

## NEWSLETTER

# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS

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### FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, NEWPORT - 1972

Members and guests of the Association gathered at the Sheraton Islander Inn on Goat Island (offshore Newport), Rhode Island for the Fifth Annual Meeting of the A.A.S.P., October 25-28, 1972. The successful and amicable tone of the Meeting can be partially attributed to the 109 registrants in attendance. The fact that approximately one-third of the membership was present clearly indicates the interest generated by the Meeting.

The 34 papers presented at the Meeting were of a high standard, informative, and well-received. Seven of the papers were delivered by invited speakers. The non-invited papers were entered for the "Best Presentation Award", which was instituted this year. The results of the award are reported in this Newsletter.

Calcareous nannofossils formed the theme for the workshop on Wednesday, October 25. Paleoclimatic, evolutionary and biostratigraphic aspects of the nannoplankton were discussed by the speakers.

The first three technical sessions were devoted principally to various aspects of Precambrian to Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Tertiary to Quaternary palynology. These three sessions took place on Thursday morning and afternoon, and Friday morning. The fourth and final technical session on Friday afternoon included papers on acritarchs, dinoflagellates, silicoflagellates, diatoms and scolecodonts.

The official social events of the Meeting started Wednesday evening with an "ice-breaker", which achieved its objective. The cocktails and luncheon on Thursday were followed by the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer and Editor were presented to the membership. The business concluded with a message from Geoffrey Norris as the outgoing President, following which the newly-elected Executive Committee

took office. The social events wound up with free beer at the smoker around the pool on Thursday evening.

A fitting conclusion to the Fifth Annual Meeting was a Cape Cod field trip on Saturday, October 28. This was well-enjoyed by the "bus-load" of participants. The trip was under the able leadership of Dr. John Fisher of the University of Rhode Island. He clearly demonstrated various features of Pleistocene geology, and delivered a wealth of information concerning the history, culture and politics of the Cape. The botanically-oriented participants also managed to reap a rich harvest of leaves, twigs, etc., from the diverse and somewhat unique flora of Cape Cod.

The time and effort contributed by a number of persons and organizations is obviously the key to the success of the Fifth Annual Meeting. The A.A.S.P. owes its sincere gratitude especially to the following: Eugene Tynan and John Hall for their organizing capabilities; the University of Rhode Island faculty, staff and student members, and the staff of the Sheraton Islander Inn for their generous assistance during the Meeting; David Wall, Harry Leffingwell, Richard Pierce, Norman Norton and Graham Williams, who efficiently chaired the workshop and technical sessions; William Evitt and his group of judges, who organized the "Best Paper Award"; and John Fisher for his skillful leadership on the field trip. Finally, the appreciation of the Executive Committee of the A.A.S.P. is extended to the Members of the Association, whose participation added materially to the success of the Meeting.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee Meetings of the A.A.S.P. were held on October 25 and 27, 1972, at the Sheraton Islander Inn, Newport, Rhode Island. The following is a summary of the actions taken during these meetings:

1. Accepted the Treasurer's Report which states assets of \$4,547.02 before payment for Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting.
2. Tacitly approved payment to L.S.U. for Third Proceedings volume. Total cost to A.A.S.P. is \$1,907.22.
3. Accepted the Membership Report, which listed 309 Members and 5 Institutional Members. (This is the first year our membership has been more than 300).

4. Accepted the Editor's Report.
5. Annual Meeting Sites
  - a. Voted and accepted an invitation to hold the 1975 Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.
  - b. Voted and accepted an invitation to hold the 1976 Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
6. Agreed to continue the Committee for International Affairs. A new chairman will be selected.
7. Agreed to continue the Financial Affairs Committee, retaining Norman Norton as chairman.
8. Appointed M. Sedley Barss, James Canright, Norman Frederiksen, David Wall, and Charles Upshaw (chairman) to serve as the 1972-1973 Nominating Committee.
9. Appointed David McIntyre, Arthur Sweet, and Wayne Brideaux (chairman) to serve as the 1972-1973 Ballot Committee.
10. Approved the decision of the "Best Presentation Award" judges, who named Miss Maria Boyko as the recipient of this \$50 award. Honorable mentions were given to presentations by Robert Bergad, Fred May and William Cornell.
11. Appointed Karl Newman as 1972-1973 representative to the J.C.P.I.
12. Reviewed the proposal to amend the By-laws of the Association and establish "Annual Meeting Committees" to take care of each Annual Meeting, rather than continue this as a Vice-Presidential duty.
13. Approved Denver, Colorado, as the site of the mid-year Executive Committee Meeting during March or April, 1973.
14. Took other minor actions, records of which are in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings of October 25 and 27, 1972

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## BEST PRESENTATION AWARD

The judges for the newly-instituted "Best Presentation Award" have selected Miss Maria Boyko as the recipient of the \$50 award for her presentation of "Landnam in southern Ontario" by Boyko, McAndrews and Byrne at the Fifth Annual Meeting. Honorable mentions were given to presentations by Robert Bergad, Fred May and William Cornell. Congratulations!

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## SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the A.A.S.P. will be held in Anaheim, California, in October, 1973. Ken Piel and his committee report that 100 rooms are reserved at the Grand Hotel, right across from Disneyland, for October 16-19. Details concerning the Meeting will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, plan to attend the Sixth Annual Meeting of the A.A.S.P.

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## AASP PROCEEDINGS, VOL. IV

Volume IV of the A.A.S.P. Proceedings will be published as a volume of Geoscience and Man. All completed manuscripts have been reviewed by your Editor and by outside readers, and presently are in the hands of the editorial staff of the L.S.U. Press. Papers not published in their entirety will be included in abstract form.

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## AASP PROCEEDINGS, VOL. V

Completed manuscripts to be included in Proceedings Volume V are being received by this office. This volume will contain papers presented at the Fifth Annual Meeting in Newport.

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## SIXTH PALYNOLOGY SHORT COURSE

The sixth Palynology Short Course, sponsored by Louisiana State University, will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 10-13, 1973. The title of the course is Mesozoic Palynology, and will include instruction by Michael Fisher (Robertson Research Co.) on the Triassic, Stanley A. J. Pocock (Imperial Oil) on the Jurassic, and Robert H. Tschudy (U.S.G.S.) on the Cretaceous.

The course is limited to 30 external participants and the registration fee is \$110. For further details, write to:

George F. Hart  
Department of Geology  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

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## FILE OF FOSSIL SPORE AND POLLEN GENERA

Jan Jansonius reports that his original spare-time project to compile a list of all generic names proposed for fossil spores and pollen has expanded to become a comprehensive file of fossil spore and pollen genera. Data for each taxon have been researched independently from the original source. In all cases, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature has been applied to determine validity, although in a few cases with complex ramifications that escape immediate application of the Code, established custom is followed.

The format of the genera file consists of 5 x 8 filing cards, headed by the generic name and the original or validating author and year. The second line, referring to the first, cites book or magazine and page of the valid and effective publication. Next is given the name of the type species and its original or validating author, or the name of the author of the new combination. If not otherwise indicated, designation of the type species is by the original author. For the case of new combinations, the first valid publication of the specific epithet is given, with author and reference. The illustration of the holotype is indicated.

The generic diagnosis is given as a direct quote from the "protologue" if in English, other literature being cited as a direct translation into English; both these are indicated by quotation marks. Unusually wordy diagnoses, or circumscriptions divided into a "diagnosis" and a "description" have been shortened, or combined with omission of repetitive statements; in such cases quotation marks are omitted. All relevant emendations of the generic diagnosis by subsequent authors are quoted or cited in similar manner.

A description of the type species, its measurements, as well as its stratigraphic and geographic occurrences are given in abbreviated, generalized form. Each card carries a line drawing of the holotype of this species; most of these illustrations are new, but in cases where the original author provided a diagrammatic sketch it may have been copied.

Publication of this file is now being planned, although final arrangements have not yet been made. The exact publication price remains uncertain; preliminary estimates vary between \$30.00 and \$90.00 (depending on size of expected subsidies) for a set of more than 4000 cards, mailed in cardboard containers capable of serving as permanent file boxes. Publication is envisaged to occur in two to four installments, followed by yearly updates of new genera and emendations. The set of sample cards are a direct half-size reproduction from the original type-script.

For further information, contact:

Jan Jansonius  
Imperial Oil, Ltd.  
339-50th Avenue S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 2B3

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## INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

Geoffrey Norris has informed us that a selective information retrieval and dissemination system (CAN/SDI) is now available for research geologists in Canada. This system is operated by the National Science Library in various scientific fields, but the Geological Survey of Canada has special subject responsibility in the earth sciences.

CAN/SDI uses a magnetic tape (GEO.REF) with world-wide references to literature in the earth sciences as a data base. This tape is produced by the American Geological Institute. CAN/SDI allows users' interest profiles to be matched each month by computer against the current GEO.REF tape. An intending user of the system is required to produce a list of key words relevant to literature in his area of interest. A user receives a monthly printout of references to all articles published in his specific field of interest. Coverage includes 2300 geoscience serials (40% English; 60% non-English); all master's and doctoral theses in the geosciences produced at American and Canadian universities; books, maps, and conference proceedings relating to geology; plus certain informal publications not normally included in bibliographies. Subscriptions cost \$69.00 per year for a sixty-term profile with printouts each

month. The Geological Survey Library will provide or locate the original publications cited in the data base, being the major repository in Canada for geoscience publications.

Further information on the system can be obtained by writing to:

Eric Macaulay  
Library Services (CAN/SDI)  
Geological Survey of Canada  
601 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E8

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## RESEARCH DEFINITIONS

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writings, are defined here for your edification and enlightenment. This list was provided by one of our Members, who evidently has read one too many scientific papers.

"IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN \_\_\_\_\_" I haven't bothered to look up the original reference.

"OF GREAT THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE" Interesting to me.

"WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS----" The experiments didn't work out, but I figured I could get publicity out of it.

"THREE OF THE SAMPLES WERE CHOSEN FOR DETAILED STUDY" The results on the others didn't make sense and were ignored.

"ACCIDENTALLY STAINED DURING MOUNTING" Accidentally dropped on the floor.

"HANDLED WITH EXTREME CARE DURING THE EXPERIMENTS" Not dropped on the floor.

"TYPICAL RESULTS ARE SHOWN" The best results are shown.

"THESE RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED AT A LATER DATE" I might get around to this sometime.

"THE MOST RELIABLE VALUES ARE THOSE OF JONES" He was a student of mine.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT----" I think.

"IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT----" A couple of other guys think so too.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING---" I don't understand it.

"CORRECT WITHIN AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE" Wrong.

"IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THIS WORK WILL STIMULATE FURTHER WORK IN THE FIELD" This paper is not very good, but neither are any of the others on this miserable subject.

"THANKS ARE DUE TO JOE GOLTZ FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE EXPERIMENT AND TO JOHN DOE FOR VALUABLE DISCUSSIONS" Goltz did the work and Doe explained what it meant to me.

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## PERSONALIA

Eloy Salas, our southern correspondent for A.A.S.P., has provided the following information concerning the research efforts of palynologists at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina:

Sergio Archangelsky: Palynological studies of the Rio Turbio Formation (Eocene), Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, and the Salamanca Formation (Paleocene), Chubut Province, Argentina.

Lucia Irene Costa: Microplankton studies of the Salamanca Formation (Paleocene), Chubut Province, Argentina, and the Maestrichtian of Magallanes Province, Chile.

Marta Morbelli de Casanova: Morphology of modern spores of the Fuego-Patagonica Region, and the morphology of Austral-South American species of the genus Blechnum.

Juan Carlos Gamero: Pollen morphology of Austral-South American gymnosperms, and Lower Cretaceous megaspores of Argentina.

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REMEMBER TO SEND ANY NEWS-WORTHY ITEMS TO  
YOUR EDITOR FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWSLETTER

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