

G E O S C I E N C E I N F O R M A T I O N S O C I E T Y

NEWSLETTER no. 2

September 1966

GIS Secretary Harriet W. Smith reports that our membership now approaches 150, or an increase of 40 since May. Approximately one half of us are librarians and documentalists, one quarter geologists, and one quarter information officers, editors or administrators. Anyone who is interested in improving the exchange of information among geoscientists, librarians, documentalists, editors, and information officers, and is working at the professional level, can apply for membership. Write to Mrs. Smith, Geology Librarian, 223 Natural History Bldg., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801, for application forms. The \$5.00 annual dues, received after September 1st, will be applied to the year 1967.

According to Treasurer Harriet K. Long, GIS has collected \$725.00 in dues. Our bank balance is \$592.75, a commendable state of affairs, considering the amount of mail that has gone out. Biggest expenses have been postage (\$69.49), telephone calls (\$23.35), and printing (\$19.55). Our attorney is now ready to file papers requesting that GIS receive a non-profit tax status; GIS President Mark Pangborn foresees no difficulty along this line.

1966 GIS CONVENTION at SAN FRANCISCO

Our 1st Annual Convention will be held in San Francisco, in connection with the meetings of the Geological Society of America, 14-16 November 1966. The one-day session, Wednesday November 16th, will feature a morning Symposium on the Use of Automated Systems in the Storage, Retrieval, and Publication of Geoscience Information. There will be an afternoon business meeting. Both sessions will be held in the Toyon Room of the new Hilton Hotel.

Our first speaker at the morning Symposium will be Harold A. Siroonian (Science Librarian, City College of New York) who will talk on The Automated Information System of the IGY World Data Center A: International Upper Mantle Project. The system was recently set up in the Geoscience Library at Lamont Geological Observatory to collect, house, index, and disseminate information on the publications and data

resulting from the Project in which 45 nations are participating.

The next paper will be Dr. James W. Clarke's (U.S. Geological Survey) Automatic Data Processing of Geological Literature, the first full-dress public discussion of the computerized system now being used by the USGS for publishing the "Bibliography of North American geology", the "Abstracts of North American geology", the "Bibliography of United States hydrology", and "Geophysical abstracts".

Following an intermission, Dr. Foster D. Smith, Jr. (American Geological Institute), will discuss, also for the first time, The Computerized System to be Used for Publishing the "Bibliography of Geology Exclusive of North America". This bibliography, somewhat expanded over the present publication, will be a joint product of the AGI and the Geological Society of America, will closely resemble the bibliographies of the USGS, and will be produced by a similar machine system.

In Recent Advances in Processing Water Resources Information, Dr. George W. Whetstone (U.S. Geological Survey) will tell how the Water Resources Division publishes some 30,000 pages of hydrologic and geologic data annually with the aid of new techniques of processing, storage, and retrieval, both computer and microfilm. Applications to geology will be emphasized.

Finally, Dr. Louis Cima (U.S. National Science Foundation) will take a look at some of the larger problems facing the handlers of geoscience publications in his talk Some Problems in Earth Science Communication and Information. There will be time at the end of the formal program for an extensive discussion.

There will be a GIS Field Trip, commencing at 9:00 A.M. Monday, November 14th, to IBM's Advanced Systems Development Division Library in San Jose, where we will see a demonstration in line with the topics of our Symposium. After lunch on the Stanford campus, we will see the University's Branner Geological Library and then visit the USGS Library at Menlo Park. A \$10.00 fee will cover the field trip

transportation and lunch. Many GIS members will want to attend the San Andreas Symposium on Tuesday, November 15th; those who do not may want to visit libraries with fine geoscience collections at the California Academy of Sciences, the California Division of Mines and Geology, and the University of California at Berkeley.

GIS members planning to attend the Annual Convention and/or the Field Trip are requested to mark the appropriate boxes on the Ballot for Elective Officers (attached).

The \$10.00 registration fee, payable to the Geological Society of America, will enable GIS to contribute its share toward the cost of the meeting room, and will give GIS people admission to all open GSA meetings and social activities. GIS Convention Committee co-chairmen Eleanore Wilkins and Kay Cutler report that GSA has been most cooperative in helping our society to stage its first convention.

GIS members have received, or shortly will receive, Circular no.2 of the Geological Society of America, which will include an "Advance Registration Form" among other papers. If you can do so now, please fill out the GSA form, enclose your \$10.00 check (made out to GSA, not GIS), and mail it to the Geological Society of America.

Announcements of GIS breakfasts, lunches, etc., will be posted on the GSA's bulletin boards.

