Newsletter

of the

International Association of GeoChemistry

Number 46, May 2007

Mel Gascoyne, Newsletter Editor

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

- **40th Anniverary Awards**
- **Obituary – George Wetherill**
- **IGC in 2008**

News Flash: 2007 IAGC Awards Announced

IAGC is proud to announce the recipients of its inaugural set of awards. The official announcement and presentation of the awards will take place in Cologne, Germany in association with the 2007 Goldschmidt Conference. The announcement will take place during the IAGC 40th Anniversary Celebration event on Saturday 18 August and the awards will be presented during the Goldschmidt Conference Awards Ceremony.

The IAGC Vernadsky Medal is awarded to Prof Fred Mackenzie of the University of Hawaii for a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry over the course of a career.

The IAGC Ebelmen Award recognizes a geochemist of particular merit and outstanding promise, who is less than 35 years old. It will be shared between Dana Royer of Wesleyan University and Seifu Kebede of the University of Addis Ababa

The Hitchen Award for the most significant paper published in the IAGC journal, *Applied Geochemistry,* during 2007-07 is awarded to Keara B. Moore and B. Ekwurzel of the University of Arizona and Bradley K. Esser, G. Bryant Hudson, and Jean E. Moran of Lawrence Livermore University for their paper 'Sources of Groundwater Nitrate Revealed Using Residence Time and Isotope Methods' (*Applied Geochemistry*, 21:1016-1029).

Certificates of Recognition for outstanding scientific accomplishment in a particular area of geochemistry, for excellence in teaching or public service, and/or to an IAGC member for meritorious service to the Association or the international scientific community, are awarded to:

U. Aswathanarayana of the Mahadevan International Centre for Water Resources Management (India),

Mike Edmunds of the University of Oxford (UK),

John Gurney of the University of Capetown (South Africa),

Jochen Hoefs of the University of Göttingen (Germany),

Yousif Kharaka of the U.S. Geological Survey (USA),

Herbert Palme of the University of Köln (Germany), and

Zell Peterman of the U.S. Geological Survey (USA).

More late-breaking news!

IAGC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Plans are falling into place for the IAGC 40th Anniversary Celebration event. The agenda is finalized and Jochen Hoefs will be making a visit to Cologne during May to finalize the logistical arrangements.

All IGAC members are cordially invited to attend this landmark event. If you plan on attending the celebration event and the subsequent reception, please send an e-mail message to Mel Gascoyne in the the IAGC Business Office (iagc@granite.mb.ca), so we can get an estimate of the expected attendance.

Date: Saturday, 18 August 2007
Location: Earth Sciences Building, Zülpicher Strasse 49, Köln

* * * * *

1:00 pm Welcome – R. Harmon
Itroduction of IAGC Officers, Council, and Working Group Chairs
Introduction of Distinguished Guests – C. Reimann
Historical Overview of IAGC, 1967 to 2007 – R. Harmon

1:30 pm Perspectives on Geochemistry 1967-2007: Short historical vignettes from distinguished guests:
G. Faure, E. Galimov, J. Ludden, H. Wänke, K.-H. Wedepohl

Friso Veenstra – Elsevier
Perspectives on the IAGC Journal Applied Geochemistry

3:00 pm Ingerson International Lecture #1: Mike Edmunds – Oxford University
Geochemistry's Vital Contribution to Solving Global Water Resource Issues

3:45 pm Refreshment Break

Ingerson International Lecture #2: Balz Kamber, Laurentian University
Geochemical Fingerprinting: 40 Years of Analytical Development and Real World Applications

4:30 pm Announcement of IAGC Awards for 2007: C. Riemann and J. Kramers

4:45 pm 'Keynote' Address: Stephen Moorbath, Oxford University
Geochronology – Aims and Reminiscences

5:30 pm Closing Remarks: R. Harmon

6:00 pm Reception/Buffet at the University Mensa

NOTICE
of the
IAGC Business Meeting for 2007

A formal Business Meeting of the IAGC will be held at University of Cologne Earth Sciences Building at Zülpicher Strasse 49, Köln, from 8:30am to 5:30 pm on Sunday 19 August 2007. All IAGC members are welcome to attend this meeting. Time will be made available for members to share with the Board any concerns about the Association that they may have or ideas to improve the Association, so that it can better serve both its members and the geochemistry community.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

A message from the President, Russ Harmon

IAGC Colleagues:

The next three years will be a busy time for IAGC. This message provides a brief update on IAGC activities in 2007 as well as those planned for 2008, & 2009. It also requests some important information from you, so please take time to read the message carefully.

