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Newsletter Secretary's Bit

As you all may have noted by now, this is the first EAOG Newsletter that my team and I have compiled, and to be honest we are finding it very difficult to reach the high standard of the content (the essential part) that our former Newsletter Secretary, Richard L. Patience, achieved. Unfortunately, we haven't managed to get rid of Richard yet, since he will continue his hard work but now in a position of greater responsibility as our brand new EAOG Board Chairman. We wish him...hummmm... good luck!¹.

Richard must be having a hard task too, that of keeping up the momentum and achievements of our friend and former Chairman Brian Horsfield. Brian's departure is very much justified, it has been told that he will be in charge of maintaining the earth's petroleum formation for the next hundred Kyr^{2,3}. We would like to thank Brian for his fruitful service to the Association, and wish him all the best in his new tasks and many more findings to come for the enrichment of the geochemical sciences.

In this edition you will find the usual sections of our newsletter, albeit in a fancier presentation style: the Chairman's report (note!... a first for Richard) and the Minutes of the last Board Meeting held in Krakow. In this issue you will also find a brief summary of the Geochemical Sciences in the Priority Thematic Areas of Research of the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for the period 2002-2006 (FP6). With your help and support, in further editions we have the intention of expanding the content of the Newsletter, including various info (people in the news, news briefs, IMOG meeting, etc.) and other contributions of interest to the Organic Geochemistry Community.

My dear fellow geochemists, we really hope that you find this renewed 14th EAOG Newsletter useful, and enjoy it as much as we are enjoying compiling it for you. However, in order to continue serving information of your interest, we would really like to hear from you at eaognews@aljarafe.net, where your feedback, comments and contributions, will always be very much appreciated.

Newsletter Secretary's Image : my team from [IRNAS \(Seville, Spain\)](#), your friends, during our last geochemical expedition.



Francisco J. González-Vila

Find: The EAOG site at: <http://www.eaog.org>
 The EAOG Newsletter at: <http://www.eaog.org/newsletters/index.html>, contributions and suggestions to: eaognews@aljarafe.net
 All the info about the next EAOG International Meeting at: <http://www.imog.agh.edu.pl/>

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¹ ...and of course our sincere and warmest congratulations.

² di Primio, Horsfield and Guzman-Vega (2000). Determining the temperature of petroleum formation from the kinetic properties of petroleum asphaltenes *Nature* **406**: 173-176

³ We enjoyed foot noting so much that we are committed to maintain the Newsletter's tradition.

Chairman's Column



Dear fellow geochemists,

As a few of you may know by now, I took over as Chairman of EAOG from Brian Horsfield at the end of the last Board Meeting in February. The true enormity of this probably hasn't struck me yet, but one thing is clear: following in Brian's footsteps will not be easy. His contribution to EAOG was enormous, and my short-term goal is not to undo any of his good work. In the longer term, my aim is to continue the period of growth that EAOG has undergone in the last 6 years, and to make your society as relevant to you as possible. Concerning the latter, we aim to make an announcement about online access to OG journal in the near future,

so look out for that.

The last Board meeting was held in Krakow, Poland, which is the site of the next IMOG meeting in September 2003. This historic city has all the makings of an excellent conference venue, and the conference dinner promises to be something truly spectacular. For more details, visit our web site www.eaog.org or the conference web site at www.imog.agh.edu.pl, and start planning your contribution and participation!

Finally, I would like to welcome the new board members, Anthony Lewis (Membership and website), and Francisco Gonzalez-Vila (Newsletter). Both have already made significant contributions to the Board.

Best wishes

Richard L. Patience

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the EAOG Board Meeting

Hotel Wit Stwosz, Krakow, February 8-9th 2002

Board members attending the meeting were Derenne, van Graas, Gonzalez-Vila, Horsfield (Chairman), Lewis, Maxwell, Michaelis, Patience. Maciej Kotarba (University of Krakow), Artur Stankiewicz (Shell) and members of the local committee of the next IMOG attended that part of the meeting dedicated to the organization of the Krakow IMOG.

