

No. 18

January 1999

Aachen

Letter of the General Secretary

Dear ICCP Member!

with this issue our News get a new and very important value. It contains for the first time the official version of the Minutes which describes the course and the results of the 50th Annual Meeting at Porto (Portugal) in detail.

As it is explained in the Treasurer's report within the minutes the financial state of our organization is not as healthy as it could be. Therefore we are obliged to save money everywhere. Otherwise we had to increase the annual fees immediately which should be the last option. The Council discussed the situation carefully and the reflections resulted among others in the finding that it is not necessary to print a short version of the minutes in our News and to prepare and to mail an extended version for the participants of the meeting. By this procedure numerous

members get the information twice which is superfluous. Moreover the typewritten and copied full version of the minutes is very heavy and the mailing is expensive. The printed version of the minutes can be mailed cheaper. Therefore the Council decided to produce only the full minutes and to print them in the ICCP News from now on. This decision was explained to the Plenary at its final meeting and the Plenary agreed.

The text of the minutes as printed in the ICCP News is the official one which has to be revised and/or confirmed at next year's meeting. Please, take this in mind when reading the minutes and take this number of the News to the next meeting for discussion and confirmation.

Zuleika C. Corrêa da Silva

New!

New!

The ICCP has now an internet connection! It's homepage can be called under

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/iccp>

The homepage gives some information of common interest about the organization of the ICCP and its aims. It is intended also to publish the minutes of meetings and the abstracts of posters presented during the meetings. (For further information see report of Commission 2.)

All things considered, the ICCP is well prepared to enter in the next millenium!

**Minutes
of the 50th Meeting of the ICCP held in
Porto, Portugal
September 20-26, 1998**

by Zuleika C. Corrêa da Silva,
General Secretary

1. General Course of the Meeting

The 50th meeting of the ICCP took place at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, Portugal, from September 20 to 26, 1998. It was attended by the President, Prof. Dr. Manuel J. Lemos de Sousa, one Honorary Member, 28 Full Members, 22 Associate Members and 21 guests. The participants represented 21 countries (Appendix 1).

The meeting was opened by the President, Prof. Dr. Lemos de Sousa, who was also the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, and by Prof. José Manuel Machado da Silva, Director of the Faculty of Sciences. The President expressed his thanks to the Director of the Faculty for his support and to the members of the Organizing Committee who have done most of the preparation. Prof. Machado da Silva welcomed the ICCP for the second meeting in Portugal and invited the members to know more about the University and the city. After the opening of the meeting Dr. Carlos Cremez, from the oil company TOTAL, presented a conference under the title „Stratigraphic Cycles and Source Rocks“.

Directly after the conference the General Assembly was held under the direction of the President who, following the Statutes § 6, asked the plenary for confirmation of the minutes of the 49th ICCP held in Wellington, New Zealand, October 20-24, 1997. The General Secretary, Prof. Dr. Zuleika Carretta Corrêa da Silva, asked for correction of the following passages of last year's minutes:

pg. 2, line 11 – „there was an error at the voting slip“ to „there was an error in the covering letter“.

Concerning the Forthcoming Elections the General Secretary severely criticized the Council for not having presented names for the elections of Chairman of Commission 2 and Secretary of Commission 1 and suggested the following text for the minutes:

pg. 2, lines 26 to 29 – „It was announced that the next elections are concerned with the secretary of Commission 1 and the chairman of Commission 2, according to the information of the General Secretary. Nevertheless, the Council misunderstood the Statutes (§ 11.a.1) and, in the closing plenary session, the President has retracted the announcement.“

The minutes were confirmed by the plenary with the corrections proposed by the General Secretary.

At the end of the plenary session the ICCP homepage was presented by Carla V. Araujo. The homepage was prepared with the technical support of PETROBRAS, Brazil, and had over the last couple of years input from W. Kalkreuth, W. Pickel, Z.C. Corrêa das Silva, A. Depers and M. Reinhardt. The homepage is currently hosted by the Free University (FU) Berlin and can be found under the following address:

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/iccp>

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: M.V.B. Ade and M.B. Silva (Brazil), B. Alpern, B. Pradier and P. Robert (France), A. Cameron and B. Nandi (Canada), H. Damberger and P. Lyons (USA), J. Dehmer and D. Murchison (United Kingdom), O. Malán (Czech. Rep.), H. Pinheiro (South Africa), G. Siskov (Bulgaria), G. Taylor (Australia), M. Teichmüller, R. Wartmann and E. Wolff-Fischer (Germany).

Meetings of the three Commissions

Reports of the meetings of the Commissions were presented by Dr. Alan Cook (Chairman of Commission 1), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kalkreuth (Chairman of Commission 2) and Dr. Aivars Depers (Member of Commission 3) in place of the Chairman. In the absence of the Secretary of Commission 2 (Dr. Wilhelm Fermont) and the Chairman of Commission 3 (Dr. Judith Bailey) the following colleagues acted as Chairman/Secretaries during the meeting:

Commission 2:

M. Angeles Gomez-Borrego (Secretary)

Commission 3:

Rosa Menendez (Chairman) and Aivars Depers (Secretary).

The reports of the Commissions are presented in Chapter 2.

Elections

For the next year, elections have to be done concerning the positions of:

President,
Vice-President,
Secretary of Commission 1,
Chairman and Secretary of Commission 2, and
Chairman of Commission 3.

After long discussions concerning the elections of the ICCP officers and what is established in the Statutes (§ 11.c) the Council suggested that the use of the verb „shall“ do not point out an obligatory but a possibility. In view of this change in the interpretation of the statutes the decision was taken to prepare lists of candidates with one, two or three names, when possible.

Following this new interpretation, the Council presented to the General Assembly the Council's list of candidates for the vacancies:

President – Dr. Alan Cook and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kalkreuth

Vice-President – Prof. Dr. Barbara Kwiecinska

Secretary of Commission 1 – Dr. Walter Pickel

Chairman of Commission 2 – Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kalkreuth

Secretary of Commission 2 – Dr. M. Angeles Gomez-Borrego

Chairman of Commission 3 – Dr. Rosa Menendez and Dr. Petra David.

For the position of President the name of Dr. Rosa Menendez was nominated from the floor of the General Assembly and approved by the eligible members. As no other names were proposed by the General Assembly the President submitted to the plenary the list of candidates for the forthcoming elections. The list was approved by the majority of the eligible members present in the plenary session.

The elections for the position with just one candidate were done during the plenary session and the following candidates were elected:

Vice-President:

Prof. Dr. Barbara Kwiecinska

Secretary of Commission 1:

Dr. Walter Pickel

Chairman of Commission 2:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kalkreuth

Secretary of Commission 2:

Dr. M. Angeles Gomez-Borrego

As the current Secretary of Commission 2, Dr. Wilhelm Fermont, resigns for particular reasons, the position was filled immediately with the newly elected secretary. After the elections the ICCP Council has the following members:

President:

Prof. Dr. M.J. Lemos de Sousa (1995-1999)

Vice-President:

Prof. Dr. B. Kwiecinska (1999-2003)

General Secretary:

Prof. Dr. Z.C. Corrêa da Silva (1996-2000)

Treasurer:

Dr. R. Schwab (1997-2001)

Editor:

Prof. Dr. M. Wolf (1996-2000)

Chairman of Commission 1:

Dr. Alan Cook (1996-2000)

Secretary of Commission 1:

Dr. W. Pickel (1998-2002)

Chairman of Commission 2:

Prof. Dr. W. Kalkreuth (1998-2002)

Secretary of Commission 2:

Dr. M. Gomez-Borrego (1998-2002)

Chairman of Commission 3:

Dr. J. Bailey (1995-1999)

Secretary of Commission 3:

Dr. R. Menendez (1997-2001)

Forthcoming elections

Elections for the following Council positions will be held before the next ICCP meeting:

President

Chairman of Commission 3.

