

THE

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DIVISION

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<http://gsahist.org>

May 2008

TIME TO THINK HOUSTON – ABSTRACTS NEEDED

5 – 9 October 2008

Abstract Deadline: 3 June 2008

<https://www.acsmeetings.org/2008/>

The website above references the joint meeting between The Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS). The vision is to highlight and stimulate discussions in areas of common interest across the diversity of disciplines and organizations represented.

Shared involvement in Energy, Water Resources, Education, and Earth Systems, to name a few, will foster a program comprising thousands of scientific papers, hundreds of exhibits, and a myriad of distinguished lectures and special events, to engage students and professionals across the earth sciences and in every employment sector.

Joint Session Categories Include

- Climate Change through Time: Evidence in the Geologic Record
- The Impending Global Water Crisis: Geology, Soils, Agronomy, and International Security
- Energy Budgets and the Global Market
- Globalization of Biogeochemical Cycles
- Wetland and River Restoration: Environmental Saviors or Scientific Failure?
- Coastal Impacts: Can Massive Environmental Restoration and Coastal Engineering Protect the Gulf Coast from Future Hurricane Impacts and Rising Sea Levels?
- Geobiology and Biomineralization: From the Origins of Life to the Origins of Cities
- Emerging Trace Contaminants in Surface and Ground Water generated from Waste Water and Solid Waste Application
- Carbon Sequestration: Methods, Markets and Policy
- Human Influences on the Stratigraphic Record

Below is the [Call For Papers](#) for the Houston 2008 Annual Meeting:

Call For Papers

Technical Program and Abstract Submittal FAQs

Like everything in Texas, the Annual Meeting is bigger this year!

In addition to submitting an abstract to GSA, you have the option of submitting one to a Joint Session, an ASA-CSSA-SSSA session, or a Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies session. You can submit up to two abstracts (total) - one oral and one poster.

• How do I know what system to use to submit my abstract?

All abstracts for the 2008 Joint Meeting are submitted via the online abstracts system. Sessions sponsored by the different societies, however, are accessed via different links. These links are provided below.

• What is a Joint Session?

The meeting offers 28 interdisciplinary sessions cosponsored by GSA, ASA-CSSA-SSSA, and GCAGS. Topics covered in this exciting series include biofuels production, aeolian research, emerging contaminants in water/soils/sediments, impacts of energy development on water resources, soil physics and vadose zone hydrology, and many more.

[\[Joint Sessions with Descriptions\]](#)

• How do I submit an abstract to a Joint Session?

Two choices: *The difference is that #1 has descriptions and allows you to filter the list by sponsor.*

- (1) Click on [\[submit an abstract to this session\]](#) in the [Joint Sessions with Descriptions](#) page which will take you directly to the appropriate place in the abstracts form, or
- (2) go to [Joint Sessions](#) from the main page of the GSA abstracts form. Scroll to the session you're interested in and double click on the title. Follow the instructions for submitting your abstract.

Deadline for Joint Session Abstracts: 3 June.

• How do I submit an abstract to a GSA topical session?

GSA is offering 209 topical sessions at the meeting.

You have two choices: *The difference is that #1 has descriptions and allows you to filter the list by discipline category and/or sponsor.*

- (1) Click on [\[submit an abstract to this session\]](#) in the [Topical Sessions with Descriptions](#) page which will take you directly to the appropriate place in the abstracts form, or
- (2) go to [Topical Sessions](#) from the main page of the GSA abstracts form. Scroll to the session you're interested in and double click on the title. Follow the instructions for submitting your abstract.

Deadline for GSA Topical Session Abstracts: 3 June.

• How do I submit my abstract to a GSA Pardee Keynote Symposium?

GSA is offering six symposia at the meeting. FOR INVITED SPEAKERS ONLY.

You have two choices: *The difference is that #1 has descriptions.*

- (1) Click on [\[submit an abstract to this session\]](#) in the [Pardee Keynote Symposia with Descriptions](#) page which will take you directly to the appropriate place in the abstracts form, or
- (2) Go to [Pardee Keynote Sessions](#) from the main page of the GSA abstracts form. Scroll to the session you're interested in and double click on the title. Follow the instructions for submitting your abstract.

Deadline for GSA Topical Session Abstracts: 3 June.

• How do I submit an abstract to a GSA general discipline session?