So as to have "plenty of time", it was decided to split the meeting into two parts, the first one this evening and the second one tomorrow after the meeting with the local committee.

Item 1 : Welcome

The chairman opened the discussion at 6:15 p.m. He welcomed the new board members (Lewis and Gonzalez-Vila) and Maxwell, co-opted board member in charge of Organic Geochemistry journal who will take over from Douglas as co-Editor-in-Chief in June.

Item 2 : Minutes

The minutes of the last board meeting were unanimously approved.

Item 3 : Journal report (Maxwell) and Elsevier-related matters (Patience)

Journal : In 2001, 12 issues (vol 32) were published at monthly intervals. Elsevier were asked by the Editors-in-Chief to continue on this basis provided that each issue contains at least 5 papers (vol 33(2) will only have 5). In 2001, 157 papers were submitted, 59 accepted, 40 rejected, 4 withdrawn and 54 in the pipeline at the end of 2001. The new Associate Editors are Geoff Abbott, Liz Canuel, Ronaldo di Primio, Martin Koopmans and Klaus Schmidt-Rohr whereas Ken Peters, Pat Hatcher, Stuart Wakeham and Alan Cook resigned. All the Editorial Advisory Board were asked if they wanted to remain as members; Leythaeuser resigned and Lijmbach gave no reply. Maxwell will go by default. Maxwell will take over from Douglas as co-Editor-in-Chief in June and due to the retirement of Douglas' secretary in March, he will be given a secretary 2 mornings per week by Elsevier.

Electronic journal : Since Geochemical Transactions has only published 10 papers in 2000 and 14 in 2001, not all concerning organic geochemistry, it has been decided not to consider switching to electronic publishing at the moment and just to keep an eye on how it develops.

On-line access : Patience reported discussions with Veenstra (Elsevier) and showed how the access works (or does not work) at the moment. In fact, everything seems to be available for free on-line access to EAOG members with archives back to 1999 but Elsevier are waiting for the membership list. Lewis (membership officer) by combining the membership list provided by Elsevier (which does not include e-mail addresses) with that of the Nancy IMOG attendees (including students) got a list of 450 e-mail addresses which will be sent to Veenstra. Elsevier will then be asked to send to the members their key to access. The board insisted to have this on-line access problem solved as soon as possible.

Electronic submission and reviewing : at the moment, electronic manuscripts are only sent to Associate Editors and reviewers by e-mail but there is no true electronic reviewing process as for other journals (e. g. GCA). This was said to be due to differences in editorial organization but Curiale is the driving force in setting up this process. Patience will carry out again a survey on on-line publishing in autumn 2002.

Contract between EAOG and Elsevier : Veenstra has sent an out of date (1986) draft contract to Horsfield. Patience will consider which of the original points apply to ongoing EAOG-Elsevier matters, and send a new draft to the board members by mid-march based on other contracts between Elsevier and other scientific societies.

A mail recently sent by Veenstra revealed that he is not aware of how memberships in EAOG and subscriptions to Organic Geochemistry are handled for non-EAOG members attending IMOG meetings. Horsfield will mail him the information with copies to Henn (Elsevier) and Michels (co-organizer of the Nancy meeting).

Item 4 : Membership/website (Lewis)

The present membership list obtained by combining that provided by Veenstra with that from the Nancy meeting leads to 630 to 710 members. Lewis mentioned that 260 persons from the org-geochem list are not EAOG members being a potential increase in membership. He will put an advertisement on this base.

The problem of data protection has been raised, it will be checked with Elsevier.

The setting up of the new application form is ongoing.

Item 5 : Meetings

IMOG scientific committee : In January, Stankiewicz sent a list of proposed members of the next scientific committee which has been discussed. To start the discussion, Horsfield proposed general rules specifying the makeup, the duties and the running of the scientific committee. These rules were unanimously accepted by the board. They are presented at the end of these minutes as an Appendix.

