



#### THE GEOCHEMICAL NEWS No 57 APRIL 1980

At its last meeting on 5 November 1979 the Council of the Geochemical Society voted to revive The Geochemical News as a vehicle for announcements and items of business that cannot conveniently be carried in Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta. Some who remember the dignified and corpulent Geochemical News that fell asleep in 1973 will shudder at the mean and skinny animal that has awakened. "Ab equis ad asinos," they will say, or "Ichabod," depending on their mother tongue; and it will be true: this Number has been raised on a lean diet. In the seven years that have passed printing

and mailing costs have practically doubled, and the Membership has grown to 1400. At the next Council meeting in May there will be an opportunity to discuss The Geochemical News's future size, format, content and frequency in terms of the funds available for producing and distributing it. The results will be announced in the next issues, presently planned for September.

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#### ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Organic Geochemistry Division is seeking nominations for the Alfred Treibs Medal and the Best Paper Award:

- a) The Alfred Treibs Award 1981, consisting of a gold-plated medal and a certificate, will be awarded for major achievements, over a period of years, in organic geochemistry. Such achievements shall consist of pioneering and innovative investigations that have made highly significant contributions to the understanding of the origin and fate of organic materials in the geosphere and/or in extraterrestrial environments. Nominations for the award, with adequate documentation, should be submitted by June 1, 1980, to:

Dr. Wolfgang K. Seifert,  
Chairman, Awards Committee,  
Chevron Oil Fields Research Company,  
P.O. Box 1627,  
Richmond, California 94802, U.S.A.

- b) The Best Paper of the Year Award 1979 consists of a certificate to be awarded to the author(s) of the paper judged by the Award Committee to be the most outstanding contribution published in the open literature in the previous twelve months. This award may be divided between authors or groups of authors at the discretion of the Committee. Nominations for the award should be submitted by June 1, 1980 to:

Dr. Pierre Albrecht,  
Chairman, Best Paper Award Committee,  
Insitut de Chimie,  
Université Louis Pasteur,  
B.P. 296/R8  
67008 Strasbourg Cedex, France.

2. Proposed amendment to the By-Laws of the Organic Chemistry Division:

See p. 2 overleaf.

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws of the  
Organic Geochemistry Division

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It is proposed by the Executive Committee of OGD that Article VII Section 1 of the By-Laws be amended as follows (words to be deleted are in square brackets; words to be inserted are in italics).

ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority of the votes cast by the voting members of the *Executive Committee of the* Division [who vote in a written ballot. The test of the proposed changes shall be sent to the members at least 30 days prior to the last date on which a vote may be cast.] To be effective, amendments must be consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of The Geochemical Society.

Rationale

A number of changes in the By-Laws are needed at the present time, mostly to recognize that the European Branch of OGD no longer exists and to take account of the establishment of the Alfred E. Treibs Award, but also to update the document in other ways. According to the present Article VII, the procedure for approving these and any future amendments will be expensive, whether separate mailings or pages of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* are employed.

In any case, although the Constitution of The Geochemical Society can be changed only by vote of the whole membership, its By-Laws (i.e., its operating procedures) can be amended by majority vote of the Geochemical Society Council. Thus the proposed amendment of the Division's By-Laws is merely adoption of the practice of its parent Society.

All members of the Organic Geochemistry Division are urged to cast their vote for or against the amendment as set out above, by completing the ballot form below, detaching it and mailing it to the Secretary of the Division: Sister Mary Murphy, Chemistry Department, St. Joseph College, West Hartford, CT 06117.

For your vote to be valid, you must sign your name on the outside of the envelope enclosing your ballot, and the ballot must be received no later than 1 June 1980.

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BALLOT FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to the Amendment of the By-Laws of the Organic Geochemistry Division as specified in the first issue of the Geochemical Society Newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not agree to this amendment.

ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. The Nominating Committee of OGD solicits suggestions and volunteers for candidates to fill the following positions for 1981-1982: Chairperson-elect (to succeed Chairman); Secretary-Treasurer. Please send nominations by June 1, 1980 to:  
Dr. Patrick L. Parker,  
Chairman, Nominating Committee,  
Marine Science Institute  
The University of Texas,  
Port Aransas, Texas 78373, U.S.A.
  4. The OGD needs to establish a membership list of all OGD members. To accomplish this task, all Geochemical Society members who have been affiliated or wish to be affiliated with OGD are asked to please complete the form on p. 4 (overleaf) and send it to:  
Dr. J.G. Palacas, Chairman OGD,  
U.S. Geological Survey,  
Box 25046, MS 977,  
Federal Center,  
Denver, Colorado 80225, U.S.A.
  5. The OGD will be holding a one-day symposium during the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 17-21 1980. The topic of the Symposium is "Petroleum Geochemistry and Source Rock Potential of Carbonate Rocks."
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WORK GROUP ON GEOCHEMICAL CYCLES

Seventh Symposium on Geochemical Cycles, Atlanta, 16 November 1980

First Circular

Technical Sessions, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.: about 6 papers on topics related to Geochemical cycles, mass balances and modeling. The atmosphere is informal, and discussion is encouraged.

Speaker's Reception, 6-8 p.m.: refreshments and further discussion.

Intending participants please complete the form on p. 4 (overleaf) and mail it before 15 May 1980 to:

Bryan Gregor,  
Department of Geology  
Wright State University  
Dayton, Ohio 45435, U.S.A.

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The Geochemical News is printed and distributed by the Department of Geology, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

FORM FOR ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION MEMBERS

Tear off and mail to Dr. J.G. Palacas at address given on p. 3.

As a member of the Geochemical Society, I have been or now wish to be affiliated with the Organic Geochemistry Division.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-----cut or tear along this line-----

FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM ON GEOCHEMICAL CYCLES

Tear off and mail before 15 May 1980 to Bryan Gregor at the address given on p. 3.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I mean to attend the Symposium but will not contribute a paper \_\_\_\_ (X if appropriate)  
3. If called on, I would contribute a paper (up to 1 hour including discussion) on:  
\_\_\_\_\_(topic)  
4. Abstract. (Briefly summarize the gist of your proposed contribution without going into details.  
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)

5. I think the Symposium should focus on a single theme \_\_\_\_\_. I would prefer to hear a variety of topics discussed \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark X as appropriate.)

6. Topics I would especially like to hear discussed are:

7. I would write, if called on, a short critical review of the Symposium for eventual submission to the National Science Foundation with the Chairman's Report \_\_\_\_\_. (Yes/No.)