



International Association of GeoChemistry

www.iagc-society.org

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ian Cartwright

Well, this is my last contribution as President of IAGC. After a very brief two years, I am passing the baton into the capable hands of Philippe Negrel (French Geological Survey) who will take over the role of IAGC President for the next two years. Neus Otero (University of Barcelona, Spain) is the new vice-president, and she will be profiled in the next issue of *Elements*. I would like to thank everyone on the committee who has helped me to keep some semblance of organisation over the last couple of years, especially Chris Gardner, who has made sure that myself and the rest of the committee have met deadlines and carried out the tasks that we said we would.

I have had the pleasure of attending two of the working group meetings whilst being president and of meeting many members of the IAGC. I would have ideally attended more of the meetings but distances from Australia and an academic calendar that is out of sync with those in the northern hemisphere makes that somewhat of a challenge. I appreciate the considerable work that the IAGC working groups do to organise these popular and productive meetings on a regular basis. The working group meetings allow for considerable networking opportunities and provide for a relaxed atmosphere in which to discuss science. I would certainly recommend them.

Having been involved in geochemistry for over 30 years, I am always heartened by the degree to which it continues to progress as a discipline. When I started, radiogenic and stable isotope techniques were at the cutting edge of research. Over the last few decades, we have seen great advances in understanding the interaction between the biosphere and the lithosphere or hydrosphere, and fields such as biogeochemistry and geomicrobiology are becoming more prominent. We have also seen great advances in technology: portable stable isotope analysers allow real-time geochemical data to be collected in dynamic environments; we can directly determine the geochemistry of other planets; and we can use synchrotron techniques to explore the details of materials and reactions. In the future, I look forward to the new understanding of processes that comes from the new opportunities arising from cross-disciplinary collaboration and the further development of technology that will open up fresh research directions.

As I always do, I'll finish with an encouragement to be involved in IAGC. If you can help with a working group or contribute to the committee when vacancies arise, *then please do so*; it isn't a large time commitment, and your contribution is an immeasurable benefit to the society and its members. If you have suggestions of how the society can do things better, or if there are things that we should be doing, then please let us know. So, whether you are looking forward to summer or bracing for winter, I hope that your geochemical endeavours over the next few months are fruitful, and I look forward to seeing you at an IAGC working group meeting in the future.

Ian Cartwright

PROFESSOR JANE PLANT (CBE), 1945–2016



It is with great sadness to report that Jane A. Plant, a leading geochemist who was awarded the Commander of the British Empire (CBE), passed away 4 March 2016. She will be remembered vividly by many of her former research colleagues across the world. A leading geochemist of high international standing, Jane made a lasting impression on those who had the privilege of working with her because of her passion and creativity and exceptional gift for meaningful research. She leaves a substantial legacy: a baseline-geochemical dataset for the United Kingdom (UK) and methods that have been adopted/adapted around the globe as standard

for geochemical surveying. Further, Jane developed prolific research outputs in metallogenesis, crustal evolution and medical geology. She became one of the UK's most senior female scientists in an era when this was rare and when women faced many barriers to progression. She was the author of over 200 publications, and her scientific reputation was recognised throughout her career. Her offices included being on the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (1999–2005); President of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (2001–2002); Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (2012). In 1997, she was awarded Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for her contribution to science and industry. Jane joined the British Geological Survey (BGS) in 1967 with a first-class geology degree from the University of Liverpool (UK). Her career progressed rapidly, developing geochemical surveying methods, for which she was awarded, in 1977, a PhD from the University of Leicester (UK). By 1983 Jane had achieved Individual Merit Promotion in recognition of her scientific achievements. Following a sabbatical as vice-president of a Canadian exploration company, she became the first female Assistant Director of the BGS before her appointment as BGS Chief Scientist in 2002. Jane retired from the BGS in 2005, but her career continued with publication of *Your Life in Your Hands: Understand, Prevent and Overcome Breast and Ovarian Cancer* (updated 2007 edition, Virgin Books Ltd), the first of several books she wrote on diet and health, following her experiences with cancer. Jane was Emeritus Professor of Geochemistry at Imperial College, London (UK) until her death.

This is a version of the obituary originally published by the British Geological Survey on their website: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/item.cfm?id=7318>

BIOGEOMON 2017: 9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ECOSYSTEM BEHAVIOUR

20–24 August 2017

Litomyšl château (Czech Republic)

www.biogeomon.cz

Registration Deadline: 10 March 2017

The Biogeomon 2017 symposium will focus on biogeochemistry in an era of global change. Important themes will include long-term trends in ecosystem functioning, the stoichiometry of biochemical processes in upland and wetland soils, catchment monitoring/modelling, nutrient movements, micronutrients and trace metals in forest ecosystems, grasslands, and extreme environments. Please do not miss the **10 March 2017 abstract deadline**. We look forward to seeing you in the lovingly restored 16th century town of Litomyšl.

Specific topics will include:

- Catchment monitoring and modelling
- Process-level studies in upland and wetland soils
- Interactions between biogeochemical cycles of C, N, P, S, Ca and Mg
- Micronutrients and trace metals in ecosystems
- Biogeochemistry in an era of global change
- Linking microbial communities with element pools and fluxes
- Traditional and novel isotope systems in the environment
- Ecosystem restoration/rehabilitation/management