GSA will organize discipline sessions in 39 categories. Go to [General Discipline Sessions](#) from the main page of the GSA abstracts form. Select the category you're interested in and double click on the title. Follow the instructions for submitting your abstract.

Deadline for GSA General Discipline Session Abstracts: 3 June

• **How do I submit an abstract to an SSSA-ASA-CSSA session?**

Go to the [ASA-CSSA-SSSA Web page](#) to view all divisions. ASA has 11 divisions, CSSA has 8 divisions, and SSSA has 11 divisions. There are also 6 special Z divisions. Select the division of interest in which you would like to present your paper and follow the instructions from there.

Note: To submit an abstract to CSSA, the presenting author must be a member of CSSA.

Visit the [CSSA home page](#) in order to join before submitting an abstract.

Deadline for SSSA-ASA-CSSA session abstracts: 1 April.

Deadline for editing SSSA-ASA-CSSA session abstracts: 3 June.

• **How do I submit an abstract to a Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) session?**

GCAGS is offering 19 sessions at the meeting.

Note: To present in a GCAGS session, you must submit an abstract AND a manuscript or extended abstract.

To submit an abstract, you have two choices:

The difference is that #1 has descriptions and allows you to filter the list by sponsor.

(1) Click on [[submit an abstract to this session](#)] in the [GCAGS Sessions with Descriptions](#) page which will take you directly to the appropriate place in the abstracts form, or

(2) go the [Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies](#) from the main page of the GSA abstracts form. Scroll to the session you're interested in and double click on the title. Follow the instructions for submitting your abstract.

Deadline for GCAGS session abstracts: 3 June.

To submit your required manuscript or extended abstract: Go to the [GCAGS website](#).

Deadline for GCAGS manuscripts or extended abstracts: 24 June.

• **Where do I go for help?**

For assistance with abstract submittal for GSA, GCAGS, or Joint Sessions, contact Nancy Wright nwright@geosociety.org; +1-303-357-1061.

For assistance with abstract submittal for ASA-CSSA-SSSA sessions, contact Linda Nelson lnelson@agronomy.org; +1-608-268-4963.

!KEEP THINKING HOUSTON!

Houston 2008 Joint Annual Meeting

CALL FOR HISTORY OF GEOLOGY PAPERS

October 5-9, 2008

Abstract Deadline: June 3

The abstract deadline is early this year: June 3. Please consider supporting our division by presenting in one of these sessions!

There will be a lot of history of geology happening in Houston. The History of Geology Division will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring the following technical sessions:

- 1) Topical Session 207. **Alpine concepts in geology and the evolution of geological thought.**
- 2) Topical Session 208. **History of the influence of religion on geology and geology on religion.**
- 3) **Historical links between soil sciences and geology.** (This session is a special “Z-Series session of SSSA-ASA-CSSA,” so you will not find it in the GSA program. Also, the deadline for submitting an abstract for this session was April 1.)
- 4) **History of Geology General Session.**

The History of Geology Division is also sponsoring a **field trip and a short course**. Of course, we will also have our usual business meeting luncheon and our reception for students and friends.

Field Trip: History of Oil and Gas Exploration in Southeast Texas. This will be an all-day, pre-meeting bus trip on Saturday, October 4, to Beaumont and Galveston. It will be a great trip with stops at museums and key localities in the history of oil and gas exploration.

Half-Day Short Course: Teaching Darwin, taught by HoG Division member and former Chair **Léo Laporte**. 2009 will be the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Léo will share his experience and web resources in this half-day short course, scheduled for Saturday morning, October 4.

HoGD Luncheon: Tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 6.

Students and Friends of HoGD Reception: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 7.

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA HISTORY SESSION

List of Papers in a Joint SSSA and HOGD Session:

Z04 40803: Geologic Mentoring of Early Soil Surveyors.

[Eric C. Brevik](#), Depts of Natural Sciences and Agriculture and Technical Studies, Dickinson State University, 291 Campus Dr., Dickinson, ND 58601

Z04 40980: The International Humic Substances Society (IHSS) as a link between geology, hydrology and soil science through organic matter studies: an historical perspective.

