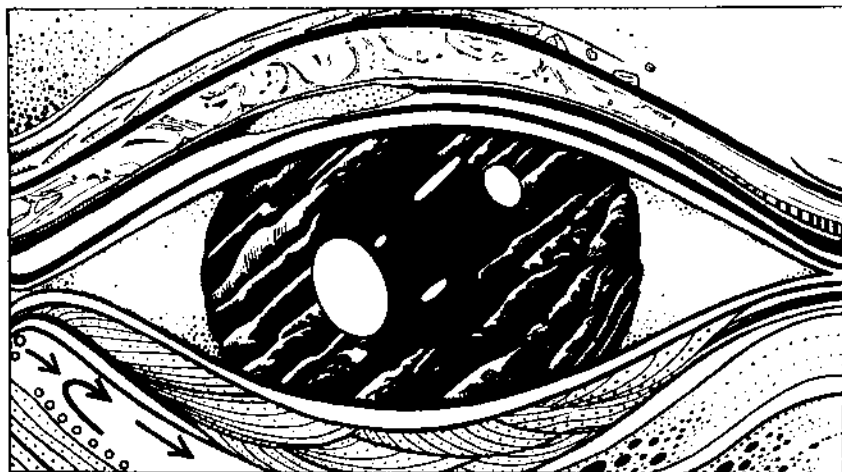


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

N° 84 April 1986



IAS

7th. Regional Meeting

Kraków - Poland

May - 1986

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AN IMPORTANT SEDIMENTOLOGICAL EVENT

Collaborative IAS-SEPM - IUGS Committee on Sedimentology

About a year ago Bob Ginsburg proposed to SEPM Council the concept of an International Decade of Global Sedimentary Geology. The object of the Decade was to further a wide range of activities, including publications, global assessments and international co-operative projects. Since these proposals are essentially the objectives of IAS, the SEPM involved IAS from the start in their discussions, as well as the commissions of the International Union of Geological Sciences and International Geological Correlation Project. In August 1985 a committee of SEPM chaired by Robert Weimer reported to SEPM Council that they had identified specific targets.

Since August the SEPM Steering Committee has met with the U.S. National Committee for Geology, the U.S. Committee for the Inter-Union Lithosphere Commission and the Executive Committee of the IUGS.

All these bodies have offered supported to or endorsement of the proposal and a workshop convened by Professor R.N. Ginsburg will now take place at Miami, Florida on June 19th-22nd of representatives from all over the world to discuss proposals and their implementation. The original term "Decade" has now been dropped in favour of a permanent collaboration committee embracing the three major organising bodies of sedimentology - IAS, the ad hoc Committee of Sedimentology of the IUGS, and SEPM - with the strong support of the IUGS Commission of Stratigraphy and U.S. National Committee for Geology. The document that will be prepared at Miami will be presented to the IAS meeting at Canberra in August.

The topics which have so far been proposed where global research could deserve special attention are as follows :

1. Event stratigraphy.

Events in geological history that are recorded in a number of widely separated localities. Examples include mass extinctions, eustatic fluctuations in sea level and major episodes of volcanism.

2. Facies models in time and space.

The facies model has now reached a stage where we need to examine carefully the effects of changing climate, variations in tectonic setting and the evolution of life on these models. We also need to understand the well known secular persistence of facies associations, for example the global similarities of Carboniferous Coal Measures or shallow water carbonates in the Cambro-Ordovician. This task can be accomplished only by global-scale study of examples throughout geological history.

3. Palaeogeographical and tectonics.

Palaeogeographic and plate reconstructions derived from relative plate motions and palaeomagnetic data are now commonplace. These need to be tested by stratigraphic and sedimentological analyses, and the possibility of coeval tectonic evolution in widely separated basins needs to be examined.

These projects are so far only ideas. They are wide-ranging and specific tasks within them need to be identified. Eventually small international groups will be set up to carry out the selected projects.

