations on aquifer hydraulics, a field pioneered by Hantush, as well as semi-arid zone hydrogeology are on the schedule.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

For Division Officer: Please consider nominating someone else *or yourself* 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, and, of course, Barb EchoHawk, our connection to GSA.

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 james.dawson@plattsburgh.edu with your suggestions. **The Nominating Committee is seeking both a Second Vice-Chair and a Secretary-Treasurer-Editor.**

[Editor's note: I want to encourage someone to step forward and volunteer to take my place as the Secretary-Treasurer-Editor of the Division, but for the stability of the Division, I hope this person will be willing to serve beyond just the first two-year term. The tasks are not overwhelming - at least not most of the time - and the rewards (not monetary, of course) are great. As for any officer, but especially in my position, you will get to work with some really great fellow members of the Division and with one of the greatest of all GSA employees, Barb EchoHawk. She has been a great support to me over the years and I know she will continue to support the person who follows me. Surely there is one among us who is willing to take over these duties and to help the Division continue to grow. We now, thanks to the kindness of Mary Rabbitt, have the financial support to really move this Division forward in ways we only dreamed about a few years ago, but it will take leadership and commitment on the part of our members. Serving in this position has been a great part of my membership in the Division and I know there is someone out there who will take over from me. I promise to work with you and see that the new Secretary-Treasurer-Editor gets off to a good start. Thanks, Bill]

Division Business - For Discussion and Action at the Business Meeting

The suggestion has been forwarded for the membership to consider the following items:

1. That the Division increase the Student Award amount to \$1,000.00 from the present \$500.00.
2. That the Division consider paying the expenses, or at least a portion thereof, for the Rabbitt Awardee; beyond just paying the luncheon costs for the Awardee and guest. Perhaps this could be a set amount as it is for the student award.

Note from the Secretary-Treasurer: With the income from the Rabbitt bequest, the Division can afford to increase the Student Award to \$1,000. Or my suggestion would be to, perhaps, consider having two student awards of \$500 each. That might encourage more students to apply. With regard to the second suggestion, whether the Division can afford to do this or not will depend on the amount that is suggested. But if we increase the Student Award to \$1,000, and if there is to be a monetary aspect to the Rabbitt Award, I would think it should be greater than the one for the students. To my knowledge in the past we have seldom, if ever, made any direct contribution to either the Rabbitt awardee or to the citationist. We have sometimes, for foreign awardees, helped to arrange a small lecture circuit in which the various universities involved paid the person directly for giving a lecture, but very little has been forthcoming directly from the Division. Bring your ideas to the meeting or forward them to me at wbrice@pitt.edu.

Cheers, Bill

ITEMS OF INTEREST

► **Maps now online:** The University of New Hampshire has put digital copies of two early geologic atlases on line:

Charles Hitchcock, *Atlas to Accompany the Report on the Geology of New Hampshire*, 1878.
<http://docs.unh.edu/Hitchcock/pages/index.html>

D. H. Hurd & Co., *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*, 1892.
<http://docs.unh.edu/Hurd/pages/index.html>

► **New book on the history of oil well drilling:**

History of Oil Well Drilling, by J. E. Brantly [ISBN-10: 0-87201-634-X]; GPC Books, 2007, \$149.95.
www.gpcbooks.com

► **History of Geology Activity in Australia -**

Earth Sciences History Group - A Specialist Group of the GSA Inc. [Geological Society of Australia]

Email News No.1 - The ESHG has decided to begin using email to provide more up-to-date news to its members. This Email News is No. 1, and provides information about the conference the ESHG Committee is planning for November 2007 in Melbourne.

Details have already appeared in *The Australian Geologist* for March 2007.

Go to <http://vic.gsa.org.au/eshg.htm> and follow the link given under "Chairman's website" - that is: <http://web.earthsci.unimelb.edu.au/Joyce/eshg.html>. There you can read: 1. The latest details on the conference; 2. The details that appeared earlier in TAG (follow the link provided); and 3. A second link

invites you to send us your Expression of Interest in attending the meeting.

