

7-92 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society held in the Geological Museum, Copenhagen on Sunday 26th. July, 1992.

Present: E. Anders (President), H. Wänke (Vice-president), S. R. Taylor (past President), R. Hewins (Treasurer), A. Graham (Secretary), M. Ebihara, M. Grady, G. Kurat, G. Lugmair, K. Rasmussen, D. Sears, T. Swindle.

Apologies: J. Goswami, D. Woolum.

Guests: C. Chapman, G. MacPherson, H. McSween, D. Papanastassiou, D. Stöffler, (Council members-elect); V. Buchwald, T. King, I. Ridley (item 7); M. Lipschutz (items 9 & 10); R. Brett (item 11).

1. President's Report

1.1. The President welcomed the Council members-elect, and reminded them they might partake in any discussion of an item, but were not eligible to vote. The Secretary is to send copies of the minutes of the Houston and Monterey Council Meetings to the new Councillors, to enable them to familiarise themselves with the background to current business.

1.2. The President had investigated the possibility that United Airlines might support student travel to Vail, but had discovered that, as a result of a new USA fare structure, special convention fare deals were no longer available.

1.3. In response to appeals by thirty-three scientific societies (including the Meteoritical Society), the US Office of Government Ethics had deleted the clause making it virtually impossible for US government scientists to hold office in a scientific society. Any re-drafting of the clause is being closely followed by both the AGU and the American Institute of Physics.

2. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved (Sears, seconded by Lugmair; carried unanimously).

Matters arising: none.

3. Ballot Results

The Secretary received 250 valid ballot papers, plus a further 8 after the deadline. This total indicates that only 29% of the membership voted, 67% of the votes coming from the US. There was no geographical favour for any candidate. Six of the voting slips included detailed comments on the ballot, reflecting a variety of opinions. One specific comment (from Koeberl) suggested that Councillors should be active researchers and able to attend Council meetings.

Action: Anders will draft a by-law change for discussion at Houston, regarding the question of qualities to be held by Councillors

4. Special Award

A Certificate had been prepared for presentation to Paul Barringer, which was signed by all Council members present. The registration desk was offering all registrants an opportunity to add their signatures to the citation, which would be presented to Paul Barringer at the banquet on Thursday night.

5. Constitution and By-laws amendments

The proposed amendments were mailed to all Councillors on 11th. June 1992. The revisions are attached (Appendix 1)

5.1. Amendment to Article 3.3 of the Constitution: The timetable for nominations for Council office has been revised, to allow an extra 30 days to provide detailed biographical information on the candidates. In addition, the Constitution as it stands allows twelve members of the Society in good standing to nominate a candidate for office. This figure takes no account of the size of the Society, hence a fixed percentage of the Society's membership is proposed. On the suggestion of Wänke, a figure of 3% was chosen, corresponding, at present, to 27 signatures.

Motion: That this amendment be put to Society membership (Anders, seconded by Taylor; carried unanimously).

Action: Anders will add the proposal to the newsletter.

5.2. Addition to Article 1 of the By-Laws: in the case of a contested election (*i.e.* one in which a petition candidate stands against the official slate of candidates proposed by the nominating committee), it has not always been clear to the voters (or signatories) that the petition candidate is nominated in opposition to the official slate. The Secretary will also provide biographies for all candidates. Anders proposed that the petition candidate should stand in a 1:1 election against a specific Councillor, but the suggestion was rejected in a straw poll of the members present (3 in favour of a 1:1 election; 10 in favour of election against the slate; 3 abstentions).

Motion: That this amendment be accepted by Council (Anders, seconded by Graham; for 8, against 3; motion carried). [Note added 11/99: Article 1 of the bylaws was not altered presumably because Anders' proposed changes were largely rejected in the earlier vote. ES]

5.3. Amendment to Article 4 of the By-laws: it was suggested that an addition be made to Article 4, to bring into being a Committee on Meetings, which would have an advisory role only. Discussion indicated that Council were not in favour of the formation of such a Committee.

Motion: That voting on the suggested amendment be split into two parts (Anders, seconded by Taylor; carried unanimously).

Motion: That paragraph 1 of the proposed amendment be deleted (Anders, seconded by Taylor; carried unanimously).

Motion: That minor amendments to paragraph 2 be made (Anders, seconded by Taylor; for 9, against 1, abstentions 1; motion carried).

5.4. Amendment to Article 8.4 of the By-laws: the By-laws of the Society currently state that the Editor of the journal should seek the advice of the Executive committee regarding the publication of memorials in *Meteoritics*. It was discussed (at the Houston meeting) whether the Leonard Medal committee might be a more suitable body to provide advice, but the Editor of *Meteoritics* prefers that the Board of Associate editors be consulted.

Motion: That this amendment be accepted by Council (Sears, seconded by Kurat; carried unanimously).

[Art. 8 - Editor of Meteoritics

4. The Editor of Meteoritics shall seek the advice of the ~~Society Executive Committee~~ Board of Associate Editors in deciding whether or not to publish memorials for specific individuals.]

6. Newsletter

The President has invited contributions for the next issue of the newsletter from several officers and committee chairs. Deadline for submission is 12th August.

7. Society Meetings

7.1. 1992 - Copenhagen (Buchwald):

333 pre-booked participants

182 talks

9 invited speakers (including the two medallists)

60 posters

There were 55 student grant applications; 22 were awarded, 11 in Europe and 11 non-Europe. The Wednesday afternoon field excursion to Stevn's Klint was fully booked, requiring 4 coaches. Twenty people will take part in the post-meeting field trip to Sweden.

7.2. 1993 - Vail (King and Ridley): there will be two field trips, both before the meeting. One will be a geological excursion, to visit the Tertiary volcanics of S. Colorado. It will last 4 - 5 days and cost *ca.* \$400 in all, and is limited to 30 participants. The second trip will be more of a cultural and social excursion to the Mesa Verde National Park, to Silverton and Durango.

Funding is already committed from: NASA, USGS and JEOL Ltd. The local Organising committee is intending to send out 3 circulars.

7.3. 1994 - Prague: Jakeš sent his apologies for not attending. There was no report on progress of the meeting.

7.4. 1995 - Washington D.C. (MacPherson): An invitation has been received from the Smithsonian Institution to hold the 1995 meeting in Washington D.C.

Motion: That the Council accept the offer from G. MacPherson to host the 1995 meeting of the Society (Swindle, seconded by Wänke; carried unanimously).

7.5. 1996 - Münster (Stöffler): progress to date is that the meeting will be held within the University of Münster, thus ensuring free projection facilities *etc.* The University of Köln is also involved in the organisation. No date for the meeting has yet been fixed, but any time between 15 July and 15 October would be acceptable to the Organising committee.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave an informal summary of the finances. It has been an exceptional year for income and expenditure, and as of March 31st., we were running a deficit of \$3900. One item of income was the first royalty payment from Pergamon: one-third of the total amount was paid in January, but no further payments have yet been received. The Monterey meeting made a surplus of \$6300.

Membership: 885 paid-up 105 non-paid-up

A gain of 70 since last year. If dues are increased, a further 50 members might be lost, but this is only a small percentage of the total membership.

9. Publications Committee Report

Macdougall was not able to attend the meeting, so the report was given by Lipschutz. The President reported that the Geochemical Society (GS) has (informally?) notified Pergamon of its intent to launch a new journal in 1997, after the present *GCA* contract expires. Upon recommendation of the Publications committee, the Meteoritical Society is saving its Pergamon royalty for start-up funds for this journal. However, the current GS President, Don Lindsley, has replied evasively to a request for a firm commitment to joint sponsorship of the new journal, and the

Meteoritical Society should therefore watch closely further developments. The Societies must give official notice to Pergamon by 1st July 1995, but it is not at all clear that the 1995 council of the GS will be willing and able to start a new journal, let alone on viable terms. Our members will be able to publish papers in the new journal even if we do not co-sponsor it, and Council will have to ask itself in 1995 whether co-sponsorship - if offered by the GS - is worth spending \$120k. Meanwhile, we should continue our efforts to strengthen *Meteoritics*.

10. Meteoritics

10.1. Sears reported that the journal was in a healthy state, with the forthcoming September issue being exceptionally strong and the biggest yet. He has invited review papers committed for each of the next 6 issues.

10.2. Lipschutz reported on the finances of the journal. Subscriptions must be raised in order to cover costs, especially if we increase to 6 issues per year. If such an expansion does occur, then institutional subscriptions could probably be raised substantially.

Motion: That membership dues be raised to \$45 per annum (Taylor, seconded by Graham; for 10, against 1; motion carried).

Motion: That student membership dues be increased to \$25 per annum, and that the student application form must be signed each year to qualify for the reduced rate (Grady, seconded by Graham; for 6, against 3, abstentions 2; motion carried).

Motion: That abstract fees be raised to \$35 (Grady, seconded by Wänke; carried unanimously).

Motion: That meeting attendees not authors or co-authors of papers be exempt from the abstract fee (Wänke, seconded by Lugmair; for 3, against 5, abstentions 3; motion failed).

11. Leonard Medal

11.1. Brett reported that the initial list of 29 candidates was decreased to a short-list of 6 after the meeting of the Leonard Medal committee at Houston in March. The Committee put forward Robert Walker as its first choice candidate, with Don Brownlee as runner-up.

Motion: That the recommendation of the Leonard Medal committee, that Robert Walker be awarded the Leonard Medal for 1993, be accepted by Council (for 9, against 1, abstentions 1; motion carried).

11.2. Brett reported that eight members had been recommended as Fellows of the Society, based on the membership list of 1990. Unfortunately, however, this list is not up-to-date, and two of the candidates were already Fellows. The committee had considered replacing the two Fellows by the runners-up, but decided against this, and was therefore only recommending six names: Eugster, Haskin, Hohenberg, McSween, Nier and Nishiizumi. Brett emphasised the need for an accurate list of Fellows.

Motion: That the recommendation of the Leonard Medal committee, that Eugster, Haskin, Hohenberg, McSween, Nier and Nishiizumi be elected Fellows of the Society, be accepted by Council (carried unanimously).

Action: the Secretary is to send certificates and a covering letter from the President to the new Fellows. [*It subsequently transpired that Haskins had already been elected a Fellow, in 1986*].

12. Barringer Medal

A report was read from Dietz that the Barringer Medal committee recommended that the Barringer Medal be awarded to Dieter Stöffler.

Motion: That the recommendation of the Barringer Medal committee, that the Barringer Medal for 1993 be awarded to Dieter Stöffler, be accepted by Council (carried unanimously).

13. Any Other Business

13.1. The Society has been asked to send a representative to the Council meeting of the International Council of Scientific Unions to be held in Kyoto, Japan in August. Vice-president Wänke is attending the 29th International Geological Congress at Kyoto, and will therefore represent the Society at the ICSU Council meeting.

13.2. It was suggested that membership dues for members who have retired from regular employment should be set at the same level as student dues. This concession should be available at the specific request of the retiree to the Treasurer.

Motion: That this proposal be accepted by Council (Wänke, seconded by Kurat; 6 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions; motion carried).

13.3. The Secretary announced his resignation from the position, as he was leaving the Natural History Museum to take up a career in teaching. He would no longer have any institutional support to enable him to attend meetings. Vacancies on the Council which occur at occasions other than at the normal election times can be filled by the Council (Article 3.8 of the Constitution). Monica Grady has agreed to take up the position of Secretary for the remainder of Andrew Graham's term (until December 1992), and also to take up the next term for which elections had just been held.

Motion: That Monica Grady be appointed Secretary of the Society for the period 26th July 1992 to 31st December 1994 (Graham, seconded by Rasmussen; carried unanimously).

Monica M. Grady
4th September 1992