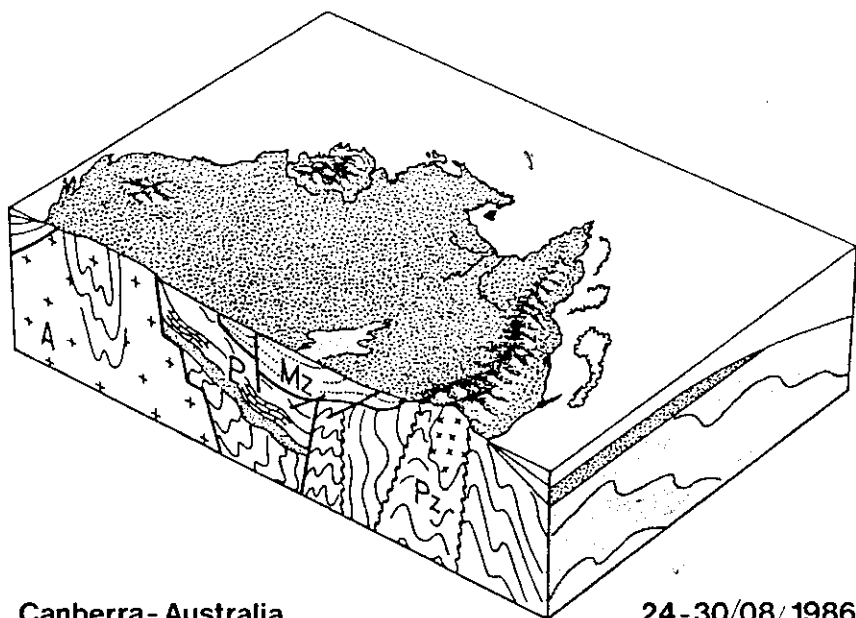


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

N°86 August 1986



Canberra - Australia

24-30/08/1986

E D I T O R I A L
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A new Bureau and Council are going to be elected in Canberra during our General Assembly on August 27th, 1986. So, this is my last Newsletter after having served I.A.S. for eight years as General Secretary. It is not my purpose to report here on I.A.S. activities since the Hamilton General Assembly (1982) as this will be presented in Canberra and printed in Sedimentology together with the reports of the other officers of the Bureau.

Beside current matters, much of our activity has been, in a way, to prospect and prepare situations, policies and projects that will give the new Bureau and Council solid grounds to conduct the International Association of Sedimentologists toward new developments, widened activities and become more international yet. We organized our last two International Congresses in places remote from I.A.S. birth place so as to visit far-away colleagues and recognize their achievement (Canada, 1982; Australia, 1986). Similar policy has been checked and applied to our Regional Meetings which have been extended to Yugoslavia, Poland in alternance with western sites like France, Spain, etc...; whereas several other countries, hindered by their problems of low currencies have already sent invitations for the forthcoming years. As far as Africa is concerned, we first sponsored yearly meetings in Morocco, and accepted to have our next Regional Meeting in Tunisia. Thematic Meetings have also been planned and arranged in Thailand and in Kuwait (cfr. past newsletter) also in alternance with Western European ones. These were experiences that will help the New Bureau in conforing I.A.S. activities and materializing its presence not only in Europe but also around the world.

Following the proposals made by Pr. G. deVries Klein in Hamilton we created the I.A.S. Funds, destined to enlarge our activities, publications and financial assistance to young members. With the help of Vice-President B. Ginsburg and our colleague Pr. G. deVries Klein we are now in process of creating an american branch of the I.A.S. Fund, whereas we are still prospecting the possibilities to settle an Australian one with Vice-President K. Crook.

We have furthermore decided to re-inforce this action by promoting a friendship scheme (see comments of the President page 5), by which I.A.S. members from western countries sponsor financially the membership of colleagues from countries where salaries are much too low or currencies not convertible.

Finally, in front of the increasing need for development of international sedimentological research, we decided to actively participate to an International Pro-

gramme of scientific sedimentological collaboration, programme initially called the Decade of Sedimentology, together with SEPM, and the ad hoc Committee on Sedimentology, and various branches of the I.U.G.S.