Future ESHG Email News - We do not have email addresses for all our members, and of course we would like to have as many email addresses as possible. On the other hand, when you receive this email, you may want to have your email address removed from the list for future ESHG Email News. If so, please let us know, by email, to ebj@unimelb.edu.au.

Bernie Joyce Chair, ESHG Committee, Melbourne, 8th April 2007.

► A New Book Available

Hi - my name is James St. John. I'm a paleontologist at Ohio State University at Newark. The recent history of geology newsletter asked that people submit items of interest to you.

A new book has just been released by the New York State Museum with 15 contributions on the history of research on trilobite fossils. The book has an international cast of authors, including the late Ellis Yochelson.

Title: Fabulous Fossils, 300 Years of Worldwide Research on Trilobites.

Series: New York State Museum Bulletin # 507.

Date: Released February 2007.

This will undoubtedly be of interest to paleontologists and general geologists and, of course, historians of geology. The contributions include documentation of trilobites in archaeological sites to discussions of trilobite research & researchers in the 20th century. The contributions also focus on different geographic areas, from North America to Europe to China to Australia to Brazil to Korea.

All the Best, James St. John, stjohn.2@osu.edu; Founders Hall 156A, 1179 University Drive, Ohio State University at Newark, Newark, Ohio 43055 USA

Contact Professor St. John or the New York State Museum for price and shipping details.

► A Request for Assistance

Dear Members of the Board of the GSA History of Geology Division:

I would appreciate suggestions of people who would be qualified (and willing, hopefully) to review the manuscript of a book about the history of geology. The book covers the period from the early 1500s to the mid-1960s. It is aimed at serious non-specialists. It would perhaps be suitable also as an introductory college textbook.

The manuscript was written primarily by my mother, Kathleen Mark. She died in 2005 just after completing her first draft. I had worked with her as an editor before her death. Afterwards I rewrote much of the book with the aim of improving readability while keeping the original focus and organization.

The manuscript has been submitted to a publisher, but the publisher has not managed to find reviewers. Not being a geologist or historian myself, I am not sufficiently familiar with the community to be able to recommend reviewers.

Thanks for your help.

Graham Mark
CCS-3, Information Sciences, MS B295
Los Alamos National Laboratory
505-667-8147; gam@lanl.gov

Home Address: 2076 47th Street, Los Alamos NM 87544

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Meetings Past

► **INHIGEO, 2007**

Eichstätt, Bavaria, GERMANY

The regular meeting of INHIGEO, the International Commission on the History of the Geological Sciences, a commission of the International Union of Geological Sciences, and an affiliate of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Sciences, was held in Eichstätt, Germany and environs from July 28th through August 5th, 2007. The meeting topic was “The historical relationship of geology and religion” which drew 51 papers and keynote lectures over four days. The papers were preceded, interleaved with, and followed by field trips. The meeting was superbly organized by Martina Kölbl-Ebert, historian of geology and director of the impressive Jura-Museum in the castle of Willibaldsburg overlooking Eichstätt, where the welcoming party was held with every delicacy known to Bavaria. Eichstätt is a beautiful town, located along the Altmühl River, itself the focal point of the Altmühl Valley Natural Park with its network of hiking/biking trails and opportunities to kayak and canoe.

The first weekend’s field trip introduced us to the volcanology of the Swabian “volcano” with its many diatremes, as well as karst features, and posidonia shales. We also saw the remains of the Heidengraben, the largest fortified Celtic settlement in central Europe. In probably the most refreshing end to any day in the field, we “investigated” remnant heat in the region by immersing ourselves in the thermal baths at Beuran, where many informal symposia took place in the cool and the warm pools. The Wednesday trip took us to quarries and museums in the Solnhofen lithographic limestone. One of the quarries was where the first *Archaeopteryx* fossil was found. The final weekend took us to the Steinheim Basin and the Ries Crater. Evidence for the origin of these impact craters is very well preserved, and was presented in the field and in an excellent museum.