[Christian Feller](#)¹, [Yona Chen](#)², [Michel Brossard](#)¹, [Edward Landa](#)³ and [Jean Trichet](#)⁴, (1)2, Place Viala, IRD - Institut pour la Recherche et le Developpement, Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement (IRD), ENSAM, Batiment 12, Montpellier Cedex 1, 34060, FRANCE, (2)PO Box 12, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dept of Soil & Water, Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, 76100, ISRAEL, (3)USGS, U.S. Geological Survey MS 430, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 20192, (4)Laboratoire de Gèologie de la Matière organique, Université d’Orléans, B.P. 6759, 45067 Orléans Cedex 2, France

Z04 41243: The ties that bind: A glimpse at the life and career of William Edgar Tharp.

[Edward Landa](#), USGS, U.S. Geological Survey MS 430, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 20192

Z04 41518: Soil Geomorphology in the United States.

[Vance T. Holliday](#), Anthropology & Geosciences, University of Arizona, 1009 E. South Campus Drive, Tucson, AZ 85721

Z04 41870: The Role of Lysimeters in the Development of Our Understanding of Water Dynamics in Ecosystems.

[Michael J. Goss](#), Kemptville Campus, University of Guelph, University of Guelph, Kemptville Campus, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0, Canada and [Wilfried Ehlers](#), Georg-August University, Garten Weg, 5, Waake, Gottingen, Germany

Z04 41892: Marie Tharp: the lady who showed us the ocean floors.

[Gary North](#), North Arrow, Ltd.; US Geological Survey (retired), 43685 Augusta National Terrace, Leesburg, VA 20176

Z04 41984: What the Antebellum Farmer Knew and Why Anyone Cared: A Story for Today about the Moral Basis from Which Soil Science and Geology Were Born.

[Benjamin Cohen](#), Science, Technology, and Society, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904

Z04 42663: The Common Histories of SSSA and The Clay Minerals Society.

[Joseph W. Stucki](#), University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, W-321 Turner Hall, 1102 S Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

Z04 42872: History Matters: Links between Environmental History and Environmental Science.

[Martin Melosi](#), Department of History, University of Houston, 556 Agnes Arnold Hall, Houston, TX 77204-3003

Z04 43014: A Fruitful Synthesis: Soil Science and Geology in Russia, 1880-1930.

[Lloyd Ackert](#), History and Politics, Drexel University, 42 Dwight St. #3, New Haven, CT 06511

Z04 43930: The Pre-History of Soil Science: Jethro Tull, the Invention of the Seed Drill and the Foundations of Modern Agriculture.

[Laura B. Sayre](#), Independent Scholar, P.O. Box 219, Ferndale, PA 18921

Z04 44020: William Edgar Tharp and Hugh Hammond Bennett: Early Soil Survey Interpretations for Agricultural Progress.

[J. Douglas Helms](#), USDA-NRCS, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013

Z04 45816: Historical Descriptions of Soils and Landscapes of the Texas Gulf Coast.

[Darrell Schulze](#), Purdue University-Agronomy Dept., Purdue Univ.-Agronomy Dept., 915 W State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054

Z04 44584: Interrelationship of Pedologic and Geological Mapping.

[Ahmet Ruhi Mermut](#), Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, Science Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8, Canada. D.H. Yaalon, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Institute of Earth Sciences, Givat Ram Campus, Jerusalem 91904.

Note:

- *2008 Joint Annual Meeting Headquarters Hotel – Hilton Americas Houston*
- *Most Activities Held – George R. Brown Convention Center*
- *Registration and housing reservation - begin in June.*

**See you in Houston!
Houston in '08!**

**See you in Space City!
Houston in '08!**

**See you in Houston!
Houston in '08!**

HOGD SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THREE AWARDS!!

The History of Geology Division is actively seeking nominations for any of the three awards that are offered each year to qualifying individuals. Deadline date for submission of two of the awards is February 1; the third award is May 1. Please consider potential awardees for 2009. *The Division strongly encourages the submission of qualifying candidates for these awards.* The three awards are described below:

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY STUDENT AWARD May 1 Submission Date

Consider this award for students who are deserving of a distinction. Too late for this year? Why not consider student candidates now for a submission in 2009?

Scope of Award

The History of Geology Division seeks proposals:

- for a **student award** in the amount of \$500;
- the requirement is the development of a paper to be presented at the GSA Annual Meeting in October/November;
- consideration is given to both undergraduate and graduate students.

While both oral and poster presentations are acceptable, oral presentations are preferred. Faculty advisors may be listed as second author, but not as the lead author of the paper.