A last important point that took much effort and discussions was to finalize or organize the major decisions voted upon at Hamilton General Assembly so as to re-organize our statutes toward a greater participation of the whole membership to major decisions. All these and other points, means that I.A.S. is now at a major turn of its history, a turn characterized by a considerable widening of its sphere of influence in terms of scientific activity, structure, and geographical impacts. This is the purpose of the "Letter of the President", letter that was recently distributed to members together with the new statutes, and which requests constructive reactions and proposals from the membership so as to help the work of the New Bureau and Council.

The feature of I.A.S. may also involve some changes in the role and responsibility of National Correspondents -sometimes to much isolated-, mainly if Regions are created around the world as suggested in the President's letter; this innovation may not be immediate as it needs deep reflection and, may be, the necessary time to convince people that we do not want to deal with politics.

The role of National Correspondents is extremely important in collecting scientific informations and divulgating it to our community through the channels of the newsletters; their action also leads to publicize relevant sedimentological achievement and efforts reached and carried by their country and their colleagues. The significance of their job is hence critical as we are an association of members, not of countries or national groups. Here, I must say that I have been sometimes deceived by the timidity or the absence from action of National Correspondents as only a small part of them really considered the importance of their role and devoted the necessary efforts to collect information. I certainly understand this is not always easy to perform as it takes time, efficient collaboration of colleagues and eventually much diplomacy; however National Correspondents are members who have been warmly recommended to the I.A.S. Bureau by local sedimentological authorities, as being good and active scientists having sufficient contacts with their national sedimentological community to take the job. Maybe we should have published more frequently the list of these Correspondents in Sedimentology, in addition to the newsletter, so that local communities know and become convinced of the official role of these correspondents. Looking back to past newsletters I just can find a small group of correspondents who regularly sent news

either about scientific research or highlights of National Meetings or of International Meetings held in their country. I shall lengthily discuss this problem with the forthcoming General Secretary so that we get more participation of the National Correspondents once they have officially accepted to serve I.A.S., as well as more facilities and recognition once national instances or authorities have backed their nomination.

Beside what preceeds, I think the newsletters should follow the evolution of I.A.S. by improving its quality of presentation and content, in spite of amount of work and correspondence already pounding on the General Secretary. Among other things, improvement could include (1) improvement of general presentation and typing as I tried it in the last 2 issues, although this may increase cost prices, (2) presence of an editorial either scientific and written by sedimentologists on pertinent general topics (as I obtained it twice this term) or on the life of the Association, provided it is written by members who have a good knowledge of I.A.S., (3) presence of more scientific reports written by correspondents or/and some of their collaborators. I indeed always suggested National Correspondents to get collaboration from small teams made of scientists preparing reports on particular sedimentological topics or on sedimentological developments, or yet on the way they or their national scientific programs or institution approach such or such sedimentological problem even if different or even conflicting approaches are objectively presented. Sciences gains so much more from multi-facetted approaches and open discussions, (4) creation of a section strictly devoted to members as I long ago suggested it, i.e. a page where they could express their opinion on such or such aspect of I.A.S. activities or on such scientific topic; the objectives being to raise debates that would really testify the life of our membership. We do need a much greater presence of the membership in our Newsletter.

Much more could be said, but I prefer to leave it to the next Bureau and particularly the next General Secretary who will have to define eventual new policies in relationships which the progressively changing structure of I.A.S.

As far as I am concerned I really appreciated this part of the job of the General Secretary, the contacts with correspondents and members either by letters or during meetings; among other satisfactions are those stemming from solving personal problems or interventions sollicitated by members. During these 8 years I progressively discovered a large amount of friends and enthusiastic scientists from all over the world, scientists working sometimes on fields far away

from mine. My dearest wish is to keep them once I close my office of General Secretary of the I.A.S., and, as a scientist, keep on learning from them and eventually collaborating in research.

