

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
ПО ИСТОРИИ ГЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ НАУК

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGICAL
SCIENCES

Newsletter No 1

DATA
ON THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMITTEE

1967

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
ПО ИСТОРИИ ГЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ НАУК

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGICAL
SCIENCES

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July, 25, 1967.

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Dear Sirs:

According to the decision of the XXII-nd Session of the International Geological Congress an International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences has been formed with the purpose of contributing to the development of research, on the history of geological sciences, of coordinating the work along these lines in various countries and for the preparation by way of international cooperation of a monograph "General History of Geological Sciences".

The Committee is sending you copies of the documents on the Constituent Assembly for your information and would like to get from you a list of organizations and persons engaged in the study of the history of geological sciences in your country.

Conforming to the decision of the Committee Bureau (see minutes of the first Bureau meeting, §3), the Bureau of the Committee would like to have your opinion regarding some prominent scientists known for their work on the history of geology who could be recommended as candidates for corresponding members of the Committee. The name of each candidate should be accompanied by a brief scientific-biographical note and a list of his most important papers.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Vice-President or Bureau member for the particular area; copies of recommendations for candidates as corresponding members of the Committee and letters on general problems of special importance are requested to be sent to the President.

V.V. Tikhomirov

President of the Committee

To: National Committees of Geologists, National Committees of Historians of Sciences, scientific societies, universities, museums, institutes and other organisations engaged in the work on the history of geological sciences.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND SYMPOSIUM ON THE OLDEST STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINING AND GEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS IN ARMENIA

(Information)

According to the decision of the XXII-nd Session of the International Geological Congress (December 1964, New Delhi, India) on the formation of an International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences, a Constituent Assembly of this Committee took place from June 6 to June 8, 1967 in Yerevan (USSR). About 150 geologists from 15 countries took part in the Assembly.

The meeting was opened by prof. I.I. Gorsky - convener of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences. Welcoming addresses were made by: Academician V.A. Ambartsumian, President of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR, Prof. W.P. van Leckwijck, Secretary General of the International Union of Geological Sciences and Dr. A.S. Fedorov, Vice-President of the Soviet National Committee of the Historians of natural sciences and technique.

The main aims of the Assembly were to form the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences, to work out the By-Laws of the Committee and to elect its directing organ - the Bureau of the Committee.

To prepare suggestions on the problems to be solved by the Constituent Assembly, the meeting has elected a Working Commission of 9 persons - representatives of different countries (see, Resolution, §6).

After a detailed discussion this Commission has prepared agreed upon drafts of the Resolution of the Constituent Assembly, of the By-Laws of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences and compiled a nomination list for the Committee Bureau.

On June 8-th 1967 the Constituent Assembly consisting of 34 delegates of 15 countries discussed the suggestions of the Working Commission and by a unanimous vote approved the Resolution of the Constituent Assembly and By-Laws of the Committee (see below) and

ected a Bureau of the Committee (list of Bureau members see Resolution, §6).

In addition to having taken decisions on organizational questions the participants of the Constituent Assembly during the first two days of the work of the meeting listened to 25 scientific papers read by representatives of 11 countries.

The papers dealt with different subjects: general problems in the history of geological sciences, history of the development of separate ideas, trends and branches of geology, history of geological research in various countries, reviews of the scientific activity of some outstanding geologists.

I.V. Batiushkova (USSR) spoke about the evolution in the concepts on the internal structure of the Earth; A.I. Ravikovich (USSR) analyzed the fundamental features in the doctrines of catastrophists, uniformitarians and evolutionists, showing their role in the development of geology during the nineteenth century; G.W. White (USA) reviewed previously unknown facts in the history of geology in Northern America; J.M.L. de Azcona (Spain) illustrated the history of geological studies in Spain during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; G.E. Murray (USA) described the main trends in geological investigations on the Atlantic coast of North America; G. Regnell (Sweden) characterized the state of geology and paleontology in Scandinavia in the nineteenth century; T. Watanabe (Japan) spoke about the beginning of the science of ore deposits in Japan; K. Zapletal (Czechoslovakia) described the regional-geological investigations in Czechoslovakia indicating the specific features of each period in these researches; D.I. Gordeev (USSR) devoted his paper to an illustration of new trends in hydrogeology; R. Martens (FRG) gave data on the application of a mathematical method in geomorphological investigations during the nineteenth century; V.V. Tikhomirov (USSR) showed that each stage in the history of the evolution on geological sciences is characterized by a certain idea, method or discovery, which proved to be decisive in the progress of geology during that stage.