2007: A Very Busy Year

The IAGC 40th Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Earth Sciences Department at the University of Cologne (Germany) beginning at 1.00 pm on Saturday 18 August. The first set of IAGC awards will be announced at the ceremony, but the official presentation of awards will occur on 22 August as a part of the Goldschmidt Conference, Geochemical Society and European Association of Geochemistry awards ceremony. A formal business meeting of the IAGC Council will be held at the same location, from 0830 am to 05.30 pm on Sunday,19th August.

The "12th International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction", co-chaired by Y. Kharaka, will be held from 31 July – 5 August in Kunming, China. This meeting is a triennial event of the IAGC Working Group on Water-Rock Interaction, one of our most long-lived and successful working groups. IAGC will have a booth and make strong membership recruiting effort at this conference. The meeting web site is: http://www.wri12.org.

The 7th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from September 10 - 14, 2007. This is a meeting of the IAGC Working Group on Applied Isotope Geochemistry and will be the first conference at which the new policy on registration fees for IAGC-sponsored meetings will be implemented (i.e. all participants will be charged a 1-year IAGC membership as a part of the meeting registration fee), so the IAGC Business Office will not need to have a booth and recruitment effort at this meeting.
The meeting web site is:
http://academic.sun.ac.za/geology/aig7.htm

IAGC will continue its presence and involvement in the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, which will be held in Denver, Colorado from 28-31 October 2007. We will have a booth at the meeting and the recipients of the IAGC Vernadsky Medal, Ebelmen Award, and Hitchon Award will be showcased in the Affiliated Societies gallery during the course of the meeting. IAGC will sponsor a session at the meeting entitled" Sources, Transport, Fate and Toxicology of Trace Elements in the Environment" that will be co-chaired by LeeAnn Munk, Dave Long, and Berry Lyons. The meeting web site is: http://www.geosociety.org.

2008: Two IAGC events in 2008.

The first is the Statutes-mandated 4-yearly Council meeting that will be held during the 33rd International Geological Congress, to be held in Oslo, Norway, from 6-14 August 2008. As a part of the "International Year of Planet Earth" and the ICG official technical program, Andrew Parker is organizing a special session on geochemistry that will consist of two parts: (i) historical reviews of geochemistry and its applications and (ii) a series of presentations on future developments in geochemistry and its potential to solve environmental problems in the 21st century. Plans are underway to have the proceedings of these sessions published in book form by Elsevier. IAGC Council has

already approved $5000 in financial support for this important initiative and the Steering Committee of IYPE is being asked to provide matching funds. It is also anticipated that an Ingerson International Lecture and the IAGC awards for 2008 will be presented at this meeting.

The second is the 8th Conference on Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface. Sponsored by the IAGC Working Group on Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface, the UK Mineralogical Society and the British Natural History Museum, this meeting will be held in London, UK from 17-22 August 2008. This is a meeting at which the new policy on registration fees for IAGC-sponsored meetings will be implemented (i.e. all participants will be charged a 1-year IAGC membership as a part of the meeting registration fee), so the IAGC Business Office will not need to have a booth and recruitment effort at this meeting.

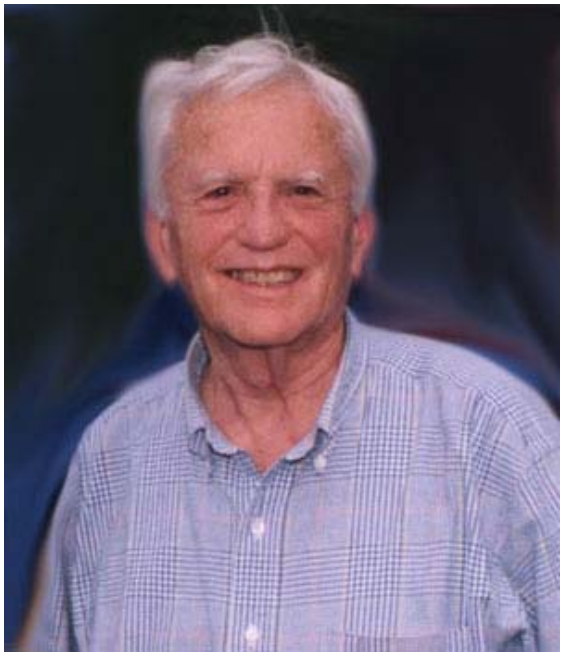
2009: An Important Initiative

Following the approval by both the IAGC Council and the Steering Committee of the Association of Applied Geochemists, IAGC and AAG will join together to organize and conduct the 2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium, which most likely will be held in Denver, CO. It is also anticipated that an Ingerson International Lecture and the IAGC awards for 2009 will be presented at this meeting. If this initiative turns out to be successful in the opinion of both societies, then the stage will be set for a full IAGC-AAG partnership in future International Applied Geochemistry Symposia.

Obituary: George Wetherill

Former DTM director and 1997 National Medal of Science recipient, **George Wetherill**, died from heart failure on July 19, 2006, at his Washington, D.C., home. Wetherill revolutionized our understanding of how our planets and solar system formed through his theoretical models. He was one of the first scientists to develop theoretical models for how planetesimals aggregate and grow. His models enabled him to make predictions about the size and orbits of the inner planets as well as how collisions between bodies in the asteroid belt could result in asteroid impacts on Earth, including the one that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Born in Philadelphia on August 12, 1925, Wetherill served in the US Navy during World War II, teaching radar at the Naval Research Laboratory in the District. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1953 after a succession of degrees, Ph.B., S.B., S.M., and Ph.D. After receiving his doctorate, he joined Carnegie's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism as a member of the scientific staff. Between 1960 and 1975 he was a professor and



department chairman at the University of California, Los Angeles. He came back to Carnegie in 1975 as director of the department, a position he held until 1991. After he stepped down, he continued his research as director emeritus.

In the 1950s, Wetherill was among a group of scientists who developed geochemical methods involving natural radioactive decay to date the Earth's rocks. Later, his interests in age-dating techniques expanded to include extraterrestrial materials, including meteorites and rock samples from the moon. In the 1970s, he began theoretical explorations into the origins of meteorites and the terrestrial planets, developing a technique to calculate the orbital evolution and accumulation of swarms of small bodies as they coalesce into planets.

In 1997 George Wetherill received the highest scientific award in the nation—the National Medal of Science. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1971 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1974.

George was an enthusiastic officer of the IAGC in its early days. Brian Hitchon recalls that George was part of the Executive of IAGC during Brian's term of office and was the person who persuaded Brian that being Secretary was a more significant position than vice-president! This was at a time when there were two VP's, and one (Marc Grunenfelder) went on to be President while Brian Hitchon became Secretary.

International Geological Congress Norway 2008

(A message from Jack Hess, GSA)

I recently received an e-mail message from Pat Leahy, Associate Director of Geology, USGS, regarding the upcoming 33rd IGC. Organizers are expecting 5000-7000 geoscientists from around the world to participate in the meeting 5-14 August 2008, in Oslo, Norway.

Pat shared with me that only a few symposia and special theme sessions have been proposed to-date from North America. He is encouraging all of us to look at our schedules and areas of achievement and consider submitting proposals.

Specific topics suggested for symposium topics from a North American perspective have included Earth Scope and Arctic Research. Organizers are also encouraging themes that highlight multidisciplinary research between and among the physical, natural, social, economic, and political sciences. The USGS has already offered to help convene two symposia, one on geohazards and one on mineral resource assessment methodologies.

Additional information on the meeting is available at www.33igc.org. You are also invited to correspond directly with Prof. Arne Bjørlykke, President of the 33rd International Geological Congress, at arne.bjorlykke@ngu.no, or with the Scientific Program Committee at secretariat@33igc.org.

Thanks in advance for considering this request.