I dearly want to thank the I.A.S. for entrusting me as General Secretary for these two terms; in spite of very long and sometimes very late bureau meetings, these have always been a source of joy for me because I was always sure to meet with good friends working enthusiastically for common causes close to our heart, i.e. the promotion of sedimentology and a very deep care for young scientists or for scientists who do not have the same facilities as those we have overhere; in this view the Krakow Regional Meeting has been a very rewarding success, as besides its scientific quality it allowed us to contact many Eastern European countries and start developing an I.A.S. friendship scheme.

To all of you, National Correspondents, members and Institutions which helped us in our task, thank you and good luck.

Cl. MONTY,
General Secretary

ASSOCIATION NEWS

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IAS Friendship Scheme

The IAS intends to enable individual members of IAS to sponsor members from countries where salaries are low or whose currency is not convertible into that of a western country. At present one or two people are doing this on their own initiative but, by adding a sponsoring insert in the annual Dues form, we hope further to encourage such sponsoring so that it may become a major method for creating friendships and scientific contacts between sedimentologists in different parts of the world.

The cost of membership of IAS is not high for those of us in the west. It is little more than the cost of taking a friend out to dinner. This is not

the way it looks in many parts of the world. Apart from the fact that in many countries the system of scientific organization is such that individuals are not able to join a foreign society, the salary structure may be so low that what may seem a small sum to some of us is not so to them. In many countries the top salary of a Professor is less than that of a research student in another country. In addition, and of prime importance in eastern European countries and many Third World countries, it is impossible to obtain foreign exchange. There is no way that people who very much want to pay the dues and join a foreign, international association, can do so because their currencies are not convertible into a western currency.

The problem of people in countries with low salaries or with exchange difficulties is not only that they cannot become members of IAS. They also cannot travel to meetings in countries with convertible currencies and naturally feel themselves cut off from the normal scientific exchanges that we take for granted. They may never go abroad for many years and many young scientists never have a chance to visit another country. Partly as a result of this isolation they are only too anxious to have visitors; they can frequently entertain them and show them round; and it may not be so difficult for them to pay the expenses of foreign visitors in their own country.

We anticipate that many people will wish to make a friend. Some will be those who have already been invited to a country and been entertained. This would be a way of showing gratitude. Others may be planning to visit a country or have received an invitation and can anticipate the hospitality offered. Yet again it may be simply because a person is working closely with a scientist, perhaps largely by correspondence, to further the same scientific objectives.

The purpose of the scheme is thus threefold. Firstly it will enable many good sedimentologists to receive the benefits of belonging to IAS and to feel less isolated by joining our community. Secondly, it is a way of thanking people who have helped us in the past. Thirdly, and really the most important, it will enable scientific contacts between people in different countries to be strengthened and new friendships to be made. The scheme is not intended as charity. It will be a two-way interchange with mutual benefits to both partners.

This autumn, when the Treasurer sends the Dues statements, there will be an additional section where a member may insert the name of a friend whose dues he/she would like to sponsor. The extra dues can then be paid along with the member's own dues and the friend will become a full member of IAS.

Harold G. READING
President

R E P O R T S
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7th Regional IAS Meeting, Poland
(from President H. Reading)

Our first meeting in eastern Europe was a tremendous success. A few people from western countries withdrew at the last moment because of fears of fall-out from Chernobyl, but for those who went it was a memorable meeting. Excellently organized, with good discussions, and field excursions at prices which even the poorest western student or professor could afford, most people went for a week or more and had a chance really to get to know colleagues in Poland. The ancient city of Krakow made a beautiful background for the meeting and the field trips were to wooded hills within which were concealed some tremendous and extensive exposures where fundamental problems of sedimentology could be discussed. It was no surprise that it was in Poland that many of the earlier discoveries and ideas of sedimentology in the 1950s and 1960s, particularly in turbidites and other mass flow deposits, were established.

Apart from the excursions and talks, the other major element in the success of the meeting was that it brought together not only western and eastern European sedimentologists who normally have little chance to meet, but also many of those from eastern countries who do not always find it easy to meet colleagues in other eastern countries.

