



Supplement to *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*, vol. 45, no. 12
The Meteoritical Society Newsletter
(December 2010)

A report of the business carried out by the society over the past year, edited by Jeff Grossman, Secretary.

FROM THE SECRETARY

This year's *Newsletter* comes at a transitional time for the Meteoritical Society. Many of the functions of the *Newsletter* will now be taken over by the society's news page, published every two months in *Elements* magazine. All members should have already begun receiving *Elements*, and are encouraged to read our news page in each issue to stay informed about events, meetings, award winners, and other material relevant to your membership. Back issues can be found online at:

<http://www.elementsmagazine.org/elementsonline.htm>

This *Newsletter* also comes at a time when the entire executive committee is changing, as President Hiroko Nagahara and I have completed our constitutionally limited terms, and Alan Rubin steps down after having served two terms as treasurer. The new council takes office in January, led by the executive committee of Ed Scott (president), Greg Herzog (secretary), and Rhian Jones (treasurer). Because of these transitions, this *Newsletter* will be somewhat different than usual. Some items are missing, so as not to repeat material published in *Elements*. Also, past president Joe Goldstein and I, each completing six years on the council in a time of great change, wish to take this opportunity to publish a "State of the Society" editorial, something we hope future presidents might consider doing at the ends of their terms.

Important reminders:

- Renew your membership now! If you do not renew by March 31, 2011, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Renew online at <http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net>.
- Nominate your colleagues and students for awards! All deadlines are in January. See page 2 for details.
- Proposals to host the 2015 MetSoc meeting are due in March. This meeting would normally be held in North America. Contact the secretary for procedures.

METEORITICS & PLANETARY SCIENCE

Editor's Report

A. J. Timothy Jull

I would like to summarize briefly the status of our journal, *Meteoritics and Planetary Science (MAPS)*. Scientifically, the journal is doing very well and the submission rate of high-quality papers has been steady. We remain frustrated by publication delays, but we are now confident that the revised plan agreed with Wiley will get the journal back on schedule in early 2011. In order to ensure this is the case, we have set up several time points to check on progress.

Online journal. Wiley has uploaded all available papers which have been published since 2002 and also there are "early view" papers, which are those that have been accepted but not yet published in final form.

Production and Typesetting of Papers. There has been significant delay in production with Wiley, we are only now beginning to catch up with issues. We hope these delays will soon be resolved. The publisher has recently posted a revised plan for publication up to Dec 2010, under which the December issue is expected in January 2011.

For some time, we had problems with copy editing and proofing of manuscripts. We have been following these problems closely and have had frequent discussions with the publisher on these issues. Both the editor and the chair of the publications committee have met with Fiona Murphy from Wiley to try to encourage resolution of

these problems. Most recently, we have analyzed the remaining problems which are minor, and have instigated a plan to resolve these remaining issues with Wiley. Indeed, examples of papers that need to be returned to the proof readers still occur, but are of a limited subset of formatting, punctuation, references and similar issues. We have weekly telephone conferences with Wiley personnel, to discuss progress and specific issues. We hope that our revised plan for manuscript handling will result in rapid progress.

We can therefore establish several time-points for determining progress:

- a. Completion of issues in early December, when we will meet again with Wiley representatives.
- b. Completion of the special issue in late December 2010.
- c. Completion of the final issue of 2010 in Jan 2011.
- d. An evaluation of progress at the March 2011 Council meeting.

Forthcoming journal issues. The June 2010 issue has been mailed to subscribers and the July 2010 issue will follow shortly. The publisher anticipates the August and September issues to be completed in November. A combined October-November issue will highlight work on Almahata Sitta, as discussed later in this report. This issue was closed on October 28 for final papers, and is expected to be published in late December 2010. The final issue of 2010 will appear in January 2011.

Paper acceptance policies. The associate editors have discussed the question of refining the criteria for papers submitted to *MAPS*, as has the publications committee. We have agreed that purely descriptive papers of meteorites which have no new scientific interest (as determined by the appropriate editor or associate editor) should continue to be published in the supplement. There may be special cases for meteorites of particular interest.

Special Issue on Almahata Sitta. We have plans to have a special issue on the unique ureilite fall, Almahata Sitta. This issue should go to print by the end of the year, and will be numbered as a combined October/November issue due to its size, with over 20 full papers.

SOCIETY AWARDS AND HONORS

New award winners

Background information on all awards and the names of people serving on award committees may be found on the society website: (http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=home_awards) Profiles of winners of our major awards will appear in *Elements*.