In accordance with the Statutes § 11.c.II the Council nominated two candidates for the position of President and one was nominated from the floor of the General Assembly. Therefore the candidates for the position of President of ICCP are the following:

Dr. Alan Cook

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kalkreuth

Dr. Rosa Menendez (provided that she agrees)

For Chairman of Commission 3 the Council nominated two candidates:

Dr. Rosa Menendez

Dr. Petra David

The names of candidates for President and Chairman of Commission 3 were approved by the General Assembly and the General Secretary will run the elections according to the statutes § 11.c.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer of the ICCP, Dr. Rudi Schwab, presented his Financial Report that covers a period of 10 1/2 months from 14 October 1997 to 31 August 1998. The Treasurer's Report is presented in Appendix 2.

Membership

Prof. William Spackman, USA, was elected to **Honorary Membership**.

The following Associate Members were elected to **Full Membership** of the ICCP:

Jack D. Burgess (USA)
 Peter J. Crosdale (Australia)
 Vivien Mary du Cann (South Africa)
 Lila Wanda Gurba (Australia)
 Mária Hámor-Vidó (Hungary)
 Adrian C. Hutton (Australia)
 Grzegorz Nowak (Poland)
 Georgeta Predeanu (Romania)

The following colleagues were elected to **Associate Members**:

Elvira Barcelona (Australia)
 Gerd Bieg (Germany)
 Kazutoyo Chijiwa (Japan)
 Barry M. Jenkins (Australia)
 Ralf Littke (Germany)
 Lily Beth Mendez-Forero (Spain)
 Magdalena Anna Misz (Poland)
 Jennifer S. Pearson (Canada)
 Slawomira Pusz (Poland)
 Yuishiro Suzuki (Japan)

Handbook of Coal Petrology

The saleable copies of the Handbook and supplements, will continue to be located in Heerlen, The Netherlands, at the Nederlands Instituut voor Toegepaste Geowetenschappen (TNO) now under the care of Dr. Petra David.

ICCP Archives

The archives, located in the past at the library of the Lehrstuhl für Geologie, Geochemie und Lagerstätten des Erdöls und der Kohle, RWTH Aachen, were enlarged with the collection of Dr. A.H.V. Smith and were sent, by the General Secretary, to the Central Library of the Faculty of Sciences of the Porto University, Portugal. The archives of Prof. Spackman will be sent, now, directly to the new location.

Foregoing Meetings

The next meeting of the ICCP will take place in Bucuresti (Romania) probably in the second half of September, 1999. Enquiries should be addressed to the

Executive Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 51st ICCP Meeting:

Dr. Costel Nedelcu
 S.C. Prospectiuni S.A.
 str. Caransebes I, sector 1
 Bucuresti 78344
 Romania
 Tel.: 40 1 665 70 40
 Fax: 40 1 222 45 56

The 2000 meeting will be organized by Dr. Carla V. Araujo, PETROBRAS, and will be held in Rio de Janeiro. The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland has invited the ICCP to held its 2001 meeting in Copenhagen and, for the year 2002, an invitation has been received from Prof. Dr. Lopo Vasconcelos, Head of Geology Department, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique.

ICCP Statutes

A ballot on revision of ICCP statutes, to introduce institutional Membership, circulated during the year 1994 and, although the results were in favour of the proposed changes (31 votes for and 1 vote against) the Council considered that the number of votes didn't reach the 2/3 of all Full and Honorary Members required by the Statutes § 14. However, it was now pointed out that § 14 means 2/3 of members voting and not, as had been assumed, 2/3 of all members eligible to vote. The Council then resolved that in view of this correction of interpretation of the statutes and the clear majority of members voting, that the Institutional Membership would now be recommended.

Membership fees for Institutional Members as well as their rights will be subject of further revision of Statutes together with many other proposals on elections procedures, payment of fees, etc.

A ballot on the revision of the Statutes will be circulated in 1999, prior to the elections.

Thiessen Medal

The Thiessen Medal was awarded this year to Dr. Javier G. Prado for his outstanding work on Coal Petrology. The Laudatio was read by Dr. Alan Davis, the Chairman of the Award Committee, and the Medal was presented to Dr. Prado by the ICCP President, Prof. Lemos de Sousa. The full text of the Laudatio will be published in the ICCP News no. 19.

Poster Session

The poster presentation was held in the conference building from September 21 to 25.

Twenty-seven posters were presented by different authors. A list with titles and author's names is given in Appendix 3.

Field trip and social program

On September 23 the program included a technical visit to a Thermal Power Plant in the center of the country with lunch. A sightseeing tour and the visit to the Taylor's Port Wine cellars took place on September 24, before the conference dinner.

The field trip took place on September 26, and drove the ICCP Members to the Douro Valley to visit the Carboniferous coal basin and the Port Wine demarked region. The trip was guided by Prof. J.T. Oliveira and Ari Pinto de Jesus and included a visit to Quinta do Porto with lunch.

2. Reports of the Commissions

2.1 Commission 1: General Coal and Organic Petrology

Chairman: Alan Cook
Secretary: Walter Pickel

September, 21 and 22, 1998
40 participants

Accreditation Programme: Aivars Depers

Aivars Depers gave a report on the progress of the accreditation programme:

To date, 69 analysts from 33 laboratories in 16 countries have registered in the accreditation programme. 31 of these petrographers have been previously awarded Provisional Accreditation and there were 38 new petrographers entering the programme. A demographic breakdown by country is: Australia (7/14 laboratories/petrographers), Brazil (2/4), Canada (3/3), Denmark (1/2), Finland (1/2), Germany (6/12), Hungary (1/1), India (1/3), New Zealand (2/2), Peru (1/1), Portugal (1/2), Republic of South Africa (2/3), Spain (1/5), The Netherlands (1/4), United Kingdom (1/1) and United States of America (2/5). One laboratory has withdrawn from the accreditation programme. Some results are still outstanding, with 2 petrographers promising to return their results in the very near future. Three laboratories

have indicated that they would like to register in this scheme.

Following the Wellington Meeting, the Co-ordinator has pressed ahead with the programming of the statistical evaluation procedures. The first two attempts at programming were unsuccessful, but now a programme has been written in Microsoft Access V3. The programme was extensively tested with a dummy set of data to the year 2004. Unique data entries for some petrographers and the unequal number of samples analysed in the 1993 Exercise (5) and 1994 Exercise (6) presented problems in the programming and these variations had to be carefully programmed and tested. The real data base was fully tested and the results were forwarded to all registrants.

There were two main developments in the exercise. First, the scope of the Accreditation Programme was modified to allow petrographers who move from one laboratory to another to retain their accreditation status. Second, due to the slowness of this phase of the scheme, all certificates issued in late 1998 will be valid for the full two years as originally planned, i.e., to 1st December, 2000. Petrographers who achieve Full Accreditation Certification can now advertise that fact, but must quote their certificate number on all laboratory reports.

The Co-ordinator demonstrated how the statistical appraisal, sent to all registrants, could be interpreted and evaluated by using examples from the scheme and summary tables. Similar self-help tables will be provided to all participants with their final evaluation results and certificates. A prototype of the Accreditation Certificate was demonstrated.