PANEL ON THE LIBRARY IN GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The AGI's Council on Education in the Geological Sciences (CEGS) soon will appoint a panel of three GIS members and three geology teachers to explore ways to upgrade departmental geoscience libraries in colleges and universities. At a preliminary meeting in April (see Newsletter no.1, p.2), GIS representatives suggested some worthy education-oriented projects to which its members might contribute.

One project is now under way: List of Basic Journals, Texts, Maps, and other Materials Needed in a Non-Specialized Departmental Geoscience Library. Over 30 experts are recommending texts in various fields, and Harriet Smith, Dederick Ward, and Mark Pangborn are providing the sections on reference books, re-

gional books, and maps. Dr. John L. Snyder (Director of Education, American Geological Institute) will edit the publication.

Bill Matthews and Mark Pangborn are jointly preparing a Buying List of 100 Best Geoscience Books for High School Libraries. This leaflet, frequently revised, will be distributed by the tens of thousands to the membership of the National Science Teachers Association via their regular mailings. Over the years this should greatly improve the quality of high school geoscience book collections. Large-scale free distribution of publications is not fundable through the usual channels, but GIS hopes that the modest sum needed to print the leaflets will be forthcoming from private sources. Any suggestions?

Among other recommended projects are: (1) minimum standards for departmental geoscience libraries, with reference to space, equipment, salaries, etc.; (2) annotated bibliography on earth science education; and (3) annotated bibliography on geoscience libraries and documentation. GIS needs volunteers and funds for these projects. Those members interested should write to Mark Pangborn, Reference Librarian, U.S. Geological Survey Library, Washington D.C. 20242.

SUBJECT HEADINGS COMMITTEE

On July 12, during the meeting of the American Library Association in New York City, several members of GIS, under the leadership of Harold Siroonian (chairman of the Subject Headings Committee), talked over plans for a Workshop on Subject Headings in the Geosciences. The Workshop will be held in connection with the 1967 convention of the Special Libraries Association, to be held in New York City next June.

The purpose of this Committee is to examine the geoscience subject headings which appear in library card catalogs, and to recommend to the U.S. Library of Congress, which publishes these cards, such changes as reflect the introduction of new terms and concepts. The Committee has just brought about the introduction and use of the subject heading "Geomorphology" so that textbooks on this subject will no longer be sought under the headings "Geology, Structural" or "Physical Geography".

Another changed subject heading is "Rocks, Crystalline and Metamorphic", which is now broken down into "Rocks, Crystalline" and "Rocks, Metamorphic" (the heading "Rocks, Igneous" remains unchanged).

The Workshop will examine ways in which existing geoscience subject headings can be improved, and may consider how subject headings and indexing terms can be coordinated. Harold welcomes comments and suggestions from geoscientists interested in terminology (mailing address: Harold A. Siroonian, 2879 Heath Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463).

COMMITTEE ON GEOSCIENCE SERIALS

Miss Sara Aull (Science Librarian, University of Houston, Cullen Blvd., Houston, Texas 77004) and her Committee on Geoscience Serials are now examining a proposal that GIS prepare, assist in preparing, or plan a union list or checklist of geoscience serials. A final report on this big project may be ready by convention time.

A checklist would list all kinds of serials (periodicals and irregularly numbered publications), American and foreign, dealing with every phase of geology and solid earth geophysics, broadly interpreted. As many as 5,000 titles would be included. It might be arranged by country of publishing origin, with subject and title indexes. Format, content, and historical notes might be provided for a selected starred list of, say, 400 basic periodicals. GIS has also been asked to recommend personnel and procedures for preparing such a checklist. A union list project might then follow later. Sara solicits your suggestions.

COMMITTEE ON RECRUITMENT AND EDUCATION

Mrs. Shula Schwartz (Manager, Central Library Services, Texas Instruments Inc., Box 5474, Dallas, Texas 75222) and her Committee on Recruitment and Education are now in high gear. They have planned a series of articles, leading off with one on "Women Geologists in the Information Field". A career guidance pamphlet, basic to any large-scale recruitment program, will follow, providing that funds for publishing it can be found. Support must be obtained for printing career literature, and for scholar-

ships, if the supply of librarians, documentalists, and editors is not to fall even further behind the demand. Persons with recruiting interests are invited to contact Shula.