Papers by A. Cailleux (France) and N. Spjeldnaes (Denmark) were devoted to the problem of studying archeological finds for the purpose of establishing the level of knowledge of stone in the remote past. Communications by M. Guntau (GDR), C.J. Schneer (USA) and S. Czarniecki (Poland) contained information about the life and scientific activity of A.G. Werner, E. Emmons and J. Jaszkievics.

To the problems of history in the evolution of economic geology and a rational development of mineral deposits was devoted the paper by L.V. Gromov (USSR); in a joint paper by V.V. Tikhomirov and A.I. Ravikovich a review was given of the various research methods on the history of geological sciences that are used in the Soviet Union.

The papers were of considerable interest for the listeners, who asked a number of questions and discussed some points with the speakers.

The third day in the work of the Assembly was devoted to a Symposium on the oldest stage in the development of mining and geological concepts in Armenia. Eight papers were submitted by Armenian scientists containing many new facts characterizing the high level of knowledge in mining, geography and geology of the population that lived on the territory of present Armenia from the 3-rd millenium and up to the eleventh century of our era.

B.N. Arakelian spoke about the significance of stone in the economy of ancient and medieval Armenia; K.A. Mekertchian and E.V. Khanzadian supplied new data characterizing the state of metallurgy and mining in ancient Armenia; A.T. Aslanian and S.A. Sardarian devoted the paper to the culture of stone during the Antropogen in Armenia; S.T. Eremian described the results of his studies on the reconstructions of an old Armenian atlas of the world; A.G. Abramian and G.B. Petrocian characterized the concepts of Anany Shirakatsi on the structure of the Universe. A communication by S.T. Tigranian dealt with the history of the establishment of a premium after L.A. Spendiarov awarded at each session of the International Geological Congress, while a paper by E.G. Malkhasian, S.S. Mekertchian and K.N. Paffengoltz contained an extensive information on the development of geological knowledge in Armenia.

After the Constituent Assembly and Symposium scientific ex-

cursions on the territory of Armenia were organized for the participants of the conference enabling them to get acquainted with the landscapes, geological structure and old monuments of Armenia. Especially interesting for the participants proved to be metallurgical centres of the 3-1 millenium before our era near Metsamor, excavations on the sites of settlements of the XIII-th century before our era along the coasts of Lake Sevan; the architectural complex of Echmiadzin - the centre of Armenian religion belonging to the very beginning of the IV-th century of our era, as well as the unique collection of old manuscripts in Matenadaran and the Historical Museum in Yerevan.

All the participants were supplied with guidebooks, programs of the conference, abstracts and texts of the papers in Russian and English.

During the scientific papers and on the excursions foreign delegates of the Assembly had the services of English, French, Spanish and Armenian interpreters. All the persons interested received as souvenirs samples of minerals and of archeological finds.

The participants of the conference and foreign delegates especially, unanimously recorded the exceptional hospitality of Soviet people and the excellent organization of the Assembly and Symposium by the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, which made it a success.

RESOLUTION

of the Constituent Assembly of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences

(6-8 June, 1967, USSR)

1. The Constituent Assembly of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences has been held in the city of Erevan (Armenian SSR) from June 6 to June 8. The Assembly was convened in accordance with the decision of the XXII Session of the International Geological Congress (Delhi, 1964).

Representatives of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, FRG, GDR, Great Britain, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, USSR, USA and Professor W.P. van Leckwijck, Secretary General of the International Union of Geological Sciences took part in the Constituent Assembly (See supplements).

2. The Constituent Assembly has taken due notice that the XXII Session of the International Geological Congress has noted an ever increasing interest of geologists in the study of the history of geological sciences.