A summary of the 1998 evaluation indicates the following:

- * 26 petrographers are to be awarded full accreditation for both maceral and reflectance analyses;
- * 2 petrographers are to be awarded full accreditation for maceral analysis only;
- * 1 petrographer is to be awarded full accreditation for reflectance analysis only;
- * 26 petrographers are to be awarded provisional accreditation for both maceral and reflectance analyses;
- * 2 petrographers are to be awarded provisional accreditation for maceral analysis only;
- * 3 petrographers are to be awarded provisional accreditation for reflectance analysis only; and
- * 3 petrographers were denied provisional accreditation for both analyses.

Accreditation information on the ICCP's WWW site: Petrographers who achieve Full Accreditation status will have their details placed on the ICCP's internet site in early 1999. The site will be periodically updated.

Advertising the Accreditation Programme: The Co-ordinator is in the process of examining the costs involved with advertising the Accreditation Programme in journals such as *Organic Geochemistry*, *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Fuel*. It is understood that some of these journals allow free advertising of insubstantial amounts of information.

Financial status of the scheme: A detailed financial summary was presented. The scheme is "breaking even" at this stage, but large expenses, such as computer programme development and the printing of certificates, were an essential part in the establishment of the scheme and had to be taken into consideration. There had been a small increase in the registration cost for the scheme. Corporate Membership fees to the ICCP will result in additional income to the Accreditation Programme and will allow the policy of subsidization of ICCP Members' registration fees to continue.

ICCP Training Programmes: A. Depers/A. Cook

A. Depers presented proposals for possible ICCP activities in training and education, and discussed the option, to have short courses held in combination with future ICCP Meetings. Further points of discussion were the possibility of the use of various media (video, CD-ROM) to be used as lecture material and for round robins, as for example recently done by the Australian petrographer's group in a round robin on maceral analysis on a video tape. As a further good example for the application of modern media in organic petrology, the "Atlas of Coal Geology" on CD-ROM, published recently by the TSOP and the AAPG was mentioned and a copy was available for inspection on a computer in the room next to the meeting.

Standardization WG: Walter Pickel

After the Heerlen Meeting Dave Pearson, Raphael Javier and Walter Pickel circulated a set of three glass standards among the 21 labs that had indicated their interest. Up to the Porto meeting, 20 analysts had returned their results and the round robin is expected to be finished before the next meeting.

The purpose of this exercise was a) to give each participant the opportunity to compare his calibration

method and standards with others and b) to get indications for possible variations of reflectance measurement data due to calibration. No rules were set up relating to how to do the exercise. Analysts were asked to calibrate as they normally do and to report random and maximum reflectance for each standard. As the report was preliminary, there was no detailed discussion of the data, and results will not be published, before the exercise is finished. Two major points were noted. Firstly, various analysts had reported with results in between, for example 0.46 % R_r and 0.52 % R_r for the same standard, and this cannot be considered as a very satisfactory result. Secondly, 4 analysts returned significantly higher R_{max} than R_r values. This latter result can be probably attributed to incorrect leveling of the standards and had been discussed in detail at the Wellington meeting. The large variation was related in the discussion to various possible reasons, like differences of temperature, bad standard quality, use of different systems for measurement.

It is expected, that the final results will give a measure of possible variations in reflectance measurement due to calibration errors and the other problems addressed.

It was decided to circulate a second standard (YAG, kindly supplied by A. Depers) to exclude the variations due to the bad quality/inhomogeneity of the glass standards.

The glass standard round robin, as well as the one on the YAG are still open for further participants, who should contact in the case of interest

Dr. Walter Pickel
Saarstr. 98
52062 Aachen
Germany
phone: 0049-241-22235
e-mail: Walter.Pickel@T-Online.de

Inertinite/Microlithotype Editorial Group: Monika Wolf

Monika Wolf gave a short review of the history of the two editorial groups. Prior to the meeting the sheets had been circulated to the members of Commission 1 for final approval. The revised Inertinite and Microlithotype sheets (with the exception of the maceral/mineral associations) were presented to the plenary by M. Wolf.

The Inertinite sheets were approved with 37 votes in favour, of which 14 requested minor revisions. The

following **subdivision of the Inertinite maceral group is now valid:**

1. Macerals with plant cell structure:

Fusinite
Semifusinite
Funginite

2. Macerals lacking plant cell structure:

Secretinite
Macrinite
Micrinite

3. Fragmented Matter:

Inertodetrinite

The inertinite sheets were approved with no vote against by the General Assembly.

The Microlithotype sheets were approved with 34 votes, of which 16 requested minor revisions and 1 vote against. Some members missed the sheet "Carbominerite". Probably it had not been circulated to all members of Com. 1 with the other sheets. Therefore this sheet will be mailed to the members of Com. 1 with the next edition of the newsletter and is still open for revision. Remarks and improvements should be mailed to:

Prof. Dr. M. Wolf
Mergelskull 29
47802 Krefeld
Germany
phone: 0049-2151-562886
fax: 0049-2151-561169

The accompanying photo sessions to find photographs suitable for the new edition of the handbook for vitrinite, inertinite and the microlithotypes had excellent examples from one member available, therefore further photos have to be found and are hopefully expected to be sent by members to M. Wolf in the course of the year.

Discussion on the New Handbook Edition:

A. Cook, M. Wolf, W. Pickel

This point had been brought into discussion at the Wellington meeting, that even though various working groups deal with topics, relevant for a third edition of the handbook no complete concept of possible contents existed. A list of possible contents was proposed and extended during the discussion in Wellington. The following topics, in addition to those who are worked on at the moment, were considered and working/editorial groups were set up to deal with them:

- Lithotypes (hard coals): M. Wolf, G. Bieg
- Huminite: G. Taylor, I. Sykorova, W. Pickel
- Bitumens: J. Burgess, A. Cook
- Zooclasts: F. Goodarzi
- Graphites, semigraphites, natural coke, pyrolytic carbon: B. Kwiecinska, A. Depers, H. Petersen, C. Nedelcu
- Oxidation: K. Kruszewska
- Automation: P. David, J. Prado
- Radiation Damage Temporal variations of coals: L. Vasconcelos, A.C. Cook

Handbook - possible contents

Methods:

Sampling
Sample Preparation
Maceral Analysis
Microlithotypes-Analysis
Fluorescence
Automatic Systems

Petrographic Terms:

Lithotypes:

Lignites
Hard Coals

Macerals (lignites, hard coals and dispersed organic matter):

Huminite
Vitrinite
Inertinite
Liptinite

Bitumens:

Graphites, semigraphites, natural coke, pyrolytic carbon
Microlithotypes/Carbominerites

General Terms

humic - sapropelic coal, etc. could possibly also be put in a glossary like chapter

Glossary: general terms + synonymous terms

Liptinite Editorial Group: Walter Pickel

Walter Pickel reported on the progress he had made up to the meeting in compiling new sheets for the liptinite macerals. For most of the liptinite macerals excellent definitions exist in former handbook editions, so the main work was to make the new definitions applicable for coals of all ranks as well as for dispersed organic matter and to add more recent information mainly into the paragraph "Chemical Properties". Macerals formerly defined are newly compiled and re-written

according to the format that was set up by the vitrinite editorial group, the maceral colloresinite was re-introduced into the liptinite group following a decision made at the Wellington meeting.