Guidelines for Preparation

The proposed paper may be: (1) 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 not previously considered.

The award is open to all students regardless of subject-matter discipline, provided the proposed paper is related to the historical development of a particular geological idea or concept in the geological sciences; research into a particular individual who offered new insights in the field of geology; or the historical development of a particular technology that improved a better understanding of the Earth; and so on.

Procedure

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.

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.

This award, established in 2004, is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mary C. Rabbitt.

Guidelines for Submission

Proposal guidelines and application forms are available from the Division website at <http://gsahist.org>.

If there are any questions about the award, procedure, or scope of the guidelines, please contact the History of Geology Division Secretary-Treasurer. All applications and proposed abstracts should be forwarded to Division Secretary-Treasurer [Christopher J. Schubert](#), whose address is given below.

All communication is to be in the electronic e-mail format. The completed application, together with any supporting documentation, is to be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments.

Due date for proposals and completed application is *May 1* each year. This allows adequate time for the proposal to be reviewed and the selection made for the award in time to meet the official GSA deadline. Also in this way, the GSA abstract can be refined should that be necessary. The History of Geology Division's Award Committee will make the final selection.

Point of Contact:

Dr. Christopher J. Schubert (Retired)
Secretary-Treasurer, History of Geology Division of GSA
12 Chelsea Court, Marlton, NJ 08053-2804; kyanite23@verizon.net

MARY C. RABBITT HISTORY OF GEOLOGY AWARD **February 1 Submission Date**

Scope of 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. Neither the nominator nor the nominee needs to be a member of the History of Geology Division or be a member of The Geological Society of America.

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 History of Geology Award was established by the History of Geology Division in 1981 and in 2005 renamed as the Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award as a memorial to Mary C. Rabbitt.

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. Please refer to the Division website at <http://gsahist.org> for past awardees.

All communication is to be in the electronic e-mail format. The completed application, together with any supporting documentation, is to be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments.

Person for whom the award is named:

The late Mrs. Mary C. Rabbitt served as a geophysicist, administrator, and research historian with the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. After retiring in 1978, she completed a three-volume history and assessment (1980-1986) of the public lands, Federal earth-science and mapping policies, and the development of mineral resources in the United States from its founding to 1939. These contributions to knowledge earned for Mrs. Rabbitt The Geological Society of America's History of Geology Award (1984) and the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award (1988).

Point of Contact

Dr. Christopher J. Schuberth, GSA History of Geology Division Secretary-Treasurer, 12 Chelsea Court, Marlton, NJ 08053-2894; e-mail: kyanite23@verizon.net.

**GERALD M. and SUE T. FRIEDMAN
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
February 1 Submission Date**

Scope of Award

This award of The History of Geology Division of The Geological Society of America was created in 2005, to 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. Neither the nominator nor the nominee has to be a member of the Division or of GSA.

The service to the history of geology may include, but 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; exceptional service to the Division; and so on.

All communication is to be in the electronic, e-mail format. The completed application, together with any supporting documentation, is to be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments.

The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is **February 1** each year. Please refer to the Division website at <http://gsahist.org> for a list of past awardees.

Persons for whom the award is named:

Gerald M. Friedman has made many significant contributions to research in the energy industry, and has long been committed to education and academic research. Dr. Friedman is currently Distinguished Professor at Brooklyn College, which has been his home since 1985, after a long and productive career involving appointments at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Cincinnati, and Amoco Petroleum Corporation. He has received the highest honors in the field of sedimentary geology, including the Twenhofel Medal of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) and the Sidney Power's Medal of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Among many other honors, he is the recipient of The Institute for the Study of Earth and Man's Hollis D. Hedberg Award.

Sue T. Friedman has been an integral partner in Gerry's life and work and has herself committed countless hours in most all of Gerry's projects, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the

advancement of the history of geology. She has also held official positions of service during the formative years of the History of Geology Division, in Gerry's Northeastern Science Foundation, and with the *Northeastern Geology* and *Environmental Sciences* journals.

