



Geochemical Society

Report on the *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* Publishers Meeting



In early February, I attended a publishers meeting in New York, which is an annual event allowing the two societies (Geochemical Society and Meteoritical Society), the executive editor, the chairperson of the Joint Program Committee and representatives from Elsevier to discuss the status of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (GCA). The overall

consensus is that the journal is doing quite well on a quality and quantity basis. The total number of published pages is near 5400 article pages per year and has been increasing steadily from a low of less than 4000 in 1998. The journal is now quite close to the maximum levels reached in the 1990s when Gunter Faure was executive editor.

The primary concern raised was the long time for publication, which at the moment averages 14 months from submission to print. Much of this is a consequence of delays by authors or reviewers over which the journal has little control. The initial review averages about 80 days, revisions are received after another 100 days, and about 20–30 days is the typical post-acceptance handling time (final author review of proofs and transmittance to the publisher's office). The primary delay in the process is in production, which is currently taking about six months.

The key limitation in production at present is an insufficient number of copy editors. A typical journal has two copy editors; GCA has five and this is still not sufficient. Publication time could be reduced to three months with the addition of one or more copy editors. Elsevier is well aware of the problem and is taking steps to hire and train more copy editors. At present, there is a significant backlog of articles waiting to be published. The journal has been increasing the number of pages published in each issue, and with the continuation of this process we expect that the backlog will gradually diminish over the next year.

Nathaniel Ostrom,
Chair of the Joint Publications Committee



NOTES FROM ST. LOUIS

Geochemical News #124 – Goldschmidt Conference Issue

The July issue of *Geochemical News* will focus on the annual Goldschmidt Conference, which has grown into one of the largest (if not the largest!) annual international conferences devoted to geochemistry. This issue will feature highlights from the 15th annual Goldschmidt Conference, to be held May 20–25, 2005 in Moscow, Idaho and will also contain important information on the venue, scientific program, and logistics of the 16th annual Goldschmidt Conference, to be held Aug 27–Sept 1, 2006 in Melbourne, Australia.

Goldschmidt 2006 – Geochemistry Downunder

Speaking of next year's Goldschmidt conference, it is not too early to start looking ahead to Melbourne. To register your interest in the conference, please visit the conference website at: www.goldschmidt2006.org

Got GCA?

If you have become a member of the Geochemical Society through your Goldschmidt Conference registration, then there is an additional benefit you may not be aware of.

Members of the Geochemical Society may purchase a personal subscription to *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. Subscriptions include all calendar year issues including the Goldschmidt Abstracts special issue. Moreover, GCA subscriptions include personal online access to GCA through Elsevier's Science Direct. Online access includes issues from 1995 to date.

Subscription rates for 2005 are \$130 for professional members

and \$30 for student members. If you are interested in a GCA subscription, please contact the business office for a form.

Geochemical Society at the 2005 GSA Annual Meeting

The Geochemical Society will be cosponsoring the following sessions at the 2005 GSA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah from October 16 to 19, 2005:

- Occurrence and Fate of Arsenic in Hydrogeologic Systems
- Reaction Kinetics in Aquifers
- Mine Rock Piles and Pyritically Altered Areas: their Slope Stability and Effect on Water Quality
- Integrated Field, Geochemical, and Geophysical Studies of the Yellowstone–Snake River–Columbia River Volcanic System

GS is also cosponsoring the field trip on October 13–15, entitled "Basaltic Volcanism of the Central and Western Snake River Plain and its Relation to the Yellowstone Plume."

And finally, GS will have an exhibit in the GSA exposition hall. We will have society information, be selling special publications, and be accepting membership renewals. This is a good opportunity to meet with the business manager if you have comments or suggestions for the Geochemical Society.