The meeting was not an easy one to set up. Three years ago the situation in Poland was difficult, with the economic and political future of the country uncertain. Many of the facilities we take for granted in western countries are not available, and the problem of currency exchange was a serious one. Once any money is transferred to Poland it is impossible to convert it back to a western currency. An outcome of this is that those who had paid the fee for registration or for field excursions, and later withdrew, cannot have their payments returned.

The reason for promoting the meeting in Poland was that we knew it is more or less impossible for eastern European sedimentologists to attend meetings in the West, for financial reasons and because their currencies are not convertible. In addition, the number of IAS members from eastern European countries had declined over the past 20 years, while it had increased four-fold overall. The reason is not lack of interest in sedimentology but an inability to pay in a convertible currency. We wanted therefore both to meet and discuss with Eastern sedimentologists, and to give them a chance to hear what we were doing. We also wanted to find out if there was a way in which IAS could help to break down the political and financial barriers, to see how we could help them to join IAS and how we could improve the flow of scientific information between the two political systems and also between individual eastern European countries.

The outcome of talks between the Bureau of IAS and sedimentologists from eastern European countries is that (1) we have ensured that in future there will be, in each country, at least one member of IAS who will receive the Newsletter and Sedimentology, and (2) we have agreed to start a Friendship Scheme, as outlined page 5. We hope that this scheme will not only enable eastern Europeans to become members of IAS and join the international scientific community, but will strengthen scientific bonds between sedimentologists in countries where the currency is freely convertible and those who live in countries with currencies that cannot be used abroad.

We plan in future to have a meeting in Eastern Europe as a regular feature of our programme. I am delighted to announce that we have had an invitation from Hungary for a regional meeting in 1989 and we have accepted the invitation with pleasure.

FUTURE MEETINGS
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September 26-28, 1986

U.S.A. (Raleigh)

1986 SEPM MIDYEAR MEETING

60th Birthday celebration of SEPM

With the help of many people, we have put together a program which is a worthy tribute to the first 60 years of SEPM. The technical program and associated activities cover SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS FROM RIFT TO UPLIFT. In such a broad range of topics, every sedimentary geologist will find many topics of interest.

For information, please contact :

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Note from the Editor :

It is a pity that the announcement of this most important meeting reached IAS General Secretary so late in such a way that it can only be publicized in our August Newsletter.

December 16-19, 1986

U.K. (Nottingham)

BRITISH SEDIMENTOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP ANNUAL MEETING
1986

Venue : East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham
University Campus

Program : Tuesday 16th December : workshops
Wednesday 17th December : conference
Thursday 18th December : conference
Friday 19th December : field trips

Fees : £6.00 Registration

Deadlines : 15th OCTOBER for registration and
abstracts

Convenor : Dr. Dorrik A.V. Stow
Department of Geology,
University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham NG7 2RD
U.K.
Tel. : 0602 506101

April 21-22, 1987

U.K. (London)

DELTAS

Sites and Traps for Fossil Fuels

To be held at the Geological Society, Burlington House, London.

This meeting, organized by the British Sedimentological Research Group, aims to review the current state of knowledge on deltaic sedimentation. Two days of lectures and poster sessions are to be held on 21st-22nd April 1987, followed by two alternative 2-day field trips (23rd-24th April) to study the Namurian deltaics of the Pennines or the Westphalian deltaics of N. Devon. A core workshop on deltaic deposits of the North Sea is also planned for 25th-26th April at BGS Edinburgh. There will be four thematic sessions (initiated by keynote speakers) on processes, facies models, petroleum- and coal-related environments. It is anticipated that case studies from around the world will supplement the general themes of the conference.

Anyone wishing to present an oral (20 minutes) or poster presentation should contact the conference convenors as soon as possible. It is anticipated that an edited volume of papers from this meeting will be published shortly after the conference.

For details, contact :

Mr. Mike Whateley or Dr. Kevin Pickering
Leicester University
Department of Geology
Leicester LE1 7RH
U.K.