Point of Contact

Dr. Christopher J. Schubert, GSA History of Geology Division Secretary-Treasurer, 12 Chelsea Court, Marlton, NJ 08053-2804; kyanite23@verizon.net.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DECEMBER 31, 2007

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE SOURCES

Division Dues Income		\$1,075.11
Contributions		300.00
	-	
Total Revenue		\$1,375.11

EXPENSES

Postage, Shipping, Freight		344.64
Printing (Newsletters/Labels)		235.00
Awards, Purchased		117.24
Catering & Entertainment		816.82
	-	
Total Expenses		\$1,513.70

NET INCOME/(LOSS)	=	(\$138.59)
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash		4,526.52
	-	
Total Assets		\$4,526.52

LIABILITIES

Deferred Dues Income		1,363.89
Net Assets, Beginning of Year		3,301.22
Net Income/Loss Current Year		(138.59)
	-	

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, Year to Date	=	\$4,526.52
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VIDEO CLIPS TAKEN AT 2007 ANNUAL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ON THE HOG WEBSITE

Visit our website listed under the headline banner of this newsletter and view two clips taken at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Denver. In addition to the two clips, you will find a series of photographs taken of the three HoG award recipients, the Student Award, Sue T. and Gerald M. Friedman Award, and Mary C. Rabbitt Award, as well as photos of those making the citations.

In addition, the four newsletters for calendar year 2007 are posted, as is the application for the History of Geology Division Student Award. Archived newsletters go back to January 2001, and pictures of past GSA meetings include 2002 Denver, 2003 Seattle, and the Penrose Conference of March 19-21, 1994. Other links of interest include Rock Stars in *GSA Today* and the guidelines for the preparation of Rock Star profiles.

An important link is the application for the History of Geology Division Student Award. You are encouraged to propose a student for the award. The awardee receives the amount of \$500 for a paper to be given at the GSA Annual Meeting. See pages 5-6 of this newsletter for more details.

An Important Announcement

Inauguration of the Portraits of the Famous Project

Bill Brice, Bob Dott, and Bob Ginsburg propose organizing a collection of portraits, photographs, and related materials of famous and perhaps not-so-famous personalities who well served the geologic profession. One of the reasons for such a *Portraits of the Famous* project is that requests for information often come forward to provide information about a geologist or to identify someone in an old photo who should be known to us. The other is that we have gathered so much information about the different personalities that it would well be in our best interest to post such a gallery of the famous on our website.

Plans for the *Portraits of the Famous* project would be, with appropriate copyright permission, to post on the History of Geology website portraits of famous (and perhaps not-so-famous) geologists. The project will require considerable coordination, including selecting those individuals to be represented in the gallery, finding and obtaining the best likeness of the individual, obtaining copyright permission and, importantly, preparing a short biographical sketch.

At this juncture, it might be appropriate to survey the membership to see who and how many are interested in participating. Since the project is in its preliminary stage, there is little else that can be said at this time, and no further guidelines are yet available. So, please stay tuned.

Indicate your interest in this project by sending a brief e-mail to:

Christopher (Chris) J. Schubert, GSA History of Geology Division Secretary, kyanite23@verizon.net.

SIR FREDERICK McCOY GRAVESITE RESTORATION



Fractured grave slab (left) at the base of Sir Frederick McCoy's headstone (right).

Sir Frederick McCoy, Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), (1817 [birth year uncertain] – 16 May 1899) served with distinction as a British paleontologist and museum administrator in Australia. His grave is located at Brighton General Cemetery southeast of Melbourne, Victoria, at East Brighton. His grave over the years has fallen into disrepair. A recent visiting scientist took exception, complained about its condition, and the restoration is now underway.

In response, a small volunteer group is seeking funds in the amount of \$(US) 8500. The **History of Geology Division** has deemed the effort worthy and approved a modest donation of \$(US) 500.00 to this effort. Contributions from its individual members or others who wish to also donate would be most gratefully accepted and appreciated. All donors will be recognized on a special bronze plaque mounted at the site. Work is in progress, and the re-dedication ceremony of the grave is scheduled for 27-28 September 2008. Attendance is encouraged if you are Australia-bound.

Donations should be made payable to and mailed to the following address. Funds can also be wired, and if interested, contact Chris Schuberth, HoGD Secretary, at kyanite23@verizon.net as to the procedure.

Ground Mailing Address:

Brighton Cemeterians, Inc.
P. O. Box 8054
North Road LPO
East Brighton, VIC 3187, Australia

Some details on Sir Frederick McCoy's life follow:

Birth and Education

Frederick McCoy was the son of Simon McCoy, MD, and was born in Dublin. Some sources have his birth in 1823, but 1817 seems to be the most likely. He was educated in Dublin, and at Cambridge for the medical profession.

