

THE ASSOCIATION OF EXPLORATION GEOCHEMISTS



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NEWSLETTER #4

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R. F. Horsnail
H. W. Lakin
J. H. McCarthy

Our Association continues to grow and expand internationally and significant progress has been made in several areas as described in the accompanying committee reports. A total of 35 new members have been formally accepted into the Association, 10 of whom are from outside North America. This brings the current total membership to 312, representing 25 countries. In spite of this, we have as yet no members from Japan, a country extremely active in exploration geochemistry. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the return this year of Dr. Beus, who is now an Association member, to his homeland will provide a base for stimulating greater participation in the Association by Russian geochemists. In Japan, Professor Shiikawa has shown keen interest in the coming Symposium and has been assisting Professor Bloom in gathering information for the Research and Education Committee studies. Professor Shiikawa is applying for membership in the Association and has asked for application forms to distribute to his colleagues. We hope the London Symposium in April will stimulate many more geochemists, particularly from Europe, to join our Association.

London Symposium - Plans for the meeting appear to be progressing very favourably. Four technical sessions are scheduled plus field trips to Ireland, Southwest England and Scotland, and a ladies program, cocktail party and benquet are planned. Over 50 synopses have been submitted from many parts of the world for possible presentation covering a broad range of subjects. To date over 362 delegates have indicated that they expect to attend; accompanying wives number 114. The Symposium organizers report that the second circular will be dispatched in December outlining the program, field trips, etc.

Air Charters to the Symposium are being organized from the United States (by J.H. McCarthy), Australia (by D. Sampey) and Canada (by M. Mehrtens). If you are interested in joining a charter originating from any of these countries and have not already returned the April newsletter questionnaire, please contact the above members directly (see membership list for addresses). A charter from Oakland and Denver has already been reserved leaving for London on April 15 and returning from London on April 30. Return fare from Denver is \$249.00. Investigations are continuing into flights originating from Australia and Canada. Progress in the latter has been hampered by the uncertainties in trans-Atlantic fares, but the situation should soon be clarified and a course of action decided upon.

The Council meeting held earlier this month, the third by this Council since its inception after the March annual meeting, was the best attended and in my view, most productive one to date. Nine Councillors gathered in Toronto, travelling from Washington, Denver, Vancouver, Ottawa and Kingston. Plans for compiling and printing an updated bibliography

were finalized, major progress was made with regard to constitution revision and the decision taken to enter into an agreement with Elsevier Publishing Co. for the publication of our own Journal of Exploration Geochemistry. Details of these developments are given in the respective accompanying committee reports to which I would like to add a few personal comments and refer to some views expressed during the Council meeting.

Bibliography - The Association is indeed fortunate that Dr. Hawkes, who, as I am sure you are all aware, was involved in compiling previous bibliographies on exploration geochemistry for the United States Geological Survey, and who prepared the bibliography handout distributed at the Toronto Symposium, has agreed to accept the responsibility of spearheading the arduous task of compiling and editing an updated bibliography for publication by the Association. This bibliography will be printed with a hard-back cover and distributed early next year, hopefully in time to enclose with the January newsletter, to all Association members at no cost. I wish to draw your attention to Dr. Hawke's request for suggestions and references for the new bibliography. Note that these should be sent directly to him and the cut-off date is December 15. Your cooperation will be appreciated in making this bibliography as complete as possible.

The Constitution Committee under the able leadership of Dr. Coope, Association founding president, has been extremely active in considering and recommending changes in the constitution to make it a more workable document. Main areas under study are: extending terms of office of Councillors from one to two years to provide overlapping continuity, streamlining of admission procedures and reassessment of the entire membership classification. On the matter of membership categories, there

has been considerable divergence of opinion varying from more restrictive membership classification to a very general one-class membership such as SEG. After considerable discussion Council generally agreed that a less restrictive approach be taken in order to accommodate everyone interested or working in the field of exploration geochemistry. Accordingly, Council recommended that the Member and Associate Member categories be combined into Member, based on the definition of the present Associate Member and the present Associate Member category be abolished. Council was split on the category of Affiliate Member and requested the Committee to carefully consider the pros and cons of retaining and redefining the Affiliate category with particular reference to field and laboratory technicians.