In this connection the Session of the Congress has considered in expedient to form a Committee on the History of Geological Sciences and to entrust it with the fulfillment of the following immediate tasks:

- To assist the development of researches in the history of geological sciences and personal contacts between scientists engaged in studies in the history of geological sciences,

- to coordinate studies on the history of geological sciences which are carried out in various countries;

- to consider the development of geology as a science and to conduct symposia and discussions on important problems of the history of geological sciences;

- to recommend for publication monographs on the history of geological sciences presented to the Committee;

- to prepare by way of international cooperation the "General History of Geological Sciences";

- to maintain contacts with international organizations on the history of related sciences;

3. In conformity with the decision of the Congress, the Constituent Assembly directs the attention of the Committee to the above mentioned major tasks. The systematization and unbiased treatment of historical science problems will contribute to the advance of geological sciences.

4. Taking into account the importance of historical knowledge, the Assembly suggests that the members of the Committee arrange in their countries the publication of works on the history of geological sciences. It also requests the International Union of Geological Sciences to organize the publication of works on general problems of history of geological sciences.

5. To discuss the important questions of the Committee's work and scientific problems the Assembly considers it expedient to hold subsequent regular meetings of the Committee and Symposia on the history of geological sciences with participation of interested persons and scientific institutions engaged in studies in the field of the history of geological sciences; to hold regular meetings of the Committee and Symposia at the time of Sessions of the International Geological Congress; and to hold special meetings

inbetween the Sessions of the Congress when necessary.

6. To make suggestions for the membership of the Bureau a nominating Commission has been appointed: Professor Gorsky, Professors van Leckwijck, Zapletal, Cailleux, Eyles, Hooykaas, Czarniecki, Beliaevsky, White.

This Commission has recommended the election of the following officers: President - Prof. V. V. Tikhomirov, General Secretary - Prof. Maślankiewicz, Vice-President for Europe - Hooykaas, Vice-President for North America - White, Vice-President for Asia - Roy. Members of the Bureau: Kořan - Czechoslovakia, Azcona - Spain, Eyles - United Kingdom, Vallance - Australia, Kobayashi - Japan, Regnell - Sweden, Vacancy - South America, Ex-President - Gorsky (USSR).

The recommendations of the Commission ad hoc have been considered and accepted on the meeting of the Constituent Assembly of "8" June 1967.

The poll resulted in unanimous election of these officers and members of the Committee Bureau.

7. The Constituent Assembly has expressed its firm belief that the Bureau consisting of President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General will be able to get to work in the near future and first of all to make arrangements for its next meeting in Prague in 1968.

The Constituent Assembly requests Prof. Tikhomirov, the President of the Committee, to negotiate with the Organizing Committee of the XXIII Session of the International Geological Congress on the subject of organization of the Committee's meeting during the Session of the Congress.

In view of the fact that entry of the Committee into the International Union of Geological Sciences is not yet officially

registered and therefore the question of publication of its works is still pending, the Organizing Committee of the XXIII International Geological Congress is requested to include scientific papers on the history of geological sciences in the programme of Congress, section 13, and publish these papers in the Congress Transactions.

8. The Assembly asks the Bureau of the Committee to circulate the decisions taken by Constituent Assembly - to all members of the Committee and to prominent scientific societies, universities, institutes and other interested scientific institutions, organizations and individuals.

9. During sojourn in Yerevan the members of the Assembly were given an opportunity to get acquainted with a number of scientific institutions and cultural-historical monuments of the Armenian people, as well as with the organizations of work on the history of geological sciences in the USSR and Armenia.

The delegates to the Assembly deeply appreciate these arrangements and believe that similar organization would prove to be useful at subsequent meetings of the Committee.

The delegates express their thanks to the government and Academy of Sciences of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic for hospitality and assistance in conducting the Assembly.

The delegates also express their sincere thanks to the National Committee of the Geologists of the USSR for the initiative taken in the organization of the Committee on the History of Geological Sciences and in conducting its Constituent Assembly.

Members of Constituent Assembly

from Belgium - W.P. van Leckwijck
 from Great Britain - V.A. Eyles
 from German Democratic Republic - M. Guntau
 from Denmark - N. Spjeldnaes
 from Spain - J.M. Azcona
 from Netherlands - R. Hooykaas
 from New Zealand - J.B. Waterhouse
 from Poland - S. Czarniecki
 from USSR - I.I. Gorsky
 from USA - G.E. Murray
 from France - A. Cailleux
 from Federated German Republic - R. Martens
 from Czechoslovakia - K. Zapletal
 from Sweden - G. Regnell
 from Japan - T. Watanabe

By - Laws

of the International Committee on the History

of Geological Sciences

1. The International Committee on the History of Geological sciences is organized according to the decision of the XXII session of the International Geological Congress (Delhi, 1964).

2. Tasks of the Committee:

a) To promote the development of studies on the history of geological sciences in various countries of the world;

b) To elicit the principal trends of development of geological sciences, theories, problems and methods, including research on relations between other branches of related sciences and technique .

c) To further the preparation and publication of reviews pertaining to the development of geological sciences in various countries, of monographs on the history of different branches of geology and to prepare a collated work on the "General History of Geological Sciences", which is created by way of international cooperation.

3. In accordance with these tasks the Committee is called to exercise the following functions:

a) To co-ordinate studies on the history of geological

sciences carried out in various countries and to organize the cooperation for preparing international works on the history of geological sciences;

b) To conduct symposia and discussions on important problems of the history of geological sciences and to recommend for publication suitable works presented to the Committee;

c) To maintain contacts with the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and with other international organizations on the history of related sciences.

4. The Committee is a member of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and submits annual reports on the work performed by 1-st January of every year. The Committee submits reports to the Sessions of the International Geological Congress on the work performed between the Sessions on an equal basis with other Commissions and Committees of the Congress.

5. The members of the Committee are selected from persons conducting studies in the field of history of Geological Sciences. The number of members of the Committee is determined by the Committee in session. In case a member of the Committee is not present at a meeting his vote can be made by proxy transferred to another participant from the same country. The membership and the By-Laws of the Committee are examined by the International Union of Geological Sciences.

6. The regular meeting of the Committee are held once in four years preferably at the time of Sessions of the International Geological Congress. On these meetings the Committee:

a) hears and discusses reports concerning the work accom-

plished by the Committee and by the national organizations; considers and approves plans and programmes of activity for the forthcoming period;

b). selects the Bureau of the Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and members of the Bureau. The number of members of the Bureau is determined by the Committee in session.

All members of the Committee take part in the meetings, the members of the Bureau having a casting vote, the others a consulting; all persons interested in the work of the Committee are welcome at its meetings.

7. Scientific symposia on separate problems of the history of geological sciences and excursions to historical places and ancient centres of development of mining, sciences and culture are held at the same time as the meetings of the Committee.

If expedient, special meetings of the Committee and symposia can be held. Special meetings, meetings of the Bureau and symposia are held in different countries upon consultation and agreement.

National organizations of the country, where meetings and/or symposia are held, are invited to render assistance in their organization.

8. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and the members of the Bureau direct the activity of the Committee.

The President convenes the meetings of the Bureau to con-

sider questions which cannot be solved by correspondence. If necessary, the President can delegate his functions to one of the Vice-Presidents upon his agreement.

The Secretary General carries out the decisions of the Committee and of its Bureau and, upon agreement with the President, maintains contacts with international and national organizations and exercises control over the finances of the Committee.

9. In its activity in various countries the Committee deals with National Unions of the Historians of Geology (societies, committees, etc.) and with institutions engaged in similar studies.

10. The work of the Committee is financed by the International Union of Geological Sciences. The budget includes expenditures on publications relating to general problems of the history of geological sciences; on the publication and distribution of information bulletins of the Committee; on the organization of meetings of the Committee and of its Bureau. The expenses of the activities of national organizations and of the publication of their works are covered by the respective countries.

11. The Committee ceases its activity upon decision of the Council of the IUGS.

The By-Laws are approved by the Constituent Assembly of the Committee in Yerevan (USSR) on June 8, 1967.

List

of participants of the Constituent Assembly of the
International Committee on the History of Geological
Sciences (Yerevan, 6-8 June, 1967)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Belgium | - Dr. W. P. van Leckwijck |
| 2. Czechoslovakia | - Dr. K. Zapletal |
| 3. Denmark | - Dr. N. Spjeldnaes |
| 4. France | - Dr. A. Cailleux |
| | - Dr. R. Laffitte |
| 5. FRG | - Dr. R. Martens |
| 6. GDR | - Dr. M. Guntau |
| 7. Great Britain | - Dr. V. A. Eyles |
| | - Dr. Mrs. J. M. Eyles |
| 8. Japan | - Dr. T. Watanabe |
| 9. Netherlands | - Dr. R. Hooykaas |
| | - Dr. W. Nieuwenkamp |
| 10. New Zealand | - Dr. J. B. Waterhouse |
| 11. Poland | - Dr. S. Czarniecki |
| | - Dr. A. Laszkiewicz |
| 12. Spain | - Dr. M. J. de Azcona |
| 13. Sweden | - Dr. G. Regnell |
| 14. USA | - Dr. G. W. White |
| | - Dr. G. E. Murray |
| | - Dr. C. J. Schneer |
| 15. USSR | - Dr. I. I. Gorsky |
| | - Dr. V. V. Tikhomirov |
| | - Dr. S. S. Mekertchian |