Bituminite (the former "bituminite" and "bituminite in rocks other than coal") and „Mineral-bituminous Groundmass“ were discussed in detail and some changes were made during the discussion, that are to be incorporated at the next meeting. Colloresinite passed the discussion with minor editorial changes. It is still not clear, if mineral bituminous groundmass is to be classified as maceral or will be put under an other topic in the new handbook edition.

The discussion on the other macerals was delayed until the next meeting.

The proposal, not to include fluorinite in the group of liptinite macerals was discussed in detail and approved. It is to be included in the resinite sheet as a variety.

Liptinite	Cutinite	telalginite lamalginite
	suberinite	
	sporinite	
	resinite	
	colloresinite^x	
	exsudatinit^x	
	chlorophyllinite	
	alginite	
	liptodetrinite	
	bituminite	
	mineral-bituminous groundmass^x	
	liptodetrinite	

Tab. 1: list of liptinite macerals (^x might be grouped elsewhere, see: "Handbook-possible contents", but will for the time being stay with the liptinite editorial group.

The decisions of the Commission 1 session about the liptinite sheets were approved by the general assembly with no vote against.

Dead line for the next issue of the ICCP NEWS is March 15, 1999!

2.2 Commission 2: Application of Coal and Organic Petrology to Geology

Chairman: W. Kalkreuth

Secretary: A. Gómez Borrego

September 22 and 24, 1998

44 participants

During the meeting in Porto a letter was received from Dr. Willem Fermont, indicating that he would no longer be available as secretary of Commission 2. ICCP Council nominated Dr. A. Gómez Borrego as candidate for this position and in the plenary session on Sept. 25 she was elected as new secretary of Commission 2.

On behalf of Commission 2, the chairperson would like to thank Dr. Fermont for the support he and his institution have given to Commission 2 over the past years and to welcome the new secretary.

ICCP Homepage: M. Reinhardt

During the plenary session, the current version of the ICCP homepage was presented by Carla Araujo and ICCP wishes to acknowledge her contribution and the generous support provided by CENPES/PETROBRAS in creating the homepage. The homepage includes information about ICCP in general, statutes, a list of council members, commissions and working groups, accreditation procedures and information on forthcoming meetings. There is also a list provided with links to other organisations working in related fields such as TSOP. At present time, there are only a few entries for WGs (WG = working groups) and those conveners of WGs who have not yet submitted their contributions are urged to do so. With the homepage in its final stage, the Homepage WG is formally closed. Members who wish to comment or ask for modifications of the homepage, please contact Carla Araujo: (carla@cenpes.petrobras.com.br).

The homepage is currently hosted by FU Berlin (Free University Berlin, Germany) and can be found under the following address: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/iccp>. The final Web site will be distributed in the next issue of the ICCP news.

Environmental Applications: A. Depers

A brief review of the state of this WG was presented by A. Depers, including a discussion on a classification scheme for organic matter related to anthropogenic origin. For the forthcoming year, it is

planned to send out three round robin samples using the classification scheme presented at the meeting. The round robin samples will be comprised of a dust roof sample, a contaminated soil and a harbour sediment. Journals discussed for possible publication of the atlas and the abstracts compiled in the white book included *Earth Sci. Rev.* and *ALAGO*. Please contact A. Depers for additional submissions of extended abstracts to the white book (a.depers@uow.edu.au)

Alginite Sheets: A. Cook

A series of colour prints showing various types of alginite were prepared by A. Cook to form the basis for selection of micrographs for the alginite sheets. During the session a total of fourteen microphotographs were selected representing tel- and lamalginite of various geological ages and maturity levels. Since the optical appearance of alginite bodies may differ significantly in sections perpendicular or parallel to bedding, for some alginite types examples are given for both. It is planned for the next year to print a short version of the alginite sheets in *FUEL* including two colour plates and to prepare an extended version including fourteen plates, which will be available as ICCP publication for an estimated price of \$ 30 to \$ 50. With the selection of the microphotographs the working group on alginite is formally closed.

Coal Facies: M. Hámor-Vidó and G. Nowak

Maria Hámor-Vidó presented the current version of the white book related to coal facies concepts. New contributions over the past year came from South America, in particular Brazil, and Bulgaria (check). Still missing in the white book is a compilation of publications related to coal facies studies in the USA. Dr. Nowak is going to contact the centres of coal research in the USA to obtain the information necessary. Additional information on coal facies studies in Canada, will be submitted by F. Goodarzi and A. Cameron. L. Vasconcelos will send information on studies done in Africa. The current timetable is to compile all the remaining data by the end of 1998 and prepare the white paper to be published in *Earth Sci. Rev.* Please contact the conveners for additional information on the white book (Fax: +48-71-676952 (Nowak) and e-mail: vidom@vax.mafi.hu (H.-Vidó).

Thermal Indices: C. Araujo

A. Vieth-Redeman led this WG for the last two years. Because of increase workload she had to resign as convener and C. Araujo was elected as new convener during the meeting.

A brief review on the state of the WG was given by A. Vieth-Redeman, which included a new data set from the second set of round robin samples by W. Kalkreuth.

The results of the first and second round robin analyses will be presented as a poster in this year's ALAGO meeting in Venezuela (October, 1998). A draft version of the poster, including an extended abstract was shown at the meeting. Members interested in obtaining a copy of the abstract, please contact C. Araujo (carla@cenpes.petrobras.com.br).

A short microscopy session was held to review the samples of the past round robin and samples for the new round robins. Commission 2 thanks D. Flores for setting up the microscopes at the Oporto Labs.

The activities in the forthcoming year include:

a) determination of the elemental composition in alginite from previous year round robin samples using microprobe techniques (L. Gurba) and b) the analysis of two pairs of samples (torbanite and coal from the same seam), which have been selected and prepared for analysis by A. Hutton. This exercise will not only determine maturity level by spectral fluorescence using inter-calibrated lamps, but will instead go back to the original intention of the WG, namely to apply as many maturity parameters as possible in order to assess the maturity levels of the samples. The samples will be sent out only to the members of the WG who participated in the previous exercises. For other members interested in this exercise, please contact C. Araujo.

Classification of DOM: A. Hutton and L. Stasiuk

This WG was officially created at the meeting in Oporto and comprises aspects of the former WG on Isolation of DOM (J. Castaño) and the Atlas of DOM (W. Kalkreuth). The new WG as such is unique within ICCP because it will be jointly chaired by ICCP and the TSOP Research Subcommittee (C. Thomson-Rizer).

A. Hutton presented a simplified table on the classification of dispersed organic matter, both in incident and transmitted light. As it is, this classification covers only a maturity range of

approximately up to $R_o=1.3\%$ and the discussion focused on the extension of this range to include overmature organic matter. As a first step, the table presented at the meeting will be sent out to the members of the WG for comments. For those members who did not attend the Meeting but would like to be part of the WG, please contact the conveners (adrian_hutton@uow.edu.au and lstasiuk@gsc.emr.ca Fax – Stasiuk: +1-403-2927034).

The final product of this WG will be a comprehensive report on the current state of the art of dispersed organic matter including classification, sampling and sample preparation, methodology and plates showing the most common occurrences of organic matter in incident and transmitted light.