On the subject of membership I would like to make a few comments to clarify the Association's position or better still, lack thereof, on the matter of licensing. Licensing and "professionalism" was considered and discussed during some of the early meetings leading up to the founding of the Association; however, by the time the Association was officially founded, the matter of licensing had been entirely dropped. Nevertheless, some concern still exists in some geochemical circles in this somewhat sensitive area and the rigid membership classification has been interpreted by some as being related to licensing qualifications. As a result it is reported that some geochemists are hesitant in joining the Association because they are neither interested nor concerned with licensing. In my view licensing is a personal problem and has no place in an international scientific organization such as ours. As far as the Association is concerned licensing is a dead issue. Unfortunately, it is difficult to

erase misconceptions and these are surviving to the detriment of the Associations's growth. Let me assure all members and prospective members that there is no provision in the constitution for licensing nor are there any plans to do so in the Association's activities. To the contrary, the current constitution revision is moving in the direction to broaden rather than restrict membership requirements which may help dispel some of these erroneous notions.

Proposed constitutional changes recommended by the Committee and approved by Council will be given in detail in the January newsletter for consideration prior to voting at the annual meeting.

The Publications Committee Chairman, Dr. Cameron, reported to Council his meetings with Elsevier and after some discussion Council unanimously agreed that we should proceed to finalize the agreement proposed by Elsevier for the publication of the Journal of Exploration Geochemistry. The Association is indeed fortunate to have received such a favourable proposal from Elsevier and Council felt that we could not go wrong in associating ourselves with such a highly reputable scientific publishing house. Although not yet officially appointed, Dr. Cameron has agreed to act as editor in chief of the Journal. Target date for publication of the first Journal is next summer and the deadline for papers for the first two volumes is this December. Consideration is being given to the inclusion in the initial volume, of the constitution, various communications and newsletters relating to the founding of the Association and its activities to provide under one cover a permanent historical record.

The response to the Case Histories questionnaire included in the

July newsletter was most disappointing - only 20 replies received. Unfortunately the questionnaire was printed on the back of one of the pages of the newsletter rather than enclosed as a separate form as intended. On this assumption, the questionnaire in slightly revised form is again enclosed in this newsletter in the hope that more members will respond. Now that plans for publishing our own Journal are being realized and deadlines for manuscripts fast approaching, it is important that we have some idea of how many case history papers might be available for publication next year. Therefore, I urge each of you to carefully consider case history examples and return the enclosed questionnaire to Ralph Erickson as soon as possible.

The Analysis Committee is preparing much needed bulk standards. This is a very time consuming and costly endeavour and the Association is indebted to Dr. Lakin and his colleagues for undertaking this task. Note that six standards are expected to be ready for mailing in January.

In closing I would again like to express my personal thanks to the various committees for their fine efforts. Much work has been accomplished and the Association is rapidly becoming a firmly established on going international scientific organization

The next newsletter to be distributed in January will be primarily concerned with the Symposium, proposed constitution revision and election ballots for Council. The Annual meeting is scheduled to be held during the London Symposium. Deadline for information to be included in this newsletter is January 10.

A statement of dues owing for the year 1972 is included with this newsletter.

In the meantime:

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Joyeux Noel

Bonne Année

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Año Nuevo

Frohe Weihnachten

Gluckliches Neujahr

JOHN A. HANSULD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Analysis Committee - Chairman - Dr. H.W. Lakin.

We have received 135 completed questionnaires from a total of 25 countries. Dr. Norio Tono very kindly canvassed the laboratories in Japan and obtained 15 answers. All of this material is coded and will be put in a computer to obtain some answers on the number and types of samples, and general methods in use.

We now have 4 samples of 1,000 lbs. each in Denver. Two additional samples will be collected in November. Preparation of the samples will get under way during October. Fortunately, we can get our samples pulverized in a 1,000 lb. capacity ceramic ball mill at Coors Porcelain works. This permits mixing the entire samples in a single grinding operation.

After the samples are ground and bottled in 4 oz. containers, they will be analyzed to obtain a statistical value on the variation within and between bottles for each element of interest in each sample.

Hopefully we will be mailing 6 standard samples to each respondent by January 1972.

Bibliography Committee - Chairman - Dr. H.E. Hawkes.

An updated bibliographic list and index of articles on geochemical prospecting is in the mill and should be ready for distribution before the London symposium. This will cover the literature from January 1965 up to a cut-off date of mid-December. It will differ from the list distributed at the 1970 symposium in that:

