

11th EAOG Newsletter

Newsletter Secretary's bit

Well, hello again! For a while in January, my 8 year old nephew got into the habit of starting conversations with "Happy New Year, Happy New Decade, Happy New Century, Happy New Millenium", which can wear thin after a while. To this I can now add "Happy New Chinese Year, Happy New Conference Venue, Happy New EAOG Board and Happy New EAOG Web Site (where you can read about the new board, conference venue etc - see below).

I used to have a great-aunt called Nancy, who lived to the ripe old age of 100. However, this is as nothing compared to the age of the next IMOG conference venue, which bears the same name. Even the new part of the centre is over 200 years old. This newsletter is long on the events in Nancy, where the board recently met, and thin on contributions from the membership (c'est la vie, as the citizens of Nancy - and my great-aunt Nancy - would say). The town is attractive, old and relatively compact, full of bars, restaurants and boutiques, with most things within easy walking distance, so it should be an excellent conference venue.

Les Miserables (a.k.a. Richard Patience)

Chairman's remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Well, here we are in the year 2000. Happy New Year. I'd like to kick things off by acquainting you with the EAOG Board, elected at 19 IMOG in Istanbul, which had its first meeting recently in Nancy (you may read the highlights below). One of the new faces is Sylvie Derenne, who has taken over the job of Secretary. I think you know Sylvie is at Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris. Joining her on the Board, and in charge of the EAOG coffers, is Ger van Graas, a Dutchman living in Norway and working for Statoil, and Walter Michaelis from the University of Hamburg who is in charge of running the EAOG Awards programs. Richard Patience (an Englishman living in Norway) begins his second term as Newsletter Editor, Nils Telnaes stays in charge of the Web-Site, Steve Rowland will carry on as Membership Officer, Archie Douglas will continue to liaise with Elsevier, and I stay on as Chairman. Please contact us if you have suggestions or questions about EAOG. Why not do this via the new-look Web-Site at its new domain, EAOG.ORG?

Best wishes,

Brian Horsfield

Secretary's report

Minutes of the EAOG Board Meeting, Grand Hotel de la Reine, Nancy, January 22th 2000

Board members attending the meeting were Derenne, Douglas, van Graas, Horsfield (Chairman), Michaelis, Patience, Rowland. Telnaes was absent due to illness. Patrick Landais and Raymond Michels (University of Nancy) attended the morning session

Item 1 : Welcome

The chairman opened the discussion at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed the new members, Walter Michaelis, Ger van Graas and Sylvie Derenne.

Item 2 : Presentation of the next IMOG in Nancy

Landais showed the logo for the 20th IMOG and explained its significance. He gave the web site address for the meeting (<http://www.imog.uhp-nancy.fr>) and the appropriate e-mail address (IMOG2001@g2r.uhp-nancy.fr). The web site contains maps and travel information. Attendees may fly to Luxembourg and continue to Nancy by train (1 h. 30 min.) or fly to Paris and reach Nancy by train from the Gare de l'Est (2 h. 40 min.). Landais will consider the possibility of having transport, by bus, from Luxembourg to Nancy on Sunday. The web site will have a link to the SNCF (French railway) site. For those coming by car, it is recommended to leave cars in car parks since all the hotels are within a walking distance of Palais des Congrès. Student accommodation will be possible at about 20 min walk from the railway station (or by tram).

After having visited the Hotel de Ville, where the pre-registration and icebreaker party will take place, the Board visited the Palais des Congrès with Mrs Lartillot, assistant manager and Landais. Lecture rooms, the areas for poster sessions, exhibitions and lunch were visited. Landais indicated that there will be pre- and post-conference field trips, one in Alsace and one in Burgundy, both combining "geology and wine". The place for the conference dinner is not yet decided but two places are under consideration. Provisional fees, in the same range as those for the Istanbul meeting, were indicated. The Palais des Congrès will propose secure on-line (credit card) registration with payment (in Euros). We were shown the web site of the Palais des Congrès which will be linked to that of the meeting. A first draft of the first circular was shown and it was noted that the proceedings will be published as a special issue of Organic Geochemistry.

The composition of the scientific committee was discussed and some recommendations were made to Landais who will contact the potential members. Horsfield was asked to be present at the meeting of the scientific committee to add continuity with the previous meetings.

Item 3 : Minutes of the Istanbul Board Meeting

The minutes of the Istanbul Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Item 4 : Chairman-elect

As indicated in Istanbul, the term of Horsfield as the EAOG chairman ends in 2002. It was thus planned to nominate a chairman-elect within the board members. Since their terms end in 2001, Telnaes and Rowland cannot be considered. Four board members are therefore potential candidates but three of them were elected only three months ago. Thus, it was decided after lengthy discussions, to wait for three more months until they have had a chance to work their way into the job and decide if they wish to stand for election.