After the opening session in the Hall of Mirrors in the residential palace of Eichstätt, which included Martina’s discussion of the natural history collection, the other papers were given in the Bishop’s Seminary. There were approximately 80 participants from 18 countries, and the papers covered a wide range of facets of the meeting topic as authors considered intersections of geology and religion, from ancient times to Islamic visions to Asian concepts to European and American contributions through the ages. Many of the presentations engendered vigorous discussion and some of the papers will be published in the symposium volume to be produced by the Geological Society of London.

This report would be remiss if it did not mention several of the intrepid spouses who attended. Martin Ebert was Martina’s valuable right-hand man, keeping the entire enterprise on track. Gracious and friendly Kay Bork helps INHIGEO business move forward, along with Secretary-General Ken Bork, while Greg Clota, husband of Carol Bacon, retrieved several errant companions when they forgot that everyone in a canoe should not lean the same way while paddling down the Altmühl.

All in all, it was an extremely enjoyable and productive set of technical sessions and field excursions.

Sally Newcomb

Meetings Upcoming

► **History of Science Society**

November 1-4, 2007

Washington, D. C.

Marriott Crystal Gateway, Arlington, VA

Please see the web site: www.hssonline.org

► 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: To go on the mailing list to receive further information about this event, email cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk putting 'HOGG bicentenary event' in the subject line.

For information on this and other HOGG events, go to: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/HOGG>. List of Bicentenary conference papers now online, plus registration form, etc. See details at: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=HOGG2007>

► Burgess Shale discovery anniversary conference announcement:

Apologies for cross-postings. Philosophers of science are particularly welcome to attend.

Dear colleagues, We invite you to participate in an International meeting on the Cambrian Explosion to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the discovery of the Burgess Shale by Charles D. Walcott. This meeting will be organized in August of 2009 in Banff National Park, Canada. Please do not hesitate to advertise this event as widely as possible.

International Scientific and Organizing Committee:

Co-Chairs: Dr. Jean Bernard Caron (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto), jcaron@rom.on.ca; Dr. Doug Erwin (Smithsonian Institution, Washington), ERWIND@si.edu; David Rudkin (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto), davidru@rom.on.ca

Members: Dr. Stephen Dornbos (Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), sdornbos@uwm.edu; Dr. Sarah Gabbott (Univ. of Leicester), sg21@le.ac.uk; Dr. Robert Gaines (Pomona College), robert.gaines@pomona.edu; Dr. Charles Henderson (Univ. of Calgary), cmhender@ucalgary.ca; Dr. Paul Johnston (Mount Royal College, Calgary), pajohnston@mtroyal.ca; Kimberley Johnston (Palaeontographica Canadiana), kimberley@paleos.ca; Dr. George Pemberton (Univ. of Alberta), george.pemberton@ualberta.ca; Dr. Jean Vannier (Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1), jean.vannier@univ-lyon1.fr; Dr. Xingliang Zhang, (Dept. of Geology, Northwest Univ., Xian), xlzhang@pub.xaonline.com; Dr. Maoyan Zhu (Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences), myzhu@nigpas.ac.cn.

For more information please contact: Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron, Associate Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, Burgess Shale Collection, Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6 CANADA; Tel.: 416-586-5593; Fax: 416-586-5863; E-mail: jcaron@rom.on.ca.

CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

► **History of Geology Student Award:** The History of Geology Division is soliciting proposals for a student award of \$500, and the selected paper will be given at the GSA Annual 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 annual GSA meeting may take place after graduation. While both oral and poster presentations are acceptable, 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 competition 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. The award will be presented at the History of Geology Division luncheon. A ticket to the 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 (see 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 Eric J. Brown

2005 Lee J. Florea
2008 ???

2006 Alistair Sponsel

► **Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award:** The Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award is presented annually by the GSA 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 (see Division Officers list).

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 ??

► **The Gerald M and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award:** The GSA History of Geology Division's Friedman Distinguished Service Award, 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 may not be limited to, the discovery of and making available of rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; organizing meetings and symposia in the history of geology; or 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 (see Division Officers list).

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2006 Robert Ginsburg

2007 Michele L. Aldrich and Alan E. Leviton

2008 ??

2006-2007 HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION OFFICERS

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