Coalbed Methane: P. Crosdale

A proposal to create a WG on Coalbed methane within ICCP was made by P. Lyons (US Geological Survey) prior to the meeting in Oporto. The proposal was discussed briefly at the meeting in order to define areas within this research field, where the members of ICCP could make contributions. At present time only three laboratories within ICCP (Porto-Portugal, Vancouver-Canada, Townsville-Australia) have the facilities to undertake isotherms experimentation essential to characterise the methane adsorption/desorption capacities in coal, whereas other members of ICCP would be restricted to routine analysis of coal characteristics related to coalbed methane such as coal rank and petrographic composition. During this session P. Crosdale was elected to head this new WG. He will prepare for the next meeting a more formal proposal of topics to be addressed. For further information on the new WG, please contact P. Crosdale (Peter.Crosdale@jcu.edu.au).

Pseudovitrinite: Lila Gurba and C. Ward

L. Gurba presented a review on the status of the WG including preliminary results from the round robin sample sent to members of the WG. In that exercise, members were asked to measure separately bands of pseudovitrinite and collotelinite in sections cut perpendicular to bedding. As expected, the reflectances were significantly higher in pseudovitrinite bands than in the collotelinite. The exercise at this point is incomplete since the samples were sent late and not all members received them in time to carry out the exercise prior to the meeting.

A microscopy session followed the discussions and it could be demonstrated that the pseudovitrinite layers were clearly distinguished from collotelinite by large quantity of slits. It was also shown that some of the pseudovitrinite layers exhibited „etching“ effects caused by extended exposure to immersion oil. The reasons for this reaction are not yet understood.

A final report is expected to be published in 1999-2000. Please contact the conveners for additional information (l.gurba@unsw.edu.au; c.ward@unsw.edu.au).

The activities of next year will include completion of the round robin exercise and will also include additional analysis on micro-FTIR (F. Laggoun-Défarde) and automated analysis (P. Crosdale).

The minutes of Commission 2 are different from the previous ones since they will not include as Appendices the reports provided by the WGs conveners. Instead, the reports will be only sent out to those members who participated in the round robin exercises. Other members wishing to receive copies, please ask the conveners of the working group in question. In order to reduce mailing costs, it was also decided at the ICCP Council to publish the short minutes in the ICCP news instead of mailing full Minutes to all the members in the Commission. Please contact the secretary of Com. 2 if you wish any additional information (angeles@mail.incar.csic.es).

2.3 Commission 3: Application of Coal Petrology to Utilization

Chairman: R. Menendez (on behalf of J. Bailey)
Secretary: A. Depers (on behalf of R. Menendez)

September 25, 1998

35 participants

Coal Blends: I. Suárez-Ruiz and A. Jiménez

Isabel Suarez and Amalia Jimenez from INCAR (Oviedo, Spain) were elected as conveners of this Working Group.

The results from previous Round Robin Exercises were summarized, viz., the 1996 and 1997 exercises.

The 1997 Exercise was more difficult than previous exercises, as an inertinite-rich coal was analysed. There was an underestimation of „non-unassignable

inertinites". In the light of these results, the 1998 Round Robin Exercise's principal objective was to „develop a means of pro-rating pure inertinite in the inertinite-rich blends“. 18 participants from 12 laboratories took part. Two coals were analysed in a blend comprising Coal A = 65% and Coal B = 35%. Results were better than the 1997 Exercise, with measured blend ratios close to known blend ratios and with decreased standard deviations in recorded data.

Future work will re-evaluate the current results in detail, and will include the results received late. More complex blends are also planned.

It was noted that the results from the 1996/97 Round Robin Exercises had been compiled into a paper by Alan Davis and submitted to the *International Journal of Coal Geology* for publication .

Combustion: D. Alvarez and Ed Lester

The 1998 Exercise involved the analysis of an inertinite-rich coal of medium bituminous rank. A simplified classification scheme was devised and detailed instructions were sent with the sample. 14 people in 8 laboratories participated in the exercise.

The 1998 results, compared with the 1997 results, showed an improvement, although large ranges in reported data for some categories were evident. The data were screened using set criteria and compared with the 1997 data. A decrease in the standard deviation of the reported data was the principal result compared with the 1997 data.

Considerable discussion regarding the results took place, with little consensus, but an informative analysis, using projected slides of typical chars seen during the exercise, occurred. It was decided to hold an additional slide viewing and discussion session later in the morning.

Inertinite in Combustion: A. Gómez

A summary of the decisions made at the 1997 Wellington Meeting was presented.

A new Round Robin Exercise was organized in 1998, with seven categories specified. 12 participants from 8 laboratories took part.

The coal used was almost entirely composed of inertinite (97%). Detailed instructions were forwarded with the sample. Analysis conditions and equipment details were requested from each participant. The data

received showed some very large ranges in some of the groupings measured. There were problems with the isotropy and anisotropy categories, and the fused and unfused categories. This may be due, in part, to the range of magnifications utilised by the participants.

A slide show discussion of typical field of views of the sample analysed did not provide consensus of identification of material, e.g., anisotropic vs. isotropic in inerts, plus anisotropy in char wall material. Detailed discussion regarding thickness of char cell walls resulted and various interpretations were noted as being possible.

Slide Session for Inertinite in Combustion and Combustion Working Groups

Many ideas on how to improve concordance in results were discussed. Diego Alvarez proposed that a blend of two chars be circulated (one derived from a low rank coal, the other from a high rank coal and a 50:50 blend). There was some consensus that a morphological approach, based on 7 categories (shortened version of the Bailey classification), plus isotropic/anisotropic categories for some, be adopted for the next exercise.

The Inertinite in Combustion WG will re-evaluate the 1998 sample data and precise information about what kind of material should be included in each group will be provided. An image analysis study of the sample is to be attempted to obtain objective grey level values for isotropic/anisotropic categories. A coal may also be circulated to aid in inertinite recognition in chars.

A slide session is planned for next year.

Coke Petrography: R. Javier

A detailed summary of the previous Round Robin Exercises of this Working Group was presented. A multi-tiered classification scheme had been devised and widely distributed in 1995, with sets of photomicrographs showing labelled coke microtextures to be identified. 120 individual points were to be identified and placed into the classification scheme.

In all, 24 laboratories had indicated an interest in participating, but only 10 had forwarded results. There were certain levels of agreement, e.g., at the isotropy level, but this agreement decreased at the requested sub-levels below this, e.g., shape, size of mosaics and progenitor material. There were

problems with agreement at the local view, or scale, compared with the global scale.

The Convener is to contact members for ideas on a classification scheme - known and published classification schemes will be circulated. There is a possibility that the Alpern System will be tested with a new exercise. A questionnaire is also planned. A coke will be circulated to interested members rather than photomicrographs.

Automation: P. David

Seven sets of coals from the Accreditation Programme, with well defined vitrinite contents and vitrinite random reflectance were considered for a Round Robin Exercise, from which three coals were chosen. Manual and automated vitrinite content and reflectance data were requested, although not all participants were in a position to do the automated analysis. Six laboratories participated, but only two participants had done the Accreditation Programme analyses using manual techniques. Responses were received from five petrographers.

The results showed small differences between the manual and automated results for both vitrinite content and reflectance, although two samples had higher contents of minerals and liptinite that influenced conformity between petrographers.

A χ^2 statistical approach was used to evaluate the data. Results were very encouraging. The small number of analysts, however, meant that there were difficulties in data set evaluation and more analysts are required.

The next exercise will utilise a further three samples from the Accreditation Programme and the data will be analysed using the identical statistical evaluation procedure of the Accreditation Programme and compared against the χ^2 data. A questionnaire is also planned, with an aim to concentrate on the minerals and liptinite problem, and the next phase of the Working Group will concentrate on their evaluation.

Detailed discussions followed. Polishing problems did not help the automated analysis. It is possible that two unmounted coals from the Accreditation Programme could be utilised in a future exercise to obviate the problems of pre-polished blocks.

Extended Minutes of the meeting can be obtained by request to Rosa Menendez or Aivars Depers.

Appendix 1: List of Participants

AUSTRALIA

Alan Cook (FM)
Peter Crosdale (AM)
Aivars Depers (FM)
Lila Wanda Gurba (AM)
Adrian Hutton (AM)
Barry M. Jenkins (NM)
Graham O'Brien (NM)

BELGIUM

Yvonne Somers (FM)

BRAZIL

Carla V. Araujo (FM)
Zuleika C. Corrêa da Silva (FMI)
Wolfgang Kalkreuth (FM)

CANADA

Marc Bustin (AM)
Fari Goodarzi (AM)
David Pearson (FM)
Jennifer Pearson (NM)
Lavern Stasiuk (AM)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Ivana Sykorova (AM)

DENMARK

Henrik Petersen (AM)
Per Rosenberg (AM)

FRANCE

Carlos Cremez (NM)
Raphael Javier (AM)
Fatima Laggoun-Défarge (AM)
Emile Mériaux (NM)

GERMANY

Gerd Bieg (NM)
Joachim Koch (AM)
Werner Pfisterer (FM)
Walter Pickel (FM)
Angelika Vieth-Redemann (FM)
Monika Wolf (FM)

HUNGARY

Mária-Hámor-Vidó (AM)

ITALY

Michelangelo Ferraro (AM)

JAPAN

A. Aihara (FM)
N. Takeda (AM)

MEXICO

Luis Martinez-Flotte (AM)
J. Maza-Alvarez (NM)
A. Risique (NM)

MOZAMBIQUE

Lopo Vasconcelos (FM)

POLAND

Krystyna Kruzcewska (FM)
Barbara Kwiecinska (FM)
Magdalena Misz (NM)
Grzegorz Nowak (AM)
Slawomira Pusz (NM)

PORTUGAL

A. Dias (NM)
José Pedro Fernandes (NM)
Deolinda Flores (FM)
Candida Garcia Neto (NM)
Joaquim Gomes (NM)
A. Guedes (NM)
Manuel J. Lemos de Sousa (FM)
Maria Manuela Marques (FM)
Luis Moco (NM)
Cristina Rodrigues (NM)
Maria Manuela Tavares (NM)
F. Teixeira (NM)
Bruno Valentim (NM)

ROMANIA

Calin Dumitrescu (AM)
Costel Nedelcu (FM)
Cornelia Panaitescu (FM)
Georgeta Predeanu (AM)

SPAIN

Diego Alvarez (AM)
Maria José Garcia Alonso (NM)
Maria Angeles Gomez Borrego (FM)
Amalia Jimenez Bautista (AM)
Lily Beth Mendez Forero (NM)
Rosa Menéndez (FM)
Jorge Prado (FM)
Isabel Suarez-Ruiz (FM)

TANZANIA

Flora Mpanju (NM)

THE NETHERLANDS

Petra David (FM)
John Vleeskens (FM)

USA

Jack Burgess (AM)
Alan Davis (FM)

UNITED KINGDOM

Rudi Schwab (FM)
Harold Smith (HM)
Krystyna Tokarska-Schwab (FM)

AM – Associate Member

FM – Full Member

NM – Non-Member

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

**SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S REPORT TO
50th MEETING OF ICCP, PORTO,
SEPTEMBER 1998**

1. INTRODUCTION

I took office as Treasurer for ICCP at the Wellington Meeting in 1997. This followed the long and productive term as Treasurer of Professor Duncan Murchison. I am indebted to Professor Murchison for assistance in taking over these duties and for the excellent advice that he has provided to ICCP in a long series of thoughtful and constructive Treasurer's reports.

2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1997/1998

All amounts are stated in pounds sterling as the unit of currency and these are referred to as GBP. Income totalled GBP 4,985.00 and expenditure GBP 3,447.39

3. BALANCE OF ICCP ACCOUNTS

The closing balance for the total of the various accounts at the balance date for 1997/1998 (including nil cash in hand) was GBP 17,936.99 compared with GBP 16,399.38 at the balance date for comparable figure for the balance date for 1996/1997.

4. PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The subscriptions are now payable in GBP as well as in USD and 42% was received in GBP by credit card, 30% in cheques written in GBP and only 26% in USD cheques or drafts and 2% in cash. This greatly reduced the costs of banking subscriptions.

5. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Up to the balance date of 31 August 1998 the following subscription pattern emerges:

128 members had paid up to the end of 1997;
102 members had paid for 1998, of which
60 members have paid in advance for 1999, and
54 members have paid in advance until the year 2000.

At that date no less than 73 members were in arrears with subscriptions by between 1 and 3 years.

Additionally six honorary members are exempt from paying subscriptions.

Application of article 5(a) of the Statutes implies that 62 persons previously regarded as members will be removed from subscription lists, in the absence of action to remain as financial members. It is expected that this reduction will have a favourable effect on the costs of mailing and printing.

6. THE LONGER TERM TREND OF ICCP FINANCIAL POSITION

Income, largely from subscriptions was greater in the last financial year than expenditure. However a breakdown of subscription receipts shows that 28% represented back-payments for earlier years and 39% pre-payments for later years. Expenditure was, therefore, running at 164% of current income during 1997/1998. Income levels for the previous year were also abnormal, with the bulk of subscriptions (65%) representing back payments.

The balance attributable to ICCP reached a peak of GBP 26,288.33 in 1990/1991. Since that time, the balance has fallen with the peak fall being GBP 3,635.33 in 1995/1996. The falls would have been more severe but for action taken by the previous Treasurer to request more actively subscriptions and to introduce a system of discounting payments for advance subscriptions. Major factors in the fall in the balance have been a substantial decrease in interest income and a rise in expenditures. The former is a result of a period of low interest rates that still obtains, and the latter can perhaps be traced to a greater difficulty in office bearers in getting support for ICCP activities from their employers.

It is clear that ICCP will have to be more reliant on subscriptions for its revenue. However, the total of subscription income plus interest can be estimated to be of the order of GBP 3,000 for 1999. Action must be taken to avoid further and rapid running down of ICCP balances. "*Parsimony not profligacy should be the slogan*" was a comment from the Treasurer's report of 1993/1994. In the absence of action in the interim, a budgeting system is proposed for ICCP activities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Stabilize and increase the membership. Reduce the bureaucracy associated with applications and processing of applications for membership. Move on the issue of "Friendship Membership".
- 7.2 Council must clean-up the membership lists by removal of non-payers who have lost interest in ICCP.
- 7.3 Introduce "Institutional Membership" as a membership category, with attendant changes in the statutes.

7.4 Cut administrative costs especially by reducing duplication, but also by using electronic methods of circulating information where this is possible and maximise use of the ICCP homepage: www.fu-berlin.de/iccp

7.5 Implement a budgeting system that represents a binding agreement by officers on Council.

7.6 Normal book-keeping and accounting standards be used for submission of expenditure. It is imperative that expenditure not be allowed to accumulate from one reporting period to another.

7.7 That the ICCP accounts be subject to a formal audit, either annually or at longer periods, but not at periods greater than 3 years.

8. GOOD NEWS

One of the authors of "Organic Petrology" has directed his Royalties from the book to ICCP. So, if you have not yet done so already, buy copies of "Organic Petrology" and help ICCP.

Rudi Schwab, Treasurer ICCP

MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Attention was drawn to the previous vote to introduce Institutional Membership where a vote of 31 in favour and 1 against was assumed not to meet the two thirds majority requirements. The Treasurer noted that Paragraph 14 of the Statutes means two thirds of members voting and not, as had been assumed, two thirds of all members eligible to vote. Council resolved that in view of this correction of the interpretation of the statutes and the clear majority of members voting, that Institutional Membership would now be recommended to the Closing Plenary Session.

2. Discussion of membership fees for Institutional Members resulted in the President suggesting that a the fee be a minimum of USD 1,000. It was noted that non-members already paid USD 300 for registering in the Accreditation Program.

3. That efforts be made to increase the membership base and, as part of this action, to speed up application processes. It was also suggested that membership fees could be collected for the first year of membership and other ways investigated to ensure that the enthusiasm associated with applying for membership could be translated more directly into fee-paying membership (it being noted that the proportion of membership applications translating into paid memberships has been low).

4. Members two years or more in arrears with fees no longer be considered as members, and that in the longer term the maximum period for non-payment be one year. Those members who have not paid for two to four years will no longer receive full mailing lists but will be warned of this decision by a message attached to the next copy of the ICCP Newsletter.

5. That a reduction be made in postage costs by consolidating as much as possible of the circulation of minutes through inclusion in the ICCP Newsletter. The method of circulating reports of the Working Groups remains to be decided but Commission Chairpersons and Secretaries were urged to examine cheaper methods such as E-Mail or including reports within the ICCP Newsletter. Attention was also drawn to the potential of the new ICCP Website for circulation of materials. It was also suggested that members could be issued with passwords and access to some material restricted to paid up members in order to protect the revenue base of ICCP.

6. Voting lists would be supplied by the Treasurer to the General Secretary such that one envelope would suffice to send out ballot papers for each member for the forthcoming elections.

7. The Treasurer proposed a draft Budget that would keep expenditure within expected levels of income. The draft Budget was tabled and agreed for implementation in 1998/1999. It was noted that if the income of ICCP could be increased, the Budgetary restrictions would be less severe.

Any member wishing to receive a copy of the full Treasurer's Report 1997-1998 by E-mail (at non cost to the ICCP!), please contact Rudi at rudi@chesternet.co.uk

Appendix 3: List of Papers presented in the Poster Session

Poster

In this year's meeting the number of posters presented in the building of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto was so big that we are not able to publish the abstracts within the news. Only the headings will be listed. Those, who are interested in the abstracts are asked to contact the Departamento de Geologia, Faculdade de Ciências, Praça de Gomes Teixeira, 4050 Porto (Portugal). There are copies available. It is also intended to make available the abstracts by internet.

Cook, A.C., Duddy, I. & Green, P.: Measurement of vitrinite reflectance and its use with temperatures based on Apatite fission track analysis (AFTATM).

Crosdale, P.J.: Evidence from mixed gas adsorption in favour of pore filling models for gas adsorption by coal.

Crosdale, P.J. & Woolfe, K.J.: Tertiary coals from the Zeya-Bureya Basin, Far Eastern Russia.

Duber, S., Kwiecinska, B. & Pusz, S.: The study of textural unhomogeneity of anthracites.

Fernandes, J.P., Teixeira, F. & Rocha F.: Organic petrology and mineralogical data on the Pomarão Anticline (SE Portugal) stratigraphic sequence.

Flores, D., Garcia, C., Juan, R., Lemos de Sousa, M.J., Marques, M., Pinheiro, H.J., Rodrigues C. & Ruiz, M.C.: Total moisture versus moisture holding capacity as a measure of bed moisture: Implications in coal classification.

Garcia, C., Flores, D. & Lemos de Sousa, M.J.: Petrological study of peat samples from Paúl da Goucha (Alpiarça, Portugal).

Garcia Alonso, M.J., Gómez Borrego, A., Alvarez, D. & Menéndez, R.: The effect of char formation temperature on the development of anisotropy. An OM/SEM assessment.

Gomes, J.R.B. & Gomes, J.A.N.F.: Design of new catalysts for the oil and gas industry.

Hámor-Vidó, M., Hufnagel, H. & Hetényi, M.: Organic petrology and Rock-Eval pyrolysis of Triassic source rocks from the Transdanubian Region, Hungary. First description of organic constituents in sedimentary matter.

Jiménez, A., Cuesta, M.J., Martínez-Tarazona, M.R., & Suárez-Ruiz, I.: Petrologic and geochemical study of coals from Puertollano Stephanian Coal Basin (Spain): Paleoenvironmental implications.

Jiménez, A., Martínez-Tarazona, M.R., Cuesta, M.J. & Suárez-Ruiz, I.: Affinity of chlorine to vitrain and clarain lithotypes.

Kalkreuth, W., Holz, M., Cazzulo-Klepzig, M., Marques-Toigo, M., Utting, J. & Semkiwa, P.: A comparative study on the geology, petrology and palynology of Permian coals in Southern Brazil and Tanzania - Implications for coal formation.

Laggoun-Défarge, F., Bourdon, S., Chenu, C., Défarge, C. & Disnar, J.-R.: Organic petrology of peat. Morphological alterations of plant tissues during early diagenesis revealed by histochemical staining in TEM and cryo-SEM. (Tritrivakely Marsh, Madagascar)

Lemos de Sousa, M.J., Marques, M., Flores, D. & Pinheiro, H.J.: Bed moisture in coals: Research into its determination, standardisation and application as a requirement for coal classification through moisture-holding capacity - Presenting a project.

Lemos de Sousa, M.J. & Pinheiro, H.J.: International classification of in seam coals. Economic Commission for Europe (United Nations).

Lemos de Sousa, M.J., Pinheiro, H.J., Rodrigues, C. & Machado da Silva, J.M.: Prospecting for coalbed methane (CBM): Presenting a project.

Misz, M. & Kruszevska, K.: Forms of coal-derived particles in the slag and fly ash from the Bédzin Power Station (Poland).

Moço, L.P.: Organic petrology of the South Portuguese Zone - Petrologic characterisation, distribution and genesis of hydrocarbons: A research project.

Mpanju, F.K.: The hydrocarbon potential of the Karoo coals and associated rocks of the southwestern rift basins of Tansania.

Nedelcu, C.: Can pyrocarbon be a geothermometric index?

Nowak, G.J. & Gorecka-Nowak, A.: Coal petrographic and palynologic studies of the Westphalian A coal seams in the Intrasudetic Basin (SW Poland) as tools to determine peat-forming environments.

O'Brien, G. & Jenkins, B.: Standardisation of coal petrographic analysis by automated full phase maceral reflectograms.

Predeanu, G., Panaitescu, C., Plesa, G. & Dumitrescu, C.: Prediction of coke strength by characteristics of coals used in Romanian stamp coking charges.

Stasiuk, L.D., Tomica, M., Wong, J. & Pratt, K.: Fluorescence confocal laser scanning microscopy of dispersed organic matter in hydrocarbon source rocks.

Sýkorová, I.: Classification-codification of low rank coal from petrological, chemical and technological point of view.

Sýkorová, I. & Suchy, V.: Bitumens from the Barrandian Basin, Czech Republic.