The second circular will provide details of registration.

May 15-17, 1987

U.K. (Lancaster)

THE HYDROLOGY, SEDIMENTOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL
IMPLICATIONS OF FLOODS

Convened by Drs. P.A. Carling and K. Beven. The aim of this workshop is to draw together investigators from different disciplines who have a common interest in the dynamics of fluvial floods and their effect on the landscape. The workshop is open to all who wish to contribute to a review of the newest developments in describing flood flow generation, interpretation of flood sediments, reconstruction of flood magnitudes etc... as well as an interest in floods within the framework of longer term landform evolution. The meeting has the support of the British Geomorphological Research Group and the British Hydrological Society and incorporates a field excursion.

Details and a copy of the first circular are available from :

Dr. P.A. Carling
Freshwater Biological Association
The Ferry House
Far Sawrey, Ambleside
Cumbria LA22 0LP
U.K.

July 6-11, 1987

U.K. (Cardiff)

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOSSIL ALGAE

Aims : This Fourth International Symposium on Fossil Algae is the successor to the Erlangen, Paris and Denver meetings. It will draw together leading specialists, new workers in the field, and those with broader interests in algae and algal carbonates, to review and discuss all aspects of the biomineralization, palaeobiology, geological history, sedimentology and ultrastructure of modern and ancient calcareous algae, cyanobacteria and stromatolites. The meeting is sponsored by the International Palaeontological Association.

Location : The meeting will be held at University College, Cardiff, UK which is two hours by train from London Heathrow International Airport. Some international flights also serve Cardiff (Wales) Airport.

Excursions : Immediately before and after the Symposium field excursions will visit classic algal localities in south-west Britain. The post-Symposium excursion will end just prior to the Eighth Meeting of Carbonate Sedimentology which commences at Liverpool on 14 July.

Workshops : Discussion groups and practical workshops will be organized on any aspects of calcareous algae and stromatolites. SUGGESTIONS AND OFFERS FROM POTENTIAL WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS ARE WELCOME.

Further details : If you will attend this Symposium, or if there is a possibility that you might do so, contact :

Fossil Algae Symposium
c/o Dr. Robert Riding
Department of Geology
University College
Cardiff CF1 1XL
U.K.

Tel. : Cardiff (0222) 874329

Telex : 498635 ULIBCFG

OFFERS OF TALKS/WORKSHOPS/DISCUSSION GROUPS :
contact the same address.

August 1987

KOREA (Seoul)

16TH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS (PSC)

The 16th PSC will be held in Seoul, Korea during the period of August 20-30, 1987. We expect a number of interesting papers dealing with local and regional aspects of sedimentary geology during this meeting. There are also interesting field trips scheduled for sedimentologists : 1) the Mesozoic Kyongsang Basin (Aug. 27-29; leader, H.I. Choi) of fluviolacustrine strata; 2) Cheju Island (Aug. 27-30; leaders, J.K. Weon and M.F. Howells) of typical volcanic topography, lava tunnels, volcanic cones, alkali rocks as well as pyroclastic and epiclastic rocks; 3) Cretaceous volcanoclastic and chemical sedimentary facies (Aug. 27-29; leaders, S.K. Chough and S.S. Chun) that consists of pyro- and epi-clastics, bedded cherts, black shales and carbonates in alluvial fan, floodplain, braidplain and lacustrine margin facies with excellent sedimentary structures; 4) Neogene geology in Pohang Basin (Aug. 27-29; leader, S. Yoon) of Miocene sequence; 5) Paleozoic stratigraphy in Kangwon Province (Aug. 27-30; leader, H.Y. Lee) where one examines Precambrian-Cambrian, Cambro-Ordovician and Permo-Carboniferous stratigraphy and 6) Tidal flat in the west coast (Aug. 23-24; leader, Y.A. Park). Also many scenic tours are scheduled. Abstract of papers and registration due by December 31, 1986. For application form, write to :

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or directly to

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Seoul, 1987
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Seoul 110 - Korea

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