- Dr. G. I. Gorbunov
- Dr. N. A. Beliaevsky
- Dr. A. V. Khabakov
- Dr. D. I. Gordeev
- Dr. Ph. I. V. Batiushkova
- Dr. Ph. E. G. Malkhassian
- Dr. Ph. A. I. Ravikovich
- Dr. E. A. Radkevich
- Dr. O. I. Islamov
- Dr. V. F. Petrun
- Dr. Ph. I. I. Katushenok

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Minutes of the first meeting of the Bureau of the Committee, which took place on June 10, 1967 in Yerevan (USSR).

The following Bureau members were present: Dr.V.V.Tikhomirov - Chairman, Dr.R.Hooykaas, Dr.G.W.White, Dr.V.A.Eyles, Dr.J.M.L.de Azcona, Dr.G.Regnell. Owing to the absence of the Secretary General Dr.K.Maslankiewicz, T.A.Sofiano was acting as Secretary.

As non-voting observers Dr.W.P.van Leckwijck and Dr.A.Laszkiewicz were present.

1. On the joining by the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

It was decided to apply to the International Union of Geological Sciences for an admission of the Committee into the IUGS.

2. On the distribution of documents on the Constituent Assembly.

It was decided to send copies of the resolution of the Constituent Assembly and of the By-Laws of the Committee on the History of Geological Sciences to the National Committees of geologists and to the National Committees of historians of science in all countries, to scientific societies, universities, institutes, museums and other organizations engaged in work on the history of geology.

The distribution of these documents within each territory to effect through the corresponding Bureau member.

3. On corresponding members of the Committee.

In order to unite scientists known by their papers on the history of geological sciences, to include them into the Committee as corresponding members.

a. Candidates for corresponding members are recommended by the National Committees of geologists and other big scientific-research organizations from the most prominent historians of science.

b. Corresponding members are elected at the meetings of the Committee Bureau.

c. The number of corresponding members from each country is fixed by the decision of the Committee Bureau.

d. Corresponding members receive all the documents of a general character distributed by the Committee and are invited to participate in the meetings of the Committee with a consultative vote.

e. Corresponding members are engaged in researches on the history of geology coordinating the objects of their research with the Committee.

4. Election of corresponding members.

To elect as corresponding members of the Committee the following participants of the Constituent Assembly:

1. Dr.W.P.van Leckwijck (Belgium)
2. Dr.K.Zapletal (Czechoslovakia)
3. Dr.N.Spieldnaes (Denmark)
4. Dr.A.Cailleux (France)
5. Dr.R.Laffitte (France)
6. Dipl.Eng. R.Martens (FRG)
7. Dr.M.Guntau (GDR)
8. Dr.J.M.Eyles (Great Britain)
9. Dr.T.Watanabe (Japan)
10. Dr.W.Nieuwenkamp (The Netherlands)
11. Dr.J.B.Waterhouse (New Zealand)
12. Dr.A.Laszkiewicz (Poland)
13. Dr.S.Czarniecki (Poland)
14. Dr.G.E.Murray (USA)

15. Dr.C.J.Schneer (USA)

16-20. Five corresponding members from the USSR by the recommendation of the National Committee of Geologists of the USSR.

To have the election of other corresponding members at the next meeting of the Committee Bureau.

5. On the next meeting of the Committee Bureau.

It was decided to convene the second meeting of the Committee Bureau during the 23-rd Session of the International Geological Congress in August, 1968 in Prague (Czechoslovakia). To ask Bureau member Dr.J.Kořan to arrange with the Organizational Committee of the 23-rd Session of the IGC the question about the time and place for the meetings of the Committee Bureau.

Chairman

(V.V.Tikhomirov)

Secretary

(T.A.Soflano)