Item 5 : Awards

As discussed at the Istanbul meeting, clear rules for the Pieter Schenck Award and the travel awards had to be defined. These rules were thus discussed and led to the following :

For the Pieter Schenck Award, candidates must be 35 years old or younger in the year of the meeting. For the nomination of the next award, the deadline was fixed at

January 1st, 2001. This will be announced on the Web Page and via the org-geochem mailbase system at the end of this year to encourage candidates. As soon as the candidates are known, Michaelis (Awards Officer) will put together a small Award Committee (himself and two other geochemists) for making the final selection in early 2001. Selecting the committee after rather than before the candidates are known, avoids any conflict of interests that may arise otherwise.

Considering travel awards, Michaelis proposed a new committee, unanimously accepted. Its composition will be published in Organic Geochemistry. The term of the committee members will be 4 years i.e. the same as that of the Award officer. It was decided to grant a maximum of two awards per 6 months, the deadlines being March 31st and September 30th, each year. Candidates not selected at the March session could be considered again at the September session. Three applications have already been received for 2000. The next deadline is therefore September 30th, 2000. It was decided to limit the travel award report to 2 to 4 A4 printed pages plus at most one figure and to include it in the Newsletter.

As proposed by the board and decided at the general assembly in Istanbul, Professor Yalcin and his team have been granted the newly inaugurated *Distinguished Service Award*. Michaelis will enquire about designing a certificate and a silver medal. These will be presented to Pr. Yalcin at the earliest (and as yet still to be decided) opportunity.

Item 6 : Journal report

Douglas reported that 113 manuscripts were submitted in 1999; 31 were accepted, 23 rejected (including 9 because of poor English), 2 withdrawn with 57 still in the pipeline. By January 21st 2000, 13 manuscripts had been submitted. Vol. 30, issues 1-12 were distributed between January and December 1999. For Vol. 31, the January issue is due during the last week of January. The special issue corresponding to the Proceedings of the Goldschmidt Conference (Toulouse, 1998) edited by Largeau and Eglinton (10 papers) was sent to the publisher on January 11th 2000 and that of Derenne and Knicker (11 papers) will be sent by February. It was noted that the February issue will only comprise four papers, due to lack of copy.

Patience alerted the board to the creation of a new journal in Geochemistry, Geochemical Transactions. This journal is supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Division of Geochemistry of the ACS. Since it is fully electronic, an average publication time of 8 weeks is anticipated although this appeared optimistic to the Board, especially when refereeing is considered. Although printed matter is still more pleasant to read than directly on screen, fast publication may represent a great advantage and encourage geochemists to submit manuscripts to such an e-journal. Douglas was thus asked to confer with Elsevier and Joe Curiale how the present format of Organic Geochemistry might be reconsidered.

Item 7 : Financial report

The financial report was presented by van Graas. Incomes depend on membership and meeting donations. They are therefore open to large fluctuations. In contrast, expenses are quite stable. Based on averaged incomes and expenses, it was decided to fix the amount of each travel award at 3000 \$. Due to a relatively high amount of cash in the current account, van Graas will contact the bank and a financial adviser to examine how we could increase the profit while minimising risks.

Item 8 : EAOG membership report

Rowland presented a graph showing the regular increase in membership now at 467. Geographical distribution of members was shown. As previously noted, the majority is from the USA (140). The membership is now regularly conveyed to Rowland by Elsevier every three months.

Item 9 : Newsletter

Patience provided the dates of publication of previous newsletters. He is considering a format, to include figures, in future newsletters.

Item 10 : Web site

In the absence of Telnaes, Horsfield showed the new EAOG web site (<http://www.eaog.org>). Each board member was asked to send, within a week, to Horsfield all relevant information to add on the site.

Since there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sylvie Derenne, Secretary

Paris, January 24th, 2000

Call for Nominations - ACS Geochemistry Division Medal

This is to be awarded for outstanding contributions in any area of the field of Geochemistry. The Division of Geochemistry of the American Chemical Society is currently soliciting nominations for the inaugural awarding of the Geochemistry Division Medal. The medal is to be awarded biennially to an individual for outstanding accomplishment in any area of Geochemistry. The award consists of a bronze medallion plus \$2000. The awardee will receive an allowance for travel to the award ceremony, as well as registration costs for the ACS meeting at which the award will be conferred. The first award will be presented in conjunction with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Division at the 221st ACS National meeting to be held in San Diego, April 1-5, 2001.

Letters of Nomination and supporting material should be sent to the Chair of the GEOC Medal Committee, Dr Robert H. Byrne, at the address given below, by April 30, 2000. Nominations should include a detailed description of the nominee's outstanding accomplishments, relevant citations and, at the discretion of the nominator, any other supporting information. Letters from individuals other than the primary nominator will also be accepted by the committee. Nominators should confirm, prior to submission of the nomination, that the nominee is willing to be considered for the award.

Additional details of the award can be found at the Divisional web site at:

<http://membership.acs.org/g/geoc/>

Dr Robert H. Byrne

Chair, GEOC Medal Committee

Marine Science Department

University of South Florida

140 Seventh Ave S

St Petersburg, FL, 33701-5016.

byrne@marine.usf.edu