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THE ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION OF THE GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2005 TREIBS AWARD



Dr. Jaap S. Sinninghe Damste is amply deserving of the 2005 Alfred Treibs Award, as demonstrated by his sustained record of accomplishments documented in over

300 publications over the last 20+ years. As a common theme through his career, Jaap has pioneered the use of numerous highly specific biomarkers to reconstruct palaeoenvironments with high resolution in order to recognize palaeoenvironment dynamics and palaeoclimatic change both in the recent past and over geological time scales.

As part of his dissertation work, Jaap discovered and rigorously identified hundreds of new organic sulfur compounds in sediments and soils. This led to totally new insights into the global carbon and sulfur cycles and also

demonstrated that through sulfurization many specific, yet labile biomolecules were preserved in the geosphere, suggesting new possibilities for reconstructing palaeoenvironments through the utilization of these sulfurized biomarkers.

Later work by Jaap led to new insights in the biosynthesis of isoprenoids and steroids and has significantly contributed to the discovery of anoxic methane oxidation by a consortium of prokaryotes. In recent years, Jaap has effectively used novel tools such as the TEX-86 temperature proxy, to understand important aspects of Earth history. Jaap's exploitation of the arylisoprenoid proxy introduced by Summons and Powell has been very effectively directed to studies of modern and historical systems. Jaap and his coworkers are also leading producers of new information about oceanic archaea and their biogeochemical role.

The Treibs Award will be presented to Dr. Sinninghe Damste during the 22nd IMOG in Seville, Spain, on September 13.

Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society

Short Course THERMOCHRONOLOGY

October 14–15, 2005

Snowbird Resort, Snowbird, Utah, 84092, USA

Conveners

PETER W. REINERS, Department of Geology & Geophysics, Yale University

TODD A. EHLERS, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan.

Analytical and modeling advances, combined with rapidly expanding interest in shallow-crustal and Earth- and planetary-surface processes, have led to significant advances in the techniques, applications, and interpretations of thermochronometry. Recent thermochronologic studies have provided unprecedented insights into a wide range of geological problems such as the timing and rates of development of topographic relief, the architecture and dynamics of orogenic wedges, and feedbacks between erosion, uplift, and climate at a variety of scales. New techniques and innovative applications of thermochronometry are also rapidly emerging in a wide variety of sub-disciplines, including precise dating of weathering episodes, shock metamorphism, wildfires, and extended time-temperature histories from single crystals. As the range of geologic problems accessible to thermochronometry has expanded, so has the need for robust theoretical understanding of the crystal-scale kinetics (e.g., diffusion, annealing) that control thermochronometric ages, as well as the crustal- or orogen-scale tectonic and geomorphic processes that influence their spatial-temporal patterns across the landscape.

This short course will assess the current state of the art in thermochronometry and evaluate progress in analytical and interpretation techniques, future potential, example applications, and outstanding issues in the field that have recently emerged or need attention for robust progress. We will focus attention on several areas, including techniques for measuring data, innovations in interpretive techniques at both crystal and regional scales, and exemplary case studies that integrate multiple low-temperature thermochronometers or other techniques. This course will also serve not only to provide state-of-the-art assessments for practitioners of thermochronometry, but also as an introduction for Earth scientists seeking to use thermochronologic constraints in their research.

There will be a software demonstration session the evening of the first day, to introduce participants to forward and inverse models for interpretation of thermochronologic data, including diffusion/annealing, and tectonotopographic/ thermal phenomena on orogen and crustal scales. The short course will be followed by thermochronology special sessions at the Geological Society of America meeting in Salt Lake City.

Topics, speakers, and registration information for the short course are on the MSA website (www.minsocam.org) or available from the MSA Business Office, 1015 18th St NW Ste 601, Washington, DC, 20036-5212, USA. Tel: 202-775-4344, Fax: 202-775-0018, e-mail: business@minsocam.org. Registration fee covers short course sessions, breakfast/lunch/dinner on 10/14 and breakfast/lunch on 10/15, and refreshments at breaks, and *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* volume.

The course is sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Energy, Yale University, University of Michigan, and Apatite to Zircon Inc.

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