GUIDEBOOKS COMMITTEE

The Guidebooks Committee under John Chaffin (Technical Information Center, Field Research Laboratory, Mobil Oil Corp., Box 900, Dallas, Texas 75221) is hard at work planning a system to establish bibliographic control over the most troublesome of geoscience materials --guidebooks, road logs, and other ephemera issued in connection with society-sponsored field conferences. The Committee hopes to make it easier for researchers to locate (in libraries) and to obtain (from authors or issuing agencies) these hard-to-get publications. A checklist or union list of guidebooks is under consideration. A committee (chaired by Dr. Russell Smith) of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists plans to index all the guidebooks issued by the AAPG and its affiliated societies. Also, the Tulsa Public Library is putting the catalog of its fine collection of guidebooks onto tape. Perhaps all three groups will be able to join forces and turn out a definitive listing. More on this later.

COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORY AND MEMBERSHIP

The Committee on Directory and Membership is preparing two directories which, hopefully, will be available for distribution during the annual convention: (1) a revised and up-to-date listing of all members; and (2) a preliminary listing of geoscience libraries (including those with substantial holdings in the earth sciences) in the USA and Canada. The latter list will be developed into a directory of various geoscience information resources, including libraries, documentation services, and information centers.

Important! Members who have changed their position and/or address since completing the directory questionnaire form are urged to notify the committee chairman: Robert McAfee, jr., American Geological Institute, 1444 N Street N.W., Washington D.C. 20005.

THESES COMMITTEE

The Theses Committee, chaired by Dederick C. Ward III (Earth Science Library, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. 80302), expects to secure funds to prepare a bibliography of geological theses covering the years 1965 and 1966. The bibliography will be published by the American Geological Institute with the assistance of GIS.

LIBRARY CONVENTION NEWS

Members of GIS met for breakfast on May 30th and 31st during the Special Libraries Association convention in Minneapolis. Coffee and orange juice flowed freely as members discussed the upcoming GIS Convention and other activities of our Society. GISers present included: Sara Aull, Carrie Eagon, Alice Hargis, Helen McKenzie, Harold Malinowsky, Theodora Melone, Julie Nott, Donald Osier, Mark Pangborn, Shula Schwartz, Edward Thatcher, and Marjorie Wheeler. Also participating were Evelyn Chenoweth, Connie Lawson, and Donald Redmond.

During the American Library Association convention in New York City, GIS members (besides discussing subject headings) breakfasted on July 12th with staff members of the Geological Society of America, and then visited GSA headquarters. Later, the group toured the Lamont Geological Observatory and its Geoscience Library at Palisades, N.Y. GIS members present included: Nancy Anderson, Elizabeth Becker, Ruth Bristol, Jean Messimer, Martin Russell, Harold Siroonian, Harriet Smith, and Bill Woods. Others present included Gerald Holzinger (American Museum of Natural History) and Rosamond Danielson (Cornell University, and past chairman of the Subject Headings Committee of the Reference and Technical Services Division of ALA).

A special word of thanks is due Ruth Bristol for her efforts in bringing GIS members together for various discussions and meetings in both Minneapolis and New York City.

ELECTION OF GIS OFFICERS

All GIS members of record are entitled to vote on the two elective positions---Secretary (President-elect) and Treasurer---for the coming year. A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter in the regular mailing to all members of the Society. It is requested that all ballots be completed and returned before October 15th to the present Secretary: Mrs. Harriet W. Smith, Geology Librarian, 223 Natural History Bldg., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

The Nominating Committee (Theodora G. Melone, Univ. of Minnesota; Edward P. Thatcher, Univ. of Oregon; and Robert McAfee, jr., American Geological Institute, chairman) has presented the names of two candidates for each elective position:

SECRETARY (PRESIDENT-ELECT)

Henry A. Fontaine. 1966- Librarian, Jefferson County Public Library, Golden, Colo.; 1965-1966 Head, Science & Technology Dept., Tulsa City-County Library System, Tulsa, Okla.; 1954-1962 Geologist, Shell Oil Co., New Orleans, La.---B.S. 1954 Geology LSU; M.S. 1963 Library Science LSU.

Dederick C. Ward III. 1961- Earth Science Librarian, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. ---B.A. 1956 Geology (Washington & Lee); M.A. 1958 Geology (Univ. of Colorado); M.A. 1961 Librarianship (Univ. of Denver).

TREASURER

Mrs. Georgianna D. Conant. 1954- Geologist (abstractor & indexer), U.S. Geological Survey, Washington D.C.; 1928-1933 Assistant, Geology Dept., Cornell Univ.---A.B. 1927 Geology (Smith College); M.A. 1928 Geology (Cornell Univ.)

Eleanore E. Wilkins. 1954- Librarian, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.; 1947-1953 Librarian, Ntl Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.---A.B. 1940 English (Washington Univ., St. Louis); B.S. 1942 Library Science (Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh)