1992 AND 1993 KRUMBEIN MEDALISTS

IAMG President, Michael Hohn, has announced the 1992 and 1993 Krumbein Medalists. For 1992, the medalist is past IAMG President, Richard McCammon. In his letter of June 8, 1994, Hohn wrote McCammon that the medal was being presented for his "distinguished career as author and researcher in the field of mathematical geology." Moreover, McCammon has made a tremendous contribution to IAMG, serving, of course, as past President. Furthermore, Dick McCammon is the editor of IAMG's newest journal, Nonrenewable Resources.

The Krumbein medalist for 1993 is DeVerle P. Harris, professor of mineral economics at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. In his letter of June 8 to Harris notifying him of his selection, Hohn recognized in particular Harris' contribution to teaching. Furthermore, Harris' contributions to research are numerous and outstanding.

Both recipients received their medals at the 1994 IAMG Annual Meeting in Mont Tremblant. A complete biographical sketch of each recipient will appear in a future issue of Mathematical Geology.

SRIVASTAVA 1993 PRESIDENT'S PRIZE WINNER

Mohan Srivastava is the 1993 recipient of IAMG’s President’s Prize. This award is made to an individual, 35 years old or younger, who has made an outstanding contribution of mathematics to the geological sciences. Srivastava was selected by a committee composed of six scientists representing five different countries. A more complete profile of Mohan will appear in the spring issue of this Newsletter.

BEST PAPER AWARD, C&G

PRESIDENT’S FORUM
by Michael Hohn

I have just returned from the Annual Meeting of the IAMG at Mt. Tremblant, Canada. For those not familiar with Canadian geography, the meeting site is northwest of Montreal, and truly a beautiful place. The IAMG Council has approved a proposal to hold the next Annual Meeting of the IAMG in Osaka, Japan. This Newsletter includes the first announcement. Japan is a long way away for many of us, but the western Pacific rim has long had a history of involvement in mathematical geology, but few meetings sponsored by the IAMG have been held there, until now. The IAMG will sponsor a number of symposia as part of the International Geological Congress in 1996, to be held in Beijing, China. A site for the 1997 meeting has not been selected, so we will be accepting proposals from organizations wishing to host that meeting.

There is a move on to create a regional organization of the IAMG in Europe. A number of such organizations have been created in the past and have sometimes distributed newsletters and held meetings. MGUS (Mathematical Geologists of the United States) held two very successful meetings and published a directory of mathematical geologists in North America, which I found very useful. We encourage such organizations because they create the type of local activities that keep many scientists interested in associations like ours.

As a final word, the IAMG exists because of volunteers giving their time and expertise. No officer, council member, or editor gets a paycheck for their work for the Association. Each year, I have set up a number of committees, largely for awards. I ask people who have helped in the past, or who I have met and seem to be responsive. I cannot meet everyone, so if any member would like to serve on a committee, just let me know. The commitment in time is minimal and the work is conducted through the mail for the most part.
EDITOR’S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS CONTRIBUTED BY RICARDO OLEA, KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Established during the XXIII International Congress in Prague, the IAMG was founded on August 22, 1960, attended by 20 individuals from ten countries. Five membership categories were approved—individual, institutional, company, sustaining, and patron—but only the first one has had a continuous subscription. In an effort to be a truly international organization, the IAMG nominated two treasurers and was flexible in the type of the currency used to pay dues, a move intended to facilitate payments by those living in countries with monetary controls. One could either send five Swiss francs ($US15) or its equivalent in another currency of easy acceptance in the western world to T. V. Loudon in London or ten Czechoslovakian crowns to Vaclav Nemec in Prague. Individual members received the IAMG Newsletter free and could order personal copies of the journal at half the list price, which started by publishing two issues a year in 1969 at the list price of $US 6 per issue. Figure 1 is a pictorial view by our first western treasurer of the birth of our organization.

Figure 2 shows the first update of Loudon’s graph in Figure 1 that I have prepared based primarily on information provided by the active treasurers and documents found at the IAMG archives at the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence, USA. Those individuals who paid dues during 1969 received a special certificate and the title of Charter Members. Collection of membership dues and the subscription were marred by numerous irregularities that contributed to a decline instead of an increase in membership. The general assembly gathered in Montréal on August 28, 1972, and approved adjustments to remedy the situation. The main change was a centralization of payments at a time when our only journal was appearing quarterly. Individual membership dues were raised exactly ten-fold to $US$15, but included the journal for free.” In other words, subscription to the journal was not optional anymore and one could no longer send payments directly to the publisher. The IAMG kept only $US 3 and the remainder of any payment went to the publisher to pay for the subscription, a situation that still holds. The new arrangement reduced dramatically the number of members complaining about not receiving the journal regularly, despite an increase in the volume of the publications. The year 1975 saw Mathematical Geology going up to six issues a year and the appearance of the new journal Computers and Geosciences, which started as a quarterly.

Unfortunately the new system put an end to worldwide equity among individual members. Although the statutes have to this day a provision for special arrangements for those in countries with currency regulations, the rule of no dollars no journal has yet to be broken. Starting in 1972, membership in Figure 2 includes only those individuals paying dues to the western treasurer. I could not obtain counts for those individuals primarily in eastern Europe who for many years have been making payments to the eastern treasurer for the right to receive a newsletter. In 1992 the general assembly approved the new category of corresponding members, allowing individuals in countries with convertible currencies to receive the newsletter for free.

Figure 2 contains the bare numbers. Interpretation of the fluctuations is debatable and as easy to explain as the ups and downs of stock markets. I use three periods in the life of our organization. Until 1978 the organization remained stagnant with an average membership of 291 members. The eve of 10th anniversary of the IAMG marks the beginning of the most impressive membership surge in our short history. Membership went from 233 in 1977 to 800 in 1984, more than a three-fold increase, despite an increase of $US 3 in the membership dues for those members taking Mathematical Geology. The period coincides with a surge in the price of several mineral commodities, in particular oil, and a serious attempt by the membership committee to attract more members. Contractions in the minerals market made a dent in our membership by 1985, ending five years of continuous growth. At the present time we are in a second plateau at 549 members, almost twice the level of the first one. The short-lived increase of 1992 coincides with another vigorous drive to increase membership.

The IAMG, like any other professional organization, never has a complete renewal rate among its existing members, which means that the recruiting of new members is important even to achieve zero growth in membership. When we have been able to overcompensate for the losses, the association has grown. In 1991 for instance, we had 176 new members, but because 90 of the 1990 members did not renew their membership, the net gain was only 86 individuals. In less fortunate years, when the dropouts exceeded the new members, the IAMG has had net losses in membership.

It is the duty of the membership committee, not the treasurers, to recruit new members. Membership drives, however, are expensive and fairly inefficient. Despite the best mailing screening, for example, the success ratio of our last membership drive was 6% and the average cost about $US 20 per new member recruited. A larger membership is important to many of our programs, especially to the survival of our newest journal, Nonrenewable Resources. During its first two years of publication the IAMG has had to pay $US 23,000 in penalties for a subscription level below the minimum specified in the contract with the publisher.

Members often know about peers active in mathematical geology or related fields that are not members of the IAMG and have a high likelihood of joining us. If each member would be able to recruit just one new member, we should take care of problems such as the subscription to Nonrenewable Resources and finally reach the target of 1,000 members announced in 1970 in the first issue of our newsletter.

Ricardo A. Olea

secretary-general of the IAMG

1. Letter of May 22, 1969, from T. V. Loudon to Richard A. Rayment, first
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Mathematical Geology appears eight times per year, Computers & Geosciences, ten times, and Nonrenewable Resources, quarterly.

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The 1999 Annual Conference of the International Association for Mathematical Geology will be held at Osaka, Japan, 29 October - 2 November 1999.

Osaka International Convention Hall, Osaka, Japan

Conference Program

Abstracts New papers of workshops are also included.

Workshop

Umbrella Project on the Geologic Framework
Geologic Framework and Development of Geologic Record
Geologic Framework and Development of Geologic Record
Geologic Framework and Development of Geologic Record
Geologic Framework and Development of Geologic Record

Scientific Forecasts for the Study of Resource, Environment, Health and Urban Geography

Main Theme


Conference Program

Postgraduate Seminar in Geology, China
Postgraduate Seminar in Geology, China
Postgraduate Seminar in Geology, China
Postgraduate Seminar in Geology, China
Postgraduate Seminar in Geology, China

Conferences:

1. October Opening Session
2. Opening Session
3. October Closing Session