A Second Award from the AGU to Dr. U. Aswathanarayana

The IAGC Working Group Chairman, Dr. Uppugunduri Aswathanarayana, has received a second award from the American Geophysical Union (AGU). He has been named as recipient of the International Research Cooperation Award (2007) of the AGU.

In receiving this award he will deliver a special lecture at the Acapulco meeting on how the earth (including atmospheric and oceanic

realms), space and information sciences can be employed to promote food, water and environmental security in developing countries. For further information, he can be contacted as follows:

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WRI– 12: Latest news from Yousif Kharaka

Tom Bullen tells me that he and Yanxin Wang, continue to receive manuscripts for WRI-12; to date they have received a total of 380 manuscripts, with more than half coming from scientists outside China. They have rejected about 15, so they will end up with 360-370 papers, which likely would be a record for WRI meetings (even beating WRI-7 in Park City!). Registrations are increasing, but I do not have the registration numbers at this time. Most people usually will wait until May 30 when the late registration fees start!

WRI-12 will be held July 31-August 5, 2007, in the beautiful 'spring' city of Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The WRI-12 Committee have organized a tremendous program of science and culture for the participants, including field trips to Tibet, Three Gorges Dam and Stone Forest. For detailed information about timelines, registration, program, venue and field trips, please visit the WRI-12 web site at: http://www.wri12.org/

We hope to see you in Kunming for a wonderful Water-Rock Chinese experience!"

Yousif Kharaka, Chairman WRI Working Group
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IAGC Awards (see update on p.2)

The International Association of GeoChemistry has received several nominations for the Vernadsky Medal and the Ebelmen Awards, and for Certificates of Recognition. The Vernadsky Medal is awarded for a distinguished record of achievement in academic or applied geochemistry, or both, over the course of a career. It is the highest distinction of the Association. The Ebelmen Award is given to a geochemist of particular merit and outstanding promise and less than 35 years old at the time of nomination. This award consists of a framed certificate and a cash prize of $1500 (US).

A Certificate of Recognition, (the Hitchon Award) may be awarded by the IAGC to any scientist for outstanding accomplishment in any area of geochemistry or for excellence in teaching or public service. It may also be given to an IAGC member for meritorious service to the Association or the international scientific community. It consists of a framed certificate and carries no cash prize. These awards will be bestowed for the first time in a ceremony that will take place at the 2007 Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne, Germany.

***Applied Geochemistry* – Are you missing any issues?**

The IAGC Business Office is willing to mail out missing issues of AG, volumes 17, 18, 19 & 20 to fill in the gaps of members' collections, free of charge! Let us know if you are missing an issue.

IUPAC and Geochemistry

The IAGC is affiliated with The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) through their mutual interest in chemistry and geochemistry. IUPAC publishes Chemistry International, a bimonthly newsletter, which contains all sorts of articles of interest to earth scientists and geochemists. Examples include reaching out to science educators, gas hydrates, atmospheric chemistry and greenhouse gases. A subscription costs individual members $45. More information can be found at their web site www.iupac.org/publications/ci

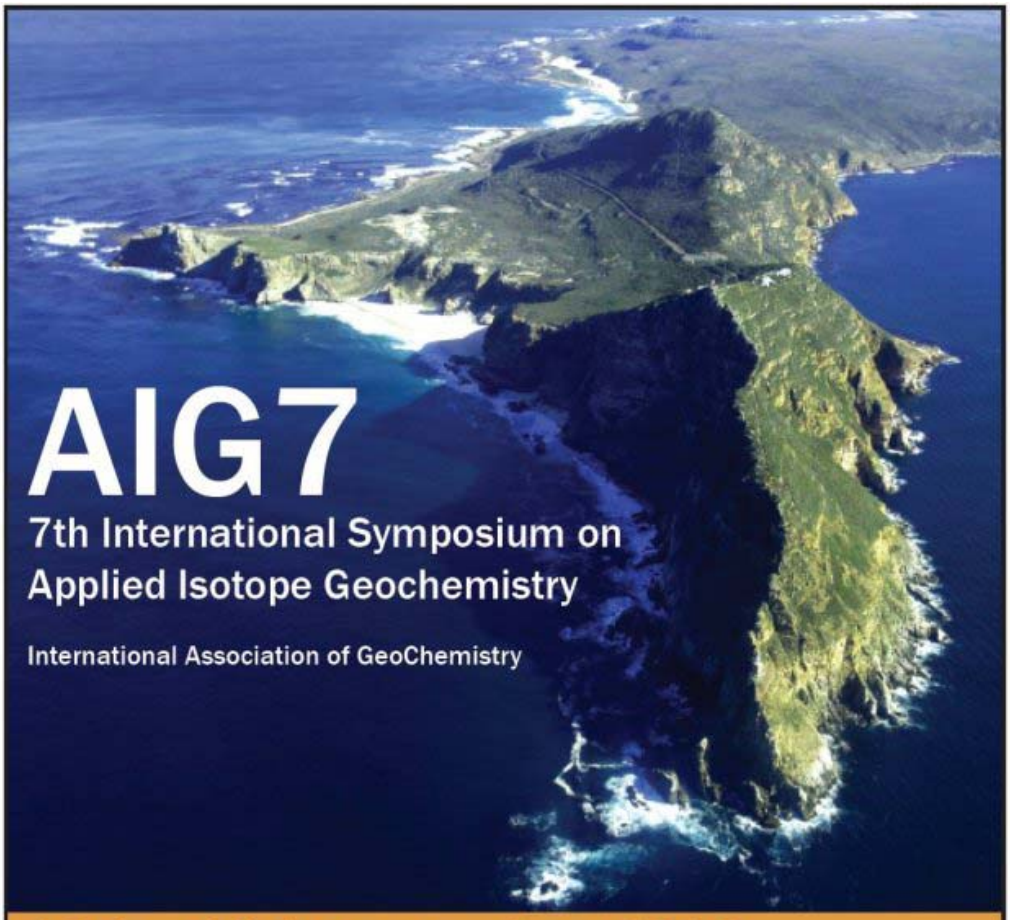
Commencing with the June 2007 issue (# 3) of *Elements*, only those who have paid up for dues for 2007 will receive the issue. If you have not yet renewed your IAGC membership for 2007, please contact the Business Office to see if copies of early 2007 issues are still available (we receive a few 'spare' copies of each printing to deal with new members and delinquents!). However, because the print run of an issue is close to the membership demand for all participating societies, it will be difficult to get back-issues after the year has passed.

Elements

Issues 1 & 2 of volume 3 have been published and distributed so far this year. Pierrette Tremblay, the Executive Editor, would love to hear if you have any comments or words of praise!
(Pierrette_tremblay@inrs-ete.uquebec.ca

How to Contact Us:

To join or renew your IAGC membership, subscribe to or track down errant issues of *Applied Geochemistry*, or to send in comments, etc., contact: IAGC Business Office, Box 501, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, Canada. Or use the membership form on our web site at www.iagc.ca



AIG7

7th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry

International Association of GeoChemistry

10th - 14th September, 2007

STELLENBOSCH, *South Africa*

www.sun.ac.za/geology/aig7.htm

The 7th AIG meeting will be held in the beautiful historic Cape Dutch town of Stellenbosch in the heart of the South African wine district.

Full details of the conference program and scope as well as information on the post-conference field trip to Namibia, registration fees and important dates can be found on the conference website.

Email the conference organisers on aig7@sun.ac.za for more information

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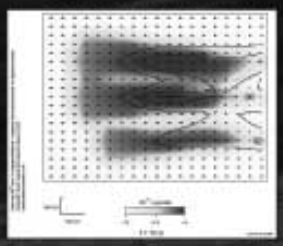
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What's in your water?

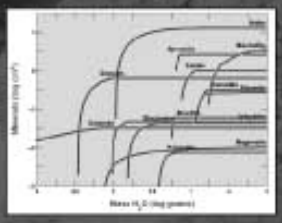


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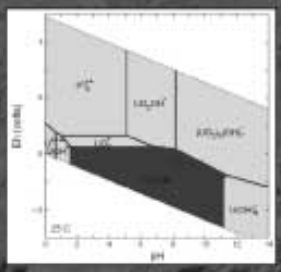


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