Awards to be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting:

The *Leonard Medal* for 2011 will be presented to **François Robert** for his outstanding research in analytical, experimental and theoretical studies of the isotope geochemistry of light elements in meteorites and the solar system.

The *Barringer Medal and Award* for 2011 will be presented to **Bruce F. Bohor** for his fundamental contributions to impact crater science including the identification of shocked quartz and other shocked minerals in the KT boundary layer that confirmed the impact hypothesis.

The *Nier Prize* for 2011 Nier Prize will be presented to **Fred Ciesla** for his major contributions in combining chemical and isotopic constraints from meteorites with his dynamical models of the solar nebula.

The *Service Award* for 2011 will be presented to **Dick Pugh** for his dedication in education and outreach in the field of meteoritics and planetary science, for enthusiastically communicating the excitement and importance of meteorites to thousands of high school students and members of the general public, and for generously helping to establish and operate the Cascadia Meteorite Lab at Portland State University.

Awards given since the 2010 Newsletter:

The *Pellas-Ryder Award* for best student paper submitted in 2009, was given to **Vishnu Reddy** of the University of North Dakota for the paper, "Composition of 298 Baptistina: implications for the K/T impactor link" (V. Reddy, J. P. Emery, M. J. Gaffey, W. F. Bottke, A. Cramer, and M. S. Kelley, 2009, *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* 44, 1917-1927).

The *Gordon A. McKay Award* for 2010 was awarded to **Rachel L. Smith** of the University of California, Los Angeles, who spoke about "New $^{12}\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$ observations in young stellar objects and molecular clouds: implications for $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$ in the early solar nebula."

The *Brian Mason Award* for 2010 was awarded to **Aidan J. Ross** of University College, London, for the abstract, "Raman analysis of diamond in Almahata Sitta and other ureilites."

Fellows of the Meteoritical Society elected in 2010 are: **Dan Britt, Marc Chaussidon, Denton Ebel, Henning Haack, Alan Hildebrand, John Jones, Noriko Kita, Larry Nittler, Scott Messenger, and Kevin Righter.**

Call for nominations

Nominations for Meteoritical Society awards should be sent, preferably by email with electronic attachments, to the appropriate committee chair (see below) or to the incoming secretary, Greg Herzog (herzogsec@rutchem.rutgers.edu; Dept. Chem., Rutgers Univ., 610 Taylor Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854).

Leonard Medal and Nier Prize *Deadline January 15, 2011*

Nominations for the Leonard Medal and the Nier Prize should include: (a) a formal letter of nomination, (b) a biographical sketch of the candidate, (c) a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award, (d) additional substantive information, such as statements as to the importance of the nominee's research to the field of meteoritics and/or to the research of others, (e) one seconding letter in support of the nomination (additional letters are encouraged). Nominations for the Nier Prize should also include the candidate's birth date; a nomination is void if the candidate will reach the age of 35 before the end of calendar year of the selection. If the research for the Nier Prize was performed and published with a research advisor or with multiple authors, a statement must be included that describes the nominee's leading role in the research. The committee chair is Tim McCoy (mccoyt@si.edu).

Barringer Medal *Deadline January 15, 2011*

Nominating letters should include: (a) a biographical sketch of the candidate, (b) a summary and evaluation of the accomplishments of the candidate and the importance of the candidate's work, (c) a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award, and (d) one or more seconding letters. The committee chair is Christian Koeberl (christian.koeberl@univie.ac.at).

Service Award *Deadline Jan 31, 2011*

Nominating letters should include a biographical sketch of the candidate and additional substantive information, such as statements as to the importance of the nominee's activities to the field of meteoritics and/or to the research of others. One or more seconding letters in support of the nomination are strongly encouraged. The chair of the membership committee, which administers this award, is Gary Huss (ghuss@higp.hawaii.edu).

Pellas-Ryder Award *Deadline January 31, 2011*

Nominations should include the full citation, a brief description of the paper's significance, a letter from the department head verifying that the first author was a registered student when the paper was submitted, and a letter from the student's advisor describing what portion of the work was done by the student. The Paul Pellas - Graham Ryder Award for best student paper in planetary science published in 2010 is jointly sponsored by the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. The committee chair is David Williams (david.williams@asu.edu).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

MetSoc Meeting calendar

Year	Dates	Location	Contact	Email	Website
2011	August 8-12	Greenwich, England, UK	Gretchen Benedix	g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk	http://www.metsoc2011.org/
2012	July	Cairns, Australia	Trevor Ireland	trevor.ireland@anu.edu.au	
2013	July 29 - August 2	Edmonton, Canada	Chris Herd	herd@ualberta.ca	
2014	September	Casablanca, Morocco	Hasnaa Chennaoui	chennaoui_h@yahoo.fr	
2015	Summer	North America	<i>Meeting bids due before LPSC 2011; contact secretary</i>		

For more information see: http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meeting

A report on the 2010 Annual Meeting in New York appeared in the 2010 October issue of Elements:

http://www.elementsmagazine.org/archives/e6_5/e6_5_sn_metsoc.pdf

2011 Annual Meeting

Gretchen Benedix

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society will be held in London, United Kingdom, August 8-12, 2011. The organizers invite you to attend the meeting and visit London and its environs. We expect to have a wide variety of interesting sessions. In addition to an exciting program of science, the early results of the Dawn mission, which will be in orbit around Vesta, will just be coming back. We will have Wednesday afternoon available for sightseeing or an organized outing. Before the meeting, there may also be a field trip in the highlands of Scotland (to be announced in the coming months).

We are pleased to announce that we will have Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal (and current president of the Royal Society), for the Barringer Lecture.

The meeting will be held at the University of Greenwich, located in southeast London. Accommodation will be at local hotels and on-campus housing. Greenwich is easily accessible from the center of London. Five airports serve the greater London area. Additional details are available in the first announcement, which is posted on the LPI website, <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/metsoc2011/>. We also have information available on our local website, <http://www.metsoc2011.org>. For information not available on the website, please contact the organizers, Gretchen Benedix (g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk), Phil Bland (p.a.bland@imperial.ac.uk), Sara Russell (sara.russell@nhm.ac.uk), or Caroline Smith (caroline.smith@nhm.ac.uk).

FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

Alan Rubin

This is my last report as Treasurer. After a four-year stint, I am pleased to turn over the purse strings to Rhian Jones. During my tenure, the Council reconciled the Society's tax problems with the IRS and California Franchise Tax Board, renewed our official non-profit status with the state of California (after decades of uncertainty), officially dissolved the Society for Research on Meteorites (our Society's former name), opened a PayPal account, and established the Gordon A. McKay Award for best student oral presentation at our annual meeting. Rhian and I are working together to effect a smooth transfer of money and responsibility

Current Fiscal Year

We had a budget surplus of about \$94,000 during the last fiscal year (1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010) due mainly to the receipt of two annual royalty checks from Elsevier (one was late from the previous FY) and one-time start-up funds from Wiley. Because this left a lot of money in our operating account, we transferred \$60,000 to the Endowment in August.

It is difficult to prognosticate the budget for the current FY (1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011) during this transition period with Wiley, but we should run a small surplus of about \$10,000. This figure is low because we had to return an overpayment of \$44,870 to Wiley in August and are making a loan of \$20,000 to the local organizing committee (LOC) of the 2011 MetSoc meeting in Greenwich. This surplus would have been a significant deficit if it were not for two items: (1) the expected receipt around April 2011 of about \$50,000 in royalties from Elsevier (the last guaranteed payment of our current contract) and (2) about \$14,000 in student travel funds from the

Barringer Crater Company that will not have to be paid out until the following fiscal year. The expected discontinuation of royalty payments from Elsevier and the additional expense of Elements magazine leave the Society with a structural deficit that may necessitate a dues increase in the coming years.

Assets

As of 8 September 2010, the society's total assets were \$729,832, up from about \$601,000 last year. The current assets consist of \$602,226 in the Endowment (including \$44,654 in the Nier Fund and \$46,786 in the McKay Fund) and \$127,606 in two checking accounts and an on-line PayPal account. The LOC of the 2010 annual meeting in New York is returning in full the \$25,000 loan it received from the Society.

Gifts

We thank the 158 Society members who generously contributed gifts to the Endowment, Nier and McKay Funds in the past fiscal year (1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010). These contributions helped support workshops, awards, student travel and other activities. The following members contributed \$100 or more during that period: Friedrich Begemann, Adrian Brearley, Scott Brey, Svend Buhl, Nicolas Dauphas, Paul De Carli, Jeremy Delaney, Henry Deyerle, Donald Dickson, Bevan French, Michael Gaffey, Serge Genest, Joseph Goldstein, Jeffrey Grossman, Othmar Jentsch, Joern Koblitz, Luc Labenne, William McDonough, Thornton McElvain, Jay Melosh, Scott Messenger, Bradley Meyer, Barbara Narendra, Carlos Nasroui, Michael Nolan, Edward Olsen, Gordon Osinski, Robert Pepin, Kevin Righter, Thomas Rodman, Timothy Swindle, Nobuo Takaoka, Allan Treiman, Richard Walker and John Wasson.

METEORITE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Report of the chair

Chris Herd

Since the last report the Nomenclature Committee (NomCom) approved names and information for 1609 meteorites that can be found in *Meteoritical Bulletin* numbers 97 and 98 (in press), including 837 from Antarctica (US, China, Japan and Korea programs). New falls reported in these bulletins include Grimsby (Canada), Santa Lucia (2008) (Argentina), Daule (Ecuador), Jesenice (Slovenia), and Pleşcoi (Romania).

Kevin Righter stepped down as chair at the end of his second 3 year term in December 2009. Many thanks go to Kevin for his service in leading the committee. I was asked to step in to replace him, effective January 2010. The importance of the NomCom's work and the often complicated issues that the committee faces quickly became apparent! I am indebted to Kevin, and especially Jeff Grossman and Mike Weisberg, as well as other continuing NomCom members, for assisting in the transition and bringing me up to speed.

Thanks largely to Jeff Grossman's efforts NomCom now benefits from an automated system for voting and approval of new meteorite names. I am certain that all NomCom members, and especially the *Bulletin* editor, appreciate that the voting utility replaces the often numerous emails that used to accompany voting and commenting on new meteorites.

There is now a new meteorite submission form that replaces the old Northwest Africa (NWA) and non-NWA forms. The single Excel spreadsheet is easy to use with clear instructions. Once submitted to the editor in the proper format, it is readily uploaded into the database system and can be easily transferred for voting by the Nomenclature Committee, and beyond that to the database to be made available online. In addition, the online system may now be

used to assign provisional names for meteorites from dense collection areas. Most, if not all, dense collection areas have now been brought up to date in the system. Notably, the system allows for the assignment of a dense collection area meteorite name even if the provisional name was not previously assigned. In this way, submitters who have all the information for a complete classification may fill out the submission form, using the dense collection area in the name field (e.g., "NWA"), and the system will assign the next number, assuming the form is complete. All submissions are given a job number and can be easily tracked, by the editors and AEs, and by submitters.

The voting utility, the new form and the management of the dense collection area names significantly streamline the meteorite submission and approval process, so the NomCom can more readily and efficiently respond to our stakeholders – members of the meteorite community at large. Of course, there is always room for improvement and we continue to look for ways to make those improvements.

We are pleased to welcome four new members within the past year – Linda Welzenbach, Alex Ruzicka, Richard Greenwood and Kees Welten. Many thanks go to the outgoing members, including Rosa Scorzelli, who unfortunately had to step down after a short time. At the end of 2010, we will have some member turnover as Akira Yamaguchi's and Hasnaa Chennaoui's terms come to an end. We are in the process of identifying candidates to replace them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (herd@ualberta.ca) with questions or concerns about NomCom and especially with suggestions for improvement, and as always, essential information on meteorite nomenclature, instructions and the NEW template for reporting new meteorites may be found on our homepage, http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=pub_bulletin

MEMBERSHIP

New members

The following people joined (or rejoined) the society in the last year:

Regular and retired members: David Allepuz Sunye, Alexandre Andronikov, Jose Aponte, Themis Athanassiadou, Zachary Atlas, Ann Backstrom, Neil Banerjee, Roy Bellows, Christian Bender Koch, Mark Bowling, Ronald Bowman, Dominique Breynaert, Patrick Brown, Hans Brueckner, Joseph Burdy, Philip Burns, Lester Carroll, Eugene Carver, Eric Christensen, Daniel Connelly, Alexandra Davatzes, Bjorn Davidsson, Stephan Decker, Count Deiro, Francesco Dell'Eva, Zahia Djouadi, Jason Dworkin, Juan Echaurren, Leo Ferrari, Roberta Flemming, Michael Gallant, Javier Garcia-Guinea, Jerome Gattacocca, Tamara Goldin, Willi Groezinger, Juliane Gross, Morihiro Hasegawa, Robert Hawkes, Barry Hughes, Takayuki Igarashi, Werner Keller, Maria Khirfan, Khalil Konsul, Corey Kuo, Corentin Le Guillou, Jan Leitner, Fara Lindsay, Kenneth Lingk, James Lyons, Linda Martel, Kathleen McBride, Gerald McKeegan, William Meehan, Joseph Melvin, Gregory Moore, Hanna Nekvasil, Juergen Neu, Landon Noll, Shawn Reinoehl, David Ribeca, Amy Riches, Arlene Schlazer, Christopher

Shelby, Sean Solomon, Tim Sugden, Jens Teiser, William Thompson, Donald Traylor, Fernando Trevino, Anne Trinquier, Francois Vannier, Christian Vollmer, Shigeyuki Wakaki, Richard Walter, Jianhua Wang, Karl Wimmer, and Gerhard Wurm.

Student members: Kenichi Abe, Michael Babechuk, Guillaume Barlet, Robert Berthiaume, Karolina Bjarnborg, Hana Chappell, Jennifer Claydon, Jonathan Craig, Ellen Crapster-Pregont, Carolyn Crow, Nathalie Dalcher, Barbara Frasl, Maartje Hamers, George Hammerton, Ellen Harju, Susan Hopper, Lihai Hu, Katrina Jackson, Emmanuel Jacquet, Niina Jamsja, Michael Joseph, Angela Kaltenbach, Levke Koeoep, Thomas Kruijjer, Kirsten Larsen, Kathryn McDermott, Jessica Mercer, Cameron Mercer, Aiko Nakato, Morgan Nunn, Carl Palk, Francesco Pignatale, Steven Rodesney, Kanako Sakamoto, Wataru Satake, Honami Sato, Fatemeh Sedaghatpour, Rachel Smith, Mahmood Sofe, Aleksandra Stojic, Myriam Telus, Katrina van Drongelen, Johan Villeneuve, Shoshana Weider, Matthew Wielicki, Curtis Williams, John Wolbeck, Junjun Zhang, Xuchao Zhao, and Florian Zurfluh.

Deaths

The secretary has been informed of the deaths of the following members and past members since the 2009 *Newsletter*. Links to obituaries follow the names.

Thomas J. Ahrens (1936 – 2010)

(Obituary not yet available at press time).

Ralph B. Baldwin (1912 – 2010)

<http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/grandrapids/obituary.aspx?n=ralph-baldwin&pid=146322182>

Milton Blander (1927 – 2010)

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nwitimes/obituary.aspx?n=milton-blander&pid=142734030>

Gero Kurat (1938 – 2009)

http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/news_display.cfm?code=news_intro&itemID=51

Brian Mason (1917 – 2009)

<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/organisation/academy/fellowship/obituaries/brian-mason/>

Jared R. Morrow (1959 – 2010)

<http://www.geology.sdsu.edu/people/faculty/morrow/>

Ardis H. Nier (1921 – 2009)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1945-5100.2010.01048.x/abstract>

Frank J. Stadermann (1962 – 2010)

http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/news_display.cfm?code=news_intro&itemID=55

STATE OF THE SOCIETY

An editorial by Jeff Grossman and Joe Goldstein

Officers of the Meteoritical Society can serve up to six consecutive years. Presidents spend two years as Vice President and two as Past President, surrounding their two-year term in the leadership role. Treasurers and secretaries can serve for up to three consecutive two-year terms, although none of the past five treasurers has completed more than two terms. As the outgoing Past President and three-term Secretary, we have witnessed the operation, growth, and sweeping changes that took place over the last six years. As we leave office, we would like to step back and summarize the “State of the Society” for the years 2005-2010. We encourage future Presidents to present similar summaries at the ends of their terms.

2005-2010 has been a period of dramatic change within the society, affecting nearly everything we do. In our estimation, most of the change has been good, but serious challenges have emerged which will need to be faced by the upcoming Scott and Grady administrations in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

Membership

Until 2006, membership applications and renewals were handled manually by the treasurer. This system led to problems and errors, to the point that we no longer had an accurate membership list, nor did we know precisely how many members in good standing we had. In 2006, we signed a deal with the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA), to take over these duties. Now membership functions are handled professionally and, at last, online transactions have become routine. This was a huge step forward. We look forward to a long and successful relationship with MSA in the future.

In late 2005, council also passed a new bylaw establishing the Membership Committee. This committee now plays a major role in member relations, recruitment, and outreach, administers the new Service Award, and has developed new initiatives for members in low-income countries, including discounted membership dues. The committee worked hard to contact members in arrears, and restored the active membership from the mid-700s to ~960 today, similar to numbers in the 1990s. The committee’s challenges for the coming years will include finding ways to grow the Society’s membership, partly by reversing a long-term trend of decreasing membership by those who are not professional scientists.

A remarkable development in the last three years was the growth in Japanese membership to the extent that Japan (106) now ranks number two to the United States (463) in members, a position long

occupied by Germany (100). During the same interval, the Society saw its first Japanese president (Hiroko Nagahara), its first Japanese meeting (Matsue), and its second Japanese Leonard Medalist (Hiroshi Takeda). The international character of the Society is greatly strengthened by the success of meteoritics in Japan.

Awards

In the last six years, the society has instituted two new awards and helped to revive a third. The Service Award was created in late 2005 to honor members who contribute to the Society in ways other than through research. Then, following the untimely death of Gordon A. McKay in 2008, the McKay Award was established, going to the student who gives the best oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Society. In addition to these, in 2008 the Society entered into an agreement with the International Meteorite Collectors Association and *Meteorite* magazine to select each year’s winner of the Brian Mason Award, for an abstract submitted to the annual meeting.

All of the winners of the society’s honors over the last six years, including the Leonard Medal, Barringer Medal and Award, Nier Prize, Pellas-Ryder Award, as well as the new Service and McKay Awards, have been highly deserving. However, we now suffer from a chronic lack of nominations for most of the awards. If the current trend continues, there will inevitably be years where some of the awards cannot be given. This is happening despite continuous pleading in this *Newsletter* and at meetings for new nominations. Members simply have to become more active in this area.

Meetings

The last six meetings, Gatlinburg, Zürich, Tucson, Matsue, Nancy, and New York, have been diverse in character and location, interesting, and highly successful. The meetings are growing rapidly, with the last two meetings each attracting over 400 abstract submissions; a decade ago, 300 abstracts was a more typical number. The same two meetings saw a 20% jump in total registrations. Because the meeting format has remained unchanged over the years, this growth has been accompanied by increasing competition for oral presentations: in 1990, 90% of presentations were oral; in 2000 it was 70%; now, only 50% of authors are granted a talk. If growth continues, we will soon have to re-evaluate our two-parallel-session format. Registration fees had been relatively constant over the last

20 years, adjusted for inflation, but jumped significantly for the New York meeting. It remains to be seen whether this is the start of a new trend or an anomaly.

Support for students to attend the annual meetings has been growing. The last two meetings offered record numbers of student travel awards, culminating with an all-time record 59 this year. This, plus the fact that two of these students can also access prize money (the Mason and McKay Awards), will greatly further the society's goal of supporting science education.

Over the last five years, council regularized the process by which meeting bids are accepted. Bids are always now presented at the March council meeting, four years prior to the meeting year. But it is worrisome that the last few bidding cycles have produced relatively little competition. Organizing a meeting is indeed a huge job, a job that only gets more difficult as our meetings grow. We are fortunate to have dedicated members to take on this task each year, and hope that we can continue our traditions in the future.

Finance

General outlook: The society has been operating with a surplus for the entire six years we have been in office, but the situation has not been stable until this year. By far, the largest expense we have is our journal, *MAPS*. There have been two major sources of income: member dues (which have been constant) and royalties collected from Elsevier for our sponsorship of *GCA*. From 2005-2009, we needed to use an ever-increasing fraction of the Elsevier royalties to balance the budget. In 2008 and 2009, we decided to look into alternative ways of managing the journal in order to stabilize the society's budget and get *MAPS* onto a secure and sustainable footing. Editor Tim Jull made excellent progress to this end, reduced costs, and presented a strong case for maintaining *MAPS* as an in-house journal. But ultimately, the Publications Committee, led by Rainer Wieler, negotiated very attractive partnership deals with outside publishers Elsevier and Wiley. After Elsevier withdrew its contract offer, which we had intended to accept, we signed with Wiley, who began partnering with us to publish *MAPS* this year. Although the budget numbers for FY11 (the current fiscal year) are not yet known, we expect to again have a balanced budget without reliance on *GCA* royalties (which we hoped could again be used to grow the Endowment and provide financial security, as it had for so many years).

[A short discussion of the society's financial relationship with Elsevier is in preparation and will be inserted here in the online version of this *Newsletter* at a later time.]

The treasurer: The treasurer of the society has always been a scientist who agrees to take on a time-consuming job for which he/she has little formal training. Wide variations in skills and financial knowledge, combined with the limited resources the Society had historically provided our treasurers and a lack of corporate memory was taking its toll. By 2006, it was clear that serious problems had been accumulating over time. Our status as a nonprofit corporation was unknown and California still thought we were "The Society for Research on Meteorites," a name we shed in 1946! Our filings with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) were in arrears. Our membership list was incomplete and out of date. The budget was not well managed. Records of past years were all but lost. And, our officers and committee members were personally vulnerable to potential legal actions against the Society.

All of these problems have been fixed in the last four years. As mentioned above, MSA took over the membership management functions, freeing the Treasurer to manage our finances. A series of new bylaws were adopted, defining an advantageous fiscal year (June 1 – May 31), prescribing a formal budgeting process, and

establishing the Audit Committee to review the annual reports of the treasurer. At the same time, the treasurer (freed from the burdens of managing memberships) successfully fixed our problems with the IRS and normalized our corporate status under our real name. Council also adopted a formal records-management policy and renegotiated our agreement with the Smithsonian Institution Archives, ensuring that our permanent records are secure, accessible, and when necessary, confidential. Finally, in 2007 the treasurer obtained and now maintains a corporate liability insurance policy for the society. Most of these changes have been invisible to the members, but they are critical for the health of the society.

The Endowment: It goes without saying that our endowment, which is invested in a mixture of stocks and bonds, has experienced large swings in value over the last six years. It is being carefully and actively managed by our Endowment Committee (whose name was changed in 2007 from the Investments Committee). In 2005, the committee completed the consolidation of our investment portfolio with a single fund manager, AG Edwards. In 2010, the funds were moved to a Merrill Lynch account. Although the absolute return on our investments over the last six years has been low, it has been positive. When combined with new funds derived from budget surpluses (thanks to Elsevier royalties) and member donations, the Endowment grew by 43% over the six year period.

Both the council and Endowment Committee have been working on new ways both to grow the endowment and make good use of interest generated by it. Member donations have grown dramatically since 2005, rising from \$3000 in 2005 to \$8200 in FY10. Part of this increase comes from active donations in support of the new McKay Fund, established in 2008 to support the McKay Prize. This fund grew to its current value of \$46,000 in just a few years, with ~50% provided in a generous gift from the McKay family. Council also improved the way donations are solicited, now giving members the option of selecting which fund (Endowment, Nier, McKay) they want to support. At the same time, the Endowment Committee has written guidelines for members to submit proposals to use endowment money in support of society goals. At least one project has been supported each year. Nevertheless, only a handful of proposals are submitted each year, leaving the endowment underutilized — another challenge for future administrations.

Publications

The greatest changes in the society over the last six years, and the last two in particular, involve publications. *MAPS* is now published in collaboration with Wiley. Elsevier has terminated our contract to co-sponsor *GCA*. And, we have joined Elements magazine. For the last six years, the journals have been highly successful and are growing under the leadership of our two excellent editors, Tim Jull and Frank Podosek.

MAPS: As already described, our publishing model for *MAPS* has changed. We collaborate with Wiley to produce and distribute the journal. The transition period has been somewhat rocky. *MAPS* was months behind in its production schedule in 2009, and it remains so after 9 months with Wiley. There have been serious problems with typesetting. The editorial office and Society Publications Committee are working hard to correct these problems, and there is no reason to doubt that they will succeed, albeit at a slower pace than one might have hoped. Wiley has been successful at recovering our institutional subscriptions after they took over this function; many institutions are opting for online-only subscriptions (as are 25% of our members).

GCA: The Joint (GS/MetSoc) Publications Committee is in the process of negotiating with Elsevier for a new contract to produce *GCA*, following the termination by Elsevier of the existing (1991)

contract. The fact that negotiations are ongoing prevents us from discussing the situation in detail. Our goal is to continue our 40-year relationship with the GS in co-sponsoring *GCA*, but some kind of change may be inevitable. This will be the first great challenge of the Scott administration of the society in 2011.

Elements: This summer, the council elected to join *Elements* magazine. Members will receive six issues each year, each of which will contain a Society news page (edited by Cari Corrigan), in addition to thematic articles, many of which will be of interest to members. The cost to the society is \$15/member, which will be paid out of surplus funds during the initial phase of our membership. A small dues increase may be needed in future years if members like *Elements* and wish to continue our association. Although objections were raised by some members at the business meeting in New York, we remain convinced that this will be an excellent outreach and recruitment tool, a good way to communicate news to members, and will be enjoyed by the majority of existing members. The new council will need to evaluate whether these benefits have been realized before increasing dues in the future (2012).

