

## THE GEOCHEMICAL NEWS

Number 4

December 15, 1956

### Annual Meeting

The growing importance of Geochemistry was emphasized again at our first annual meeting in Minneapolis. In a generally excellent program the two Geochemical sessions were especially interesting and well attended.

At the time of the meeting The Geochemical Society and 1234 paid members. Of these, 293 represented 40 countries outside the U.S. A breakdown by profession indicates that Earth Scientists are most numerous (70%) followed by Chemists (20%). The remaining 10% included Physicists, Oceanographers, Ceramists, Astronomers and Biologists. No count of members attending the annual meeting was attempted, but approximately seventy five took part in the business meeting.

The Treasurer reported that, as of September 22, 1956, the Society has received \$2156.00 in dues. Expenditures totaled \$721.84, leaving a bank balance of \$1423.16.

### Election of Officers

The Constitution and By-laws provide that candidates for office shall be designated by the Council and the members informed of their choice three months before the annual meeting. Officers are elected by mail ballot and take office at the close of the annual meeting. The machinery for nominating officers could not be set in motion in time to carry out the prescribed schedule this year. To follow the spirit, if not the letter, of the By-laws, the Council has set up the following procedure for this year's election:

1. Mailing of list of nominees to members, with a notification that additional nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary by January 1, 1957.
2. Mailing of ballots to members shortly after January 1.
3. Counting of ballots 45 days after they are mailed.
4. Notification of election to officers, who immediately assume office, and serve until the next annual meeting.

### Geochimica Acta – Official Publication?

After considering the question for nearly a year, the Publications Committee recommended that The Geochemical Society designate "Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta" as its official publication. It was decided to include the question on the forthcoming ballot, and to present a summary of arguments, pro and con, in The Geochemical News.

Several objections have been raised. The high price of the journal (before the special price was established), and consequently its limited distribution were originally causes for concern. More serious were questions relating to editorial control and to the desirability of adopting a commercial journal as the official publication.

The objections have largely been met. If they wish, members may now subscribe to the journal for \$10.00 per year, and in view of this it seems likely that a wide distribution will result. As to the problem of editorial control, the editors, with one exception, are members of The Geochemical Society. The exception is the Russian member, A.P. Vinogradov. Russians are apparently not allowed to join the Society at present. Captain Maxwell, president of Pergamon Press, in talking with Earl Ingerson, has expressed a strong conviction that technical editorial control should remain in the hands of eminent geochemists; members of the editorial board have been consulted, and their opinion accepted, in each case when a new member was added to the board. The only objection not answered is that involving publication of an official journal by a commercial organization. The subscription price seems quite fair, however, and the agreement may be terminated by The Geochemical Society at any time.

In the opinion of the Publications Committee, it is preferable to designate an existing journal, without financial risk or obligation to the Society, rather than start a new journal. Members would be free to subscribe to "Geochimica Acta" or not, as they desired. Dues of The Geochemical Society can thus be kept small. A final point, brought out during the discussion at the annual meeting, was that "Geochimica Acta" is a publication international in scope, appropriate to the membership of our Society.

Regardless of the action of the Society with respect to "Geochimica Acta", "The Geochemical News" will be continued to bring announcements and pertinent news to all members.

#### Questionnaire – Symposium

The Education Committee has recommended the circulation of a questionnaire to assess the status and future opportunities of Geochemical education. The Committee was asked to prepare such a questionnaire, and to include in it an inquiry as to the desirability of planning a symposium on Geochemical education for the next annual meeting.

#### American Geological Institute: Geological Abstracts

Although the Member Organization of the American Geological Institute had not voted on the application of The Geochemical Society before the Board of Directors of the Institute met in Minneapolis on November 2, the Directors representing the Society, Ian Campbell and E. F. Osborn, were invited to attend the meeting of the Board. Both of them sat in on a part of the all-day sessions.

Perhaps the item of most interest to members of The Geochemical Society, discussed by the Board, was that of greatly expanding Geological Abstracts, both in the scope of its subject coverage and geographically. Several members have suggested that The Geochemical Society could do a service by abstracting, or even just listing the references to, new and important Geochemical work.

The present hope is to give Geological Abstracts worldwide coverage in all of the Earth Sciences, much as Chemical Abstracts covers the literature in all of the various branches of Chemistry. If this can be accomplished then separate specialistic abstract journals or bibliographies will be unnecessary.

A great deal of effort and expense are currently being put into such works by the American Geological Institute, The Geological Society of America, the Society of Economic Geologists, the American Geophysical Union, the American Chemical Society (Section 8 of Chemical Abstracts), the Mineralogical Society of London, the U.S. Geological Survey, and many oil and mining companies and other organizations. The Russians are willing to supply copies of their abstracts for translation and incorporation. If all of this effort and expense could be combined there is little doubt that it would suffice to put out a complete Geological Abstracts, with adequate, specially-prepared abstracts of all of the Earth Sciences.

A group has been designated by the A.G.I. to look into the problem, looking toward more positive action by the time of the Atlantic City G.S.A. meeting next November. There are at least three ways in which members of The Geochemical Society can aid this extremely important undertaking:

1. Volunteer to prepare some of the abstracts in your special field(s) of interest, of papers published in languages which you read easily and accurately. It is probably that abstracters will be paid a flat rate per line (as are those for Chem. Abs.) eventually, but it is not possible to make a definite statement about remuneration at this time.
2. Furnish information about abstracting and/or bibliographic services of companies, universities, etc., that might be willing to cooperate in the broad undertaking.
3. Suggest sources of funds, other than those currently going into such work, to help get the journal under way.

If you can help in any of these ways, or have other suggestions or comments to make, please communicate with: Earl Ingerson, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C. who is a representative of Geochemistry and Mineralogy on the study group, or with the President of A.G.I.: J.L. Gillson, 6017 du Pont Building, Wilmington 98, Delaware.

Even if it is not possible to carry out the entire plan right away, abstracters would be most welcome to prepare abstracts of Geochemical works for "Geochemical News" and/or "Geochimica Acta" and of papers in mineralogy and related subjects for an expanded version of "Mineralogical Abstracts" which is being planned vigorously and which will be

put into effect in 1958 if Geological Abstracts is unable to cover mineralogical literature adequately by that time.

#### International Series of Monographs on Earth Sciences

The series of Monographs in Earth Sciences announced at the annual business meeting in Minneapolis and to be published by Pergamon Press, is actively under way. The first volume, "Thermal analysis of non-metallic materials), by George T. Faust, is in preparation and a detailed outline of "Organic Geochemistry", to be edited by Irving Breger, has been submitted. The outline for a third monograph is being prepared.

If you have in mind a subject in earth science that you think should be treated in monographic form, whether you are prepared to write it yourself, can suggest a potential author or merely have in mind a topic you would like to see treated, please write your ideas to Earl Ingerson, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D.C., who has been appointed Editor-in-Chief for the series.

#### Announcements – Appointments

The Geochemical Society has been named an Associated Society of The Geological Society of America. Our representatives will sit on the committee which plans the programs for the joint annual meeting. The G.S.A. has also undertaken to keep our mailing list up to date and to address the "News" and other mail for us. In view of our large and growing membership, it is no longer practical to handle mailing informally in a University Department. We are greatly indebted to Henry Aldrich and Harold Merry for coming to our rescue.

George Phair has been named representative to the Earth Sciences Division of the National Research Council, to which The Geochemical Society was recently elected. The following committees have been appointed:

#### Program

Brian Mason, Chairman

#### Nominating

R.A. Rowland, Chairman

Harvey Diehl

L.T. Silver

J.W.Gruner

L.T. Aldrich

The charter membership list will be closed December 31, 1956. As soon thereafter as convenient with Harold Marry, who does the work, a membership list will be printed and distributed. By that time we expect the membership will be somewhat stabilized and publication of a list will be practicable.

### News and Notes

Ralph J. Holmes is on sabbatical leave from Columbia University. He is in Iran on a United Nations TAA project to set up a Geological Survey in Iran, and to study some of the mineral resources, primarily coal and iron. He will return to Columbia in late September 1957.

Chester B. Slawson will be on sabbatical leave from the University of Michigan during the second half of the current academic year. He will travel extensively in Africa and Brazil, making a detailed study of diamond occurrences.

G. C. Amstutz, formerly of Peru, South America, has joined the Department of Geology of the School of Mines and Metallurgy, Rolla, Missouri, as Associate Professor of Geology.

Please send in items of interest concerning yourself or other members of The Geochemical Society for inclusion in future numbers of the "News".

### Reminders

Members may now subscribe to "Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta" for \$10.00 U.S. per year. Send checks to: Pergamon Press, Inc., 122 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York 22, N.Y., or to Pergamon Press, Ltd., 4 and 5 Fitzroy Square, London W. 1 and indicate that you are a member of The Geochemical Society.

Copies of previous numbers of "The Geochemical News" may be obtained from the Secretary. Number 2 contains the Constitution and By-laws.

Members planning to present papers at the next annual meeting (Atlantic City, N.J. Nov. 4, 1956) should obtain abstract forms from the Secretary.

John C. Maxwell  
Secretary

Department of Geology  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N.J.