We welcome further ideas and suggestions, both specific examples within the broad framework above, if possible with details of how the programmes might be implemented. We also welcome ideas on other possible topics that need wide international collaboration for their successful implementation, for example in geochemistry, geochronology and geomorphology.

Although the programmes outlined above have an emphasis on research, the carrying out of such programmes will inevitably lead to opportunities for the transfer of technology and training between different countries and undoubtedly one of the priorities in selecting particular programmes will be to consider the degree of international exchange and collaboration.

Please send comments and ideas to arrive before June 18th to :

Professor R.N. GINSBURG, University of Miami, Fisher Island Station, Miami Beach, Florida 33139 - U.S.A.

and a copy to :

Harold G. READING, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PR - U.K.

12th INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Information concerning the general assembly

A. Agenda

1. Président's introductory comments.
2. Reports of Officers (General Secretary - Treasurer - Editors - Publication Secretary).
3. Slate of new officers.
4. Site of 1990 International Sedimentological Congress.
5. Any other business.

Members who would like to rise discussion of a major issue to be included in the agenda of the General Assembly are welcome to write to General Secretary before July 1st.

B. Slate of incoming Bureau Council

In the absence of alternative slate from the membership, the new Bureau and Council will be as follows :

- Bureau :**
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| President : | H. FÜCHTBAUER (F.R. Germany) |
| Past President : | H. READING (U.K.) |
| Vice Presidents : | J. BEAUDOUIN (France) |
| | B. GINSBURG (USA) |
| | D. STOW (U.K.) |
| General Secretary : | F. SURLYK (Denmark) |
| Treasurer : | P. de BOER (The Netherlands) |
| Editors : | Ph. ALLEN (U.K.) |
| | P. HOMEWOOD (Switzerland) |
| | J. Mc KENZIE (USA) |
| Publication Secretary : | M. TUCKER (U.K.) |
- Council :**
- W. AL-HASHIMI (Iraq)
 - K. CROOK (Australia)
 - A. KOSSOVSKAYA (USSR)
 - J. LAJOIE (Canada)
 - L.A. SPALLETTI (Argentina)
 - SHU SUN (People's Republic of China).

C. Site of Next International meeting

Only one invitation has been sent to General Secretary; it comes from U.K.

D. Medalists

Robin Barthurst will be awarded the Sorby Medal.

Gerry Middleton and Gerry Friedman will be conferred Honorary Membership.

REPORTS

India

(from R.A.K. Srivastava)

The Fifth Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists was held at Geology Dept., Osmania university, Hyderabad from Dec. 27th to 30th 1985. The main theme of Convention was Sedimentary processes and Environmental Analysis. The academic programme was divided into six Sessions.

- I. Modern Sediments.
- II. Gondwana Sediments.
- III. Proterozoic Sediments.
- IV. Tertiary Sediments.
- V. Petroliferous Sediments.
- VI. Atomic Minerals in Sediments.

Each session was preceded by key note address or principal paper delivered by the subject expert. Nearly one hundred sedimentologists participated in the Congress and took active part in the discussions. Besides, Professor H. Okada : Institute of Geoscience, Schizuoka University : Japan and Professor Kronen of Imperial College chaired the session on "Modern Sediments" and presented a paper on "Behaviour of bottom currents in deep sea environments", while Professor Kronen spoke on Oceanic manganese nodules.

During the Convention one day field conference in Cuddapah Basin (Proterozoic) was also organized, where fruitful and lively discussions took place. All the participants had words of praise for the convener of the Convention Professor B.E. Vijayam. The Convention unanimously elected Professor M.N. Mehorthra, President of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists.

The next Convention of the association will be held at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, India, from 21-24 Oct. 1986. The theme of the sixth Convention is SEDIMENTATION AND TECTONICS IN INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT. For further information please write to :

Dr. R.A.K. SRIVASTAVA, Convenor, VI Convention, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, General Mahadeo Singh Road — Dehra-Dun — 248001 (India).

UNITED KINGDOM

(from Ph. Allen)

The annual meeting of the British Sedimentological Research Group (BSRG) for 1985 was held in University College, Cardiff during mid-December and was attended by a record number of well over 400 sedimentologists. The traditional two days of short research talks and posters was preceded by a co-ordinate workshop on palaeosols. Dr Paul Wright of Bristol University provided an overview of the subject in an introductory lecture and 120 sedimentologists then spent several hours critically examining and discussing 20 or so posters on this theme. Most posters were concerned with various aspects of calcrete palaeosols, though silcretes and other palaeosol types were presented by a few researchers. Without doubt, this innovative addition to the BSRG programme was highly successful and specific poster sessions therefore seem likely to become a regular feature of the programme.

Contributions to the following two-day programme were, as usual, extremely varied in their subject matter, reflecting the continuing growth of topics incorporated under the umbrella of sedimentology.

The range of topics covered was such that no coherent theme or feature to the meeting emerged during the two days. Accounts of carbonate and clastic facies models continued the "fine-tuning" phase of existing models which seems to prevail at present; carbonate and clastic diagenesis featured prominently in the programme and accounted for several lively discussion periods; there was a marked increase in the number of contributions concerned with links between sedimentation and tectonic deformation; there were comparatively few contributions on physical processes of sedimentation and modern sedimentary environments. The result was a busy, lively meeting somewhat lacking in a sense of direction.

The annual meeting next year is to be in the University of Nottingham from December 18th-19th under the convenorship of Dr Dorrik Stow. The virtue of these annual meetings lies in the fact that the majority of British sedimentologists attend the meeting, accompanied by a small but significant number of European sedimentologists and North American, sabbatical visitors. The polaroid-type snapshot of sedimentology provided by the meetings continues to be a source of fascination in the development of the subject.

(Dr. T. Elliott)

ANNOUNCEMENT

28th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Washington, D.C.

July 9-19, 1989

Call for symposium topics

The 28th International Geological Congress will be held in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., in July, 1989. The last Congress was in Moscow in 1984; the previous one was in Paris in 1980. It is the premier Congress in the world for the exchange of the latest information in the geological sciences; at least 5,000 people from most countries in the world are expected.

The scientific program will consist of symposia and regular sessions covering the latest developments in the basic and applied earth sciences. All aspects of the earth sciences will be discussed; geophysics, hydrology, paleontology, volcanology, petrology, and geochemistry are but a few of these. Interdisciplinary symposia will be featured because so many problems in earth science today require a battery of disciplines for their successful solution. The importance of the geological sciences in solving societal problems is becoming increasingly obvious, accordingly great emphasis will be placed on symposia dealing with resources (oil, gas, coal, water, geothermal energy, mineral deposits), pollution (toxic and nuclear wastes), geologic hazards (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides and subsidence), and land use. Topics will be discussed both from a global viewpoint and by use of case histories. Poster symposia will be an innovation; many areas of the geological sciences are best illustrated by poster sessions.

In order to assemble the best and most interesting program, the organizers of the Congress solicit the help of I.A.S. organization in suggesting symposium topics, both for oral and poster presentations. Topics should be of broad interest to a variety of geologists - therefore interdisciplinary topics within the earth sciences are especially welcome. Due to the limited time available, you will understand that all symposium topics suggested cannot be presented, but space will be found in the program for as many excellent suggestions as can be accommodated within the time available.

In addition to the regular scientific sessions and symposia to be held during the meetings, the Organizational Committee of the Congress is planning to hold pre- and post-meeting Workshops and Short Courses to consider research topics of interest. Workshops are intended to be gatherings where knowledge of new discoveries, new methods, and new insights will be shared among the participants, all of whom are research workers in the area. Short Courses, in contrast, are sessions in which specialist discuss in an instructional format the state of knowledge in an area of scientific and geotechnological interest in which recent progress has been significant. **The organizers of the Congress ask suggestions for topics for these planned activities. We further request that you suggest possible organizers for each Workshop or Short Course you mention;** for logistic reasons we encourage you to nominate U.S. or at least North American scientists as organizers. Once again, you will please understand that we may or may not be able to utilize your suggestions, though we will strive to accomodate as many of the best ideas possible.

Please send any suggestions your organization may have on symposia, workshops, or short courses, or any other suggestions regarding the organization of the Congress and its associated field trips to :

Dr. Robin BRETT -- Vice-President for Scientific Programs.
Bureau of the 28th International Geological Congress.
P.O. Box 1001 -- HERNDON, VA 22070 -- USA.

FUTURE MEETINGS

April 3-5, 1986

SCOTLAND (Edinburgh)

SEDIMENTOLOGY AND HYDROCARBON POTENTIAL OF THE DINANTIAN OIL-SHALES OF NORTHERN BRITAIN

Will be held at Edinburgh University. Two days of talks and a field trip.

Speakers from industry and universities.

April 12-13, 1986

U.K. (Keele)

CONTROLS OF UPPER CARBONIFEROUS SEDIMENTATION - NORTH WEST EUROPE.

Will be held at Keele University.

Convenors : Gilbert KELLING and Bernard BESLY

First circular and registration forms available from Gilbert KELLING,
Department of Geology, University of Keele,
Keele, Staffs, ST5 5BG — U.K.

Tel. 0782-621111).

May 23-25, 1986

POLAND (Krakow)

7th I.A.S. REGIONAL MEETING

Contact : Dr. St. LESZCZYNSKI
Inst. Geol. Scs
Jagellonian University
Oleandry 2A
30-063 Krakow (Poland)

Late May, 1986

U.K. (Manchester)

COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY : PROCESS AND SEDIMENTATION

Will be held at Manchester University.

Contact : Denise REED,
Geography Department,
Manchester University,
Oxford Road,
Manchester, M13 9PL, U.K.

August 4-7, 1986

THAILAND (Chiang Mai)

**INTERMONTANE BASINS - SEDIMENTOLOGY, TECTONIC
AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

Contact : Dr. Theerapongs THANASUTHIPITAK
Faculty of Science
Department of Geological Sciences
Chiang Mai University
Chian Mai 5002 (Thailand)

August 24-30, 1986

AUSTRALIA (Canberra)

**SEDIMENTS DOWN - UNDER
12th INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

September 30 - October 1, 1986

U.K. (Liverpool)

DIAGENESIS OF SEDIMENTARY SEQUENCES

Will be held at University of Liverpool. Big scale controls on clastic and carbonate diagenesis, all-star cast from Britain, Europe and North America.

Contact : Jim MARSHALL,
Geological Sciences Department,
Liverpool University
P.O. Box 147
Liverpool, L69 3BX. -- U.K.

October 10, 1986

U.K. (Swansea)

STRIKE SLIP TECTONICS AND SEDIMENTATION

One day discussion meeting at University College of Swansea.

Convenors : S. HANNA, S. COSGROVE, N. FRY, R. LISLE

Contact : S. HANNA,
Department of Geology,
University College,
Swansea, SA2 8PP. -- U.K.

Early November, 1986

U.K. (Sheffield)

MODERN LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN SEDIMENTOLOGY

One day workshop.

Contact : Dr Tim YOUNG,
Geology Department,
Sheffield University,
Beaumont Building,
Brookhill, Sheffield, U.K.

April 1-3, 1987

TUNISIA (Tunis)

8th REGIONAL MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

Convenors : Pr. S. SASSI
Chairman Organizing Committee
Faculté des Sciences
Campus universitaire
Tunis (Tunisie)

Pr. Ali M'RABET
General Secretary Organizing Committee
Faculté des Sciences de Tunis
Dept. des Sciences de la Terre,
Campus universitaire
1060 Tunis (Tunisie).

April 13-16, 1987

FRANCE (Strasbourg)

4th EUG BIENNIAL MEETING

Contact : Organizing Committee EUG IV
Department of Earth Sciences
ETH.-HONGGERBERG
Ch-8093 Zurich (Switzerland)