Takeda, N., Waseda, A., Takano, O., Nishita, H., Minamidate, T., Tsuzuki, N. & Iguchi, T.: Correlation of organic facies and sedimentary facies for evaluating the hydrocarbon source potential of the coal-bearing Ishikari Group, Japan.

Valentim, B.: Coal combustion technologies - Environmental implications. The study of the effects of coal blending to reduce the NO_x, N₂O and SO_x in coal combustion systems.

Call for Nominations for the Reinhardt Thiessen Award

Nominations are sought for candidates for the 1999 Reinhardt Thiessen Medal award. The award is made for individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of coal or organic petrology. Any person of high standing in the field is eligible for the award; ICCP membership is not a prerequisite. Only full members of the ICCP may submit a nomination.

The award is made by the ICCP Council acting on the recommendation of the five members of the Thiessen Award Committee and will be presented at the 1999 ICCP meeting to be held in Bucarest (Romania) in September. The committee invites you to send your nominations to: Dr. Alan Davis, Chairman of the Reinhardt Thiessen Award Committee, Coal and Organic Petrology Laboratories, 105 Academic Projects Building, University Park, PA 16802 USA (Fax: +1-814-865-3573). **Letters of nomination** should provide the reasons for and justification of the proposal and must be **received by March 15, 1999** at the latest.

ICCP'S Friendship Scheme

The ICCP has decided to introduce a Friendship Scheme as a means to allow members of the ICCP to sponsor coal and organic petrologists from developing countries. Sponsorship will entail the payment of the petrologist's membership fee, initially for a period of three years. Petrologists will receive all existing membership rights, such as voting rights, and are entitled to receive the ICCP Newsletter and other printed materials sent via the various Commissions to which they belong. A slightly reduced membership fee will be charged to the sponsoring Member.

Potential petrologists must satisfy the criteria for nomination for Associate Member and must have been accepted by the ICCP's Executive Council before being sponsored. All members of the ICCP may, if they wish, specifically nominate somebody whom they feel fits the above criteria or they can opt to let the Treasurer of the ICCP pick a candidate from names supplied by the general membership. In the latter case, petrologists on this list will be sponsored on a "first name received, first name sponsored" basis.

Friendship Scheme fee: £GB30 (British pounds) or \$US50 (American dollars) for 3 years. Payment can be made by international bank draft or by credit card transfer.

If you decide to nominate a new member, please note that this person will have to fill in an Associate Member application form and that the application will take some time to be reviewed and assessed by the ICCP's Executive Council after all of the criteria, as stipulated in ICCP Statutes, have been satisfied. All applications will be treated as strictly confidential. Application forms are available from the General Secretary:

Prof. Dr. Zuleika C. Corrêa da Silva
 Rua Eca de Queiróz, 682/402
 90670-020 Porto Alegre
 Rio Grande do Sul
 Brazil
 Fax: +55-51-332 3404
 e-mail: ZULEIKA@IF.UFRGS.BR or
ZULEIKA@VOYAGER.COM.BR

The Executive Council is acutely aware that some petrologists from developing countries are unable to meet current membership costs, but would like to encourage them to be involved in ICCP projects. The Executive Council fully supports this scheme and urges all Members of the ICCP, who are financially able to do so, to consider sponsoring a fellow colleague.

Please forward names of potential candidates to:

Dr. Rudi M. Schwab
 3 Manor Close
 Great Barrow
 Chester CH3 7LP
 Great Britain
 Fax: +44-1829-74 0384

Aivars Depers

Meetings

2nd Symposium on Gondwana Coals

The 2nd Symposium on Gondwana Coals was held prior to the 50th Annual Meeting of the ICCP on September 19, 1998 in the Conference Room of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto (Portugal). 19 papers were presented by different authors, 11 oral presentations and 8 posters:

List of Papers presented in the 2nd Symposium on Gondwana Coals

M.V.B. Ade, M.B. Silva & Z.C. Corrêa da Silva: Palaeoenvironments of coal seams deposition in Candiota Coalfield, South Brazil, based on maceral composition.
 G.J. Broodrick: A modern integrated assessment of coal for trade and utilization purposes.
 A.C. Cook: Rank variation in the Permian of Australia.
 Z.C. Corrêa da Silva: Facies studies on the Brazilian Gondwana coal deposits: a short review.

A.M. Depers: Testing of National coal-related Standards – The Australian perspective and experience.

D. Flores, C. Garcia, R. Juan, M.J. Lemos de Sousa, M. Marques, H.J. Pinheiro, C. Rodrigues & M.C. Ruiz: Total moisture versus moisture holding capacity as a measure of bed moisture: implications in coal classification.

L.W. Gurba & H. Read: Australian Coal Petrography.
 L.W. Gurba & C.R. Ward: Application of electron microprobe techniques in determining elemental composition of Australian coal macerals.

M. Holz, M.V.B. Ade & W. Kalkreuth: Coal seam characteristics within a sequence stratigraphic framework: an example from the early Permian Rio Bonito Formation of Southernmost Brazilian Gondwanaland.

W. Kalkreuth, M. Holz, M. Cazzulo-Klepzig, M. Marques-Toigo, J. Utting & P. Semkiwa: A comparative study of the geology, petrology and palynology of Permian coals in Southern Brazil and Tanzania – Implications for coal formation.

W. Kalkreuth, J. Utting, P. Semkiwa, F. Mpanju, M. Fowler & H. Hagemann: Permian (Karoo) coal measures in Tanzania: Petrology, palynology and geochemistry of coals from the Rukwa and Songwe-Kiwira Coalfields.

K. Kruszevska: Reactive inertinite in South African coals.

M.J. Lemos de Sousa, M. Marques, D. Flores & H.J. Pinheiro: Bed moisture in coals: research into its determination, standardisation and application as a requirement for coal classification through moisture-holding capacity – presenting a project.

M.J. Lemos de Sousa & H.J. Pinheiro: International classification of in seam coals. Economic Commission for Europe (United Nations).

M.J. Lemos de Sousa, H.J. Pinheiro, C. Rodrigues & J.M. Machado da Silva: Prospecting for coalbed methane (CBM): presenting a project.

M. Marques-Toigo & M. Cazzulo-Klepzig: The occurrence of the Portalites genus in South Brazilian Gondwana coals.

F.K. Mpanju: The hydrocarbon potential of the Karoo coals and associated rocks of the southwestern rift basins of Tanzania.

F. Ricardi-Branco, J.P. Fernandes & D. Flores: Organic petrology and palynology of coals from Figueira (Paraná, Brazil).

B. Valentim: Coal combustion technologies – Environmental implications. The study of the effects of coal blending to reduce the NO_x, N₂O and SO_x in coal combustion systems.

L. Vasconcelos: Characterization of Moatize coals (Mozambique) regarding petrography, proximate/ultimate analyses, technological properties and washability behaviour.

A booklet containing the abstracts of the papers is available by request from the Departamento de Geologia, Faculdade de Ciências, Praca de Gomes Teixeira, 4050 Porto (Portugal).

16th Annual Meeting of TSOP

September 26-30, 1999 the 16th Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) takes place at Salt Lake City (Snowbord Resort), Utah, USA. Information: Jeff Quick, Utah Geological Survey, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 3110, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6100 USA; phone: 801-537-3372; fax: 801-537-3400; e-mail: nrugs.jquick@state.ut.us. Further details: <http://www.tsop.org>.

Abstracts due June 1, 1999. Oral and poster sessions September 27-28. Pre-meeting short course: Organic Matter Characterization by Optical and Molecular Methods – Tools for the Next Millenium