Paleontology Career

McCoy's early interests centered in natural history, especially in geology. At the age of eighteen, he published a *Catalogue of Organic Remains compiled from specimens exhibited in the Rotunda at Dublin* (1841). He assisted Sir R. J. Griffith in studying the fossils of the Silurian and Carboniferous of Ireland. They jointly prepared two papers, in 1844, *A Synopsis of the Character of Carboniferous Limestone Fossils of Ireland* and in 1846, *Synopsis of the Silurian Fossils of Ireland*.

In 1846, Adam Sedgwick secured his services, and for at least four years he devoted himself to the determination and arrangement of the fossils in the Woodwardian Museum at Cambridge. Sedgwick wrote of him as "an excellent naturalist, an incomparable and most philosophical paleontologist, and one of the steadiest and quickest workmen that ever undertook the arrangement of a museum" (*Life and Letters of Sedgwick*, ii. 194). Together they prepared the important and now classic work titled *A Synopsis of the Classification of the British Paleozoic Rocks, with a Systematic Description of the British Paleozoic Fossils in the Geological Museum of the University of Cambridge* (1855). Meanwhile McCoy, in 1850, had been appointed Professor of Geology in Queens College, Belfast.

Career in Australia

In 1854, McCoy accepted the newly founded professorship of natural science in the University of Melbourne. There he lectured for upwards of thirty years. When McCoy began his work at the university, there were few students, and for many years he taught classes in chemistry, mineralogy, botany, zoology, comparative anatomy, geology and paleontology. In trying to cover all the disciplines it was difficult for him to keep up his readings across all the disciplines. Instead, he remained committed to and distinguished himself in paleontology. He established the National Museum of Natural History and Geology in Melbourne of which he was director; and by becoming associated with the Geological Survey of Victoria as paleontologist. He assembled one of the finest natural history collections outside Europe and North America. He issued a series entitled *Prodromus of the Paleontology of Victoria* and the *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria*. He served as President of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1864 and Vice President in 1861 and 1870.

McCoy corresponded widely with his peers in Europe, exchanging information, ideas and specimens. Firmly entrenched in Melbourne's Anglican establishment, understandably, even though a scientist, McCoy vocally opposed Charles Darwin's emerging theory of evolution since Darwinian evolution so challenged the established thinking about life origins. Several protracted public arguments opposing Darwin's hypothesis must be placed into the context of the time.

Leadbeater's Possum

In the field of biology, Sir Frederick McCoy achieved recognition in finding the Leadbeater's Possum, *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri* (McCoy), the official faunal emblem of Victoria State. The animal is an endangered marsupial restricted to small pockets of remaining old growth mountain ash forests in the central highlands of Victoria, Australia, north-east of Melbourne. McCoy was the first European to capture and describe this particular possum in 1867. By 1909, the species was thought to be extinct

and there were no later sightings for over 60 years when the species was rediscovered near Marysville in 1961. Today, it is thought there are less than 4000 individual Leadbeater's Possums remaining. A concerted effort is underway to study this extremely rare species within the very small areas it inhabits: its requirement for year-round food supplies and tree-holes to take refuge in during the day restricts it to mixed-age wet sclerophyll forest with a dense mid-story of *Acacia*. It is the only species in the *Gymnobelideus* genus. It was named by McCoy after John Leadbeater, then taxidermist at the Museum of Victoria.

Noted Distinctions

To local societies, he contributed many papers, and he continued his active scientific work for fifty-eight years -- his last contribution, *Note on a new Australian Pterygotus*, was printed in the *Geological Magazine* for May 1899. He was awarded the Murchinson Medal of the Geological Society of London in 1879 and was elected F.R.S. in 1880, and was one of the first to receive the Hon. D.Sc. from the University of Cambridge. In 1886, he was made Companion Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) and in 1891, Knight Commander (KCMG). He died and rests in Brighton, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria.

OFFICERS FOR 2008 HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION

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Editor's Note:

This is the Editor's first attempt (ever) to transfer photos from one document to this one and which required considerable technical support from my wife, Judith. Considering the time and effort required to learn new skills, and the shallow learning curve to boot, the result I think is not too shabby. With time and experience, quality should improve, and the frequency of photos and other illustrations committed to being published should increase. Thank you for your patience.