Since it was late (9:15 pm) and we still have plenty of time tomorrow evening, it was decided to end the first part of the meeting.

Item 6 : Organization of the next IMOG

On February 9th, at 9 am, the board met members of the local committee and was shown several places in Krakow proposed by the local committee for holding various events of the next IMOG : St Mary's church (organ concert), Slowacki theatre (opening ceremony), the conference and sport centre (conference venue), Wavel Castle (ice-breaker party) and an old salt mine, 15 km from Krakow (conference dinner).

After this, board members and local committee went then (5 pm) to Kotarba's lab to discuss about the organization of the next IMOG. Kotarba introduced the members of the local committee and asked for membership list. Lewis provided him with the e-mail list he made.

The board recommended abandoning the idea of having the opening ceremony in the Slowacki theatre despite its magnificence because of the inconvenience. The conference venue should be suitable for holding half of the posters for two days thus leaving more time to participants to see the posters. Concerning the oral presentations, it was recommended to convert only one basketball court into

conference room for plenary sessions and one parallel session and use another court for exhibitors and posters. The second parallel session will take place in an auditorium designed for 270 persons. A large meeting will be held in these basketball courts in June and Kotarba will come and test the acoustics. The other facilities (computer room, preview room, side-meeting rooms, places for coffee break) look suitable. The place chosen for the conference dinner in the salt mine was found very spectacular but it raises some problems concerning the practical organization. As soon as the details of this organization are established, they will be sent by Kotarba to Patience for checking. The accompanying person program was presented to the board by the local committee. Concerning the hotels, a list along with a map will be on the website thus allowing direct booking. A preliminary budget has been presented and it was recommended to reduce unnecessary costs to try to get lower fees than in Nancy. Some financial support has already been obtained. The draft of the first circular will be sent to Maxwell for proofreading.

The rules about the scientific committee which had just previously been approved by the board were presented to Stankiewicz. Potential members of this committee were then selected and Stankiewicz will contact them. The deadline for abstract submission will be December 1st.

0Since there were no other questions concerning the organization of the next IMOG, the board returned to the second part of its meeting with the continuation of the agenda.

Item 5 : Meetings (again)

Participation in Goldschmidt conference : Horsfield has been informed by Alex Halliday, organiser of the Davos meeting, that EAOG's support will be acknowledged on the next circular and on Goldschmidt web.

2005 meeting : Gonzalez-Vila who organized the International Meeting on Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis in Sevilla in 2000 proposed himself to organize the 2005 IMOG. However, he will first ask his colleagues and inquire about financial supports. Other possibilities in the south of England will be considered by Patience and Maxwell.

Item 7 : Awards (Michaelis)

In 2001, only one application was received for Travel Award which was granted. Michaelis will investigate why there are so few applications : decrease in number of students, too low amount of the grant, too restrictive conditions ? . Due to recommendation letters from members of the committee for the last Pieter Schenck Award, these members had to be replaced by others. The committee consisted of Roger Summons, Pierre Albrecht, Jacques Connan and Walter Michaelis. Announcements for the Travel Award and the Pieter Schenck Award will be corrected. For the Schenck Award, the Board decided to replace "under 35" by "normally under 35" in the age criterion.

Item 8 : Financial report (van Graas)

The financial report was already presented at the Nancy board meeting. Van Graas said that there was no need to increase the membership fees due to the low number of applicants for travel award.

Item 9 : Name of OG and EAOG

It was unanimously decided to keep as such the names of the journal and organization.

Item 10 : New board members

In September 2003, the terms of three board members (Derenne, van Graas, Michaelis) will end but they can stand for re-election which they agreed to do. An announcement requesting candidates will however be sent out in early 2003.

Item 11 : Newsletters

Patience informed Gonzalez-Vila, the new communication officer, about the content of the newsletters.

Item 12 : AOB

- van Graas found out of date some parts of the articles and will suggest some changes within 1 month.
- Patience thanked Horsfield for his duty as chairman of the EAOG.
- Horsfield thanked the board.

As there was no other business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Geochemistry in the EU VI Framework Programme's Priority Thematic Areas

1. EU VI FP Priority Thematic Areas of Research

In the last drafts produced for the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 2002-2006, the following Priority Thematic Areas of Research (TAR) are described:

A: Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area

1. Genomics and biotechnology for health (2200 Million €)
2. Information Society technologies (3600 Million €)
3. Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices (1300 Million €)
4. Aeronautics and space (1075 Million €)
5. Food Quality and Safety (685 Million €)
6. Sustainable development. Global change and ecosystems (2120 Million €)
7. Citizens and Governance in Knowledge-based society (225 Million €)

B: Nuclear Energy (Euratom)

8. Management of radioactive waste (90 Million €)
9. Radiation Protection (50 Million €)
10. Other activities in the field of nuclear technologies and safety (750 Million €)

The funding that will be allocated to the Priority TAR's is A:11205 Million € + B:890 Million €. In the full document, each one of these TAR's is further described in terms of its overall objectives and the main research focus. However, for our purpose only TAR 6 will be described in this section.

Within the thematic priority areas, the importance of new instruments (Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence) is recognised as being an overall priority means to attain the objectives of critical mass, management simplification and European added value contributed by Community research in relation to what is already undertaken at national level, and of the integration of the research capacities. **Networks of excellence and integrated projects** will be used from the start of the programme in each TAR and, where deemed appropriate, as a priority means, **while maintaining the use of specific targeted projects and co-ordination actions**. In addition to research and technological development, they may incorporate other types of activity *i.e.* demonstration, dissemination and exploitation; co-operation with third countries; human resource development, development of research facilities and infrastructure, etc. **Specific targeted research projects and co-ordination actions**, as well as specific support actions, may also be used in the implementation of the PTAR's. **Innovation** must be taken into account in the design and implementation of RTD activities. In particular, networks of excellence and integrated projects will include activities relating to **dissemination and exploitation of knowledge** and, where relevant, to ensure **transfer of technology** and facilitate **exploitation of results**.

The **principle of sustainable development, and gender equality**, will be duly taken into account. Furthermore, consideration of the **ethical, social legal and wider cultural aspects** of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as **socio-economic impacts** of scientific and technological development, will where relevant form a part of the activities under this heading.

2. Geochemistry in the 6th FP RTD

It can be considered that the 6th FP RTD activities in Geochemistry are mainly integrated in TAR 6. The following is a summary of the full text as it appears in the last draft of the Sixth EU Framework Programme (as for March 2002).

TAR 6. Sustainable development. Global change and ecosystems

The Treaty confirms Sustainable Development as a central objective of the European Community. In this context, global change, energy security, sustainable transport, sustainable management of Europe's natural resources, and their interaction with human activities motivate this research priority theme. The activities carried out aim at strengthening the scientific and technological capacities needed for Europe to implement a sustainable development model in the short and in the long term, integrating its social, economic and environmental dimensions, and make a significant contribution to the international efforts to

mitigate or even to reverse current adverse trends, to understand and control global change and preserve the equilibrium of ecosystems.

Sustainable energy systems: Research priorities

- i) *Research activities having an impact in the short and medium term*
 - Clean energy, in particular renewable energy sources and their integration in the energy system, including storage, distribution and use.
 - Energy savings and efficiency, including those to be achieved through use of renewable raw materials.
 - Alternative motor fuels.

- ii) *Research activities having an impact in the medium and longer term*
 - Fuel cells, including their applications.
 - New technologies for energy carriers/transport and storage, in particular hydrogen.
 - New and advanced concepts in renewable energy technologies.
 - Capture and sequestration of CO₂, associated with cleaner fossil fuel plants.

Sustainable surface transport: Research priorities

- i) *Developing environmentally friendly transport systems and means of transport.*
 - New technologies and concepts for all surface transport modes (road, rail and waterborne).
 - Advanced design and production techniques.
- ii) *Making surface transport safer, more effective and more competitive.*
 - Rebalancing and integrating different transport modes.
 - Increasing road, rail and waterborne safety and avoiding traffic congestion.

Global Change and ecosystems: Research priorities

- Impact and mechanisms of greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric pollutants on climate, ozone depletion and carbon sinks (oceans, forests and soil).
- Water cycle, including soil-related aspects
- Biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Mechanisms of desertification and natural disasters.
- Strategies for sustainable land management, incl. coastal zones, agricultural land and forests.
- Operational forecasting and modelling, including global climate change observation systems.
- Complementary research.

3. Interaction with other Priority TAR's

Some aspects of the Geochemical RTD activities may interact with other priority TAR's:

TAR 2. Information Society Technologies (IST): Applied IST Research Addressing Major Societal and Economic Challenges, and Knowledge and Interface Technologies.

TAR 3. Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices: New Production Processes and Devices.

TAR 4. Aeronautics and Space: Aeronautics program Improving environmental impact with regard to emissions and noise, and the Space program in Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

TAR 5. Food Quality and Safety: Programs leading with plant-animal-environment relationships.

4. To know more

Cordis: Research and Technology Development beyond 2002

<http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/home.html>

EU: Towards the 6th Framework Programme Presentation

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/nfp/pdf/fp6-presentation.pdf>

This document was based on: "Amended proposals for Council decisions concerning the specific programmes implementing the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2002-2006). The full text can be found at: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/fp6sp_amended_0102.pdf

OG, what is going on ? Organic Geochemistry Events

14th Meeting of The British Organic Geochemical Society.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, U.K., 2 - 3 July 2002

This year's meeting of the British Organic Geochemical Society (BOGS) will be hosted by NRG at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. As in previous years, this will be an informal event, with most of the presentations being given by research students. There will also be a full social programme including the follow-up to the successful 1997 BOGS BBQ.

<http://nrg.ncl.ac.uk/bogs/bogs.html>

IHSS 20th Anniversary Conference. *Humic Substances – Nature's Most Versatile Materials.*

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA, 21-26 July 2002

This IHSS Conference seeks to advance the fields of humic-substance and organic-matter research by providing a forum for the sharing of current expertise among researchers and to improve communication and collaboration among researchers in the United States and those from other parts of the world. The biennial conference returns to the United States twenty years after the first conference at Estes Park, Colorado, in 1983. Previous conferences were held in England, Norway, Spain, Japan, Italy, Trinidad and Tobago, Poland, Australia, and France.

<http://www.ihss.gatech.edu/>

Gordon Research Conference on Organic Geochemistry.

Holderness School, Plymouth, NH, USA, 28 July - 2 August 2002

The Gordon Research Conferences provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and their related technologies. During this International Conference the role of Organic Geochemistry will be discussed in relation to global warming/carbon cycle debate, paleoenvironmental reconstructions/proxies, basin modelling applications, microbiology of in-reservoir petroleum biodegradation, age-diagnostic biomarkers, nitrogen geochemistry, approaches to tracing human activities and impacts on the environment, etc.

<http://www.grc.org/programs/2002/orggeo.htm>

8th Norwegian Organic Geochemical Society Meeting.

The Sundvollen Hotel, Oslo, Norway 6 - 7 June 2002

The 8th Norwegian Meeting in Organic Geochemistry (8NMOG) will be held in Oslo during the first week in June. The meeting will commence with a registration and Icebreaker on the evening of 5th June. A second circular will be distributed shortly after Easter with more information regarding the location, registration and the programme. Interested parties who have not received the first circular but would like to receive more information are encouraged to email Nigel Mills (nm@aptec.no). The closing date for abstracts has been extended to the 2nd April. The meeting will include oral and poster presentations.

nm@aptec.no

224th ACS National Meeting. The Biogeochemistry of Marine Organic Matter in the Contemporary Environment and Ancient Sediments. In Honor of Prof. James G. Quinn.

Boston, MA, 18 – 22 August 2002

This symposium will focus on the progress that has been made in our understanding of the role of naturally occurring organic matter in marine ecosystems, recent sediments and ancient sediments. This symposium will honor Professor Quinn, a "lipid biochemist" who had the foresight to focus his research and academic efforts on studies of the biogeochemistry of natural organic matter and contaminants in the aquatic environments.

<http://membership.acs.org/g/geoc/Symposia/Boston.1.html>

12th Annual VM Goldschmidt Conference incorporating ICOG

Davos, Switzerland, 18 – 23 August, 2002

The Goldschmidt Conference is now the premier annual meeting for geochemistry across the breadth of topics from presolar grains to biogeochemistry. The meeting is organized through the European Association for Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society, and is sponsored by EAOG. The 2002 Goldschmidt Conference will be held from the 18th to the 23rd of August in Davos, Switzerland. For the first time, the meeting will also incorporate ICOG, the International Conference on Geochronology, which has been held every 4th year since its inception in Bern in 1966.

<http://www.goldschmidt-conference.com/2002/gold2002/>

Emerging Concepts in Organic Petrology and Geochemistry. Including. Dr. Archie. G. Douglas Symposium.

Banff, Alberta, Canada, 31 August – 4 September 2002

Joint meeting of the Canadian Society for Coal Science and Organic Petrology (CSCOP) and The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP 19th Annual Meeting). The Symposium is sponsored by the European Association of Organic Geochemists and Elsevier.

<http://www.cscop-tsop2002.com/>

Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions.

Rhodes, Greece, 16 - 18 September 2002

The Conference is organised by Wessex Institute of Technology, UK and will be sponsored by ASCE UK International Group. Coastal Environment 2002 will address the subjects of monitoring, analysis, and modelling of coastal regions including, air and ground phenomena. The fourth in this international series, the conference will focus on topics which need to be recognised in order to prevent, alleviate or minimise environmental problems, allowing a balanced use of the coastal regions as a common resource around the world.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/coastal02/>

Pyrolysis 2002. 15th International Symposium on Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis.

Leoben, Austria, 17 - 20 September 2002

This international meeting is organized by Institut für Chemie der Kunststoffe Montanuniversität Leoben. The lectures will take place in the auditorium maximum and in the chemistry lecture room of the University of Leoben. Following the previous symposia, Pyrolysis 2002 will again cover all fundamental issues, instrumental developments and applications of pyrolysis.

<http://www.unileoben.ac.at/~fink/pyr2002/>

AAPG • EPEX • SEG • EGS • EAGE. 2002 International Conference and Exhibition.

Cairo, Egypt, 27 – 30 October 2002

Cairo -- the largest city in Africa, where 5,000 years of culture are concentrated at the center of three continents -- is the site that the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society, Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and Egyptian Geophysical Society, with the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers, have selected for the 2002 International Conference and Exhibition. The conference will be in this fascinating city that with its historical significance in the evolution of civilization is a terrific backdrop for the theme: Ancient Oil -- New Energy.

<http://www.cscop-tsop2002.com/>

European Research 2002. The European Research Area and the Framework Programme.

Brussels, 11-12-13 November 2002

The European Commission will hold a major conference to mark the launch of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for research, which will cover the period from 2002 to 2006. Based on the experience of a similar event in February 1999 which attracted over 5 000 participants the conference will be a major forum to present the objectives and priorities of the Framework Programme and to explain rules for participation. At the same time the conference is meant to create opportunities for scientific debate and exchange of best practice beyond those subjects addressed in the Framework Programme

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html