Meteoritical Bulletin and the Nomenclature Committee

The Nomenclature Committee (NomCom) has also seen changes over the last six years and faces significant challenges. The first three editors of the *Meteoritical Bulletin* (*MetBull*) served an average term of 11 years prior to 1990. The next two each served six years. However, the sixth editor resigned after just 4 years in 2005, the seventh after just over 2 years in 2008, and the current editor has now also resigned effective in the spring of 2011. The reason for this attrition is the heavy workload. Non-Antarctic meteorite submissions, which take the most time, rose from ~450/year in the late 1990s, to ~750/year in the early 2000s, and in the last six years average ~600/year. Although easier to manage, Antarctic meteorites are being submitted at about twice the rate now (2000/year) that they were in the late 1990s, largely due to Chinese collection expeditions. In response to the increasing workload, *MetBull* expanded from one to two publications per year in 2007.

To make management and approval of so many meteorites more efficient, in 2010 the NomCom moved to an electronic submission, voting and approval system (developed by the secretary). This has helped significantly, but demands on the editor of *MetBull* are still too great. Additional changes are going to be needed or the NomCom system will break down.

The last five years has also seen the development of the Meteoritical Bulletin Database (MBDB). Originally begun as an independent (non-society) project by the secretary, the MBDB grew into the world's primary online source for meteorite information, including up-to-the-minute approvals of new meteorites by the NomCom. In 2009, the council officially made the editing and maintenance of the MBDB a society function via a change to the bylaws. We expect this to play an ever-increasing role in future NomCom activities.

Ethics

In the last few years, the society has been under pressure to develop ethics policies. This began with a request by the government of Oman in 2007 to stop the NomCom from approving names of meteorites from that country without their consent. At issue were meteorites allegedly being smuggled out of Oman, in violation of local law. Council declined this request, as it placed the NomCom and the society in the position of adjudicating legal

disputes, an area in which we have no expertise or authority. Council did offer Oman a forum in *MAPS* to increase community awareness of laws involving meteorite ownership, but this offer was not taken.

In response to this event, council authorized an ad hoc Committee on Ethics in 2007 to investigate the possibility of drafting an ethics statement for the society, possibly as a new bylaw or constitutional amendment. For various reasons, the committee did not succeed in doing this. This issue invariably seems to elicit a wide variety of deeply held opinions, as evidenced by recent discussions at council meetings and in the NomCom.

The ethics debate will continue over the next few years, with the potential to be quite divisive. However, we strongly believe that a basic statement can be drafted for the bylaws which would garner widespread support. Most members would agree that it is important to respect local laws when collecting and exporting meteorites, and that it would also be unethical to knowingly acquire specimens for collections or research when such laws had been violated in obtaining them. But we caution future councils against enacting bylaws that serve as de facto loyalty oaths or put the society in a position of having to adjudicate the law.

Other activities

In 2005, council recognized that MetSoc needed an official logo. The journal *MAPS* had used two unofficial logos over the years, fondly known as "the foot" (a hieroglyphic logo used from 1969-1987), and one showing a meteor shower radiant over farmland, used from ~1993-2006. An open contest was authorized by council to solicit new logo designs, with finalists selected by a committee and the winner chosen by a poll of the members. This concluded in 2006, with the winning entry drafted by the team of Rosa and Marcos Scorzelli. This logo now appears in *MAPS* articles and other society products.

The society website, in its current form, was created by Matt Genge around 2002, and administered by him through 2009. Council searched for a replacement webmaster for about a year, and this summer reached an agreement with NIPR in Tokyo to host and redesign a new version of the website. Hiroshi Kaiden will serve as the webmaster beginning in late 2010 or early 2011. We hope this is the beginning of a long and creative partnership, and that it will bring improvements to what is now an out-of-date and difficult-to-maintain website.

In 2009, council commissioned Cari Corrigan to set up and administer a society page on Facebook. This currently has a few hundred members, and is used to share information such as job announcements and meeting notices. Although not the ideal medium for communicating with a diverse membership, we hope this will grow in usefulness, especially among younger members.

Conclusion

The history of the society, as documented by Ursula Marvin, has been punctuated by periods of dramatic change, often involving publications. We are in such a period now. But the current cycle of changes has been far-reaching, affecting all aspects of Society affairs, including awards, membership, meetings, finance, etc. Both of us leave the council somewhat exhausted, proud of the many new developments in which we have participated over the last six years, but concerned about the future. We wish Ed and Monica well in taking us forward, and have great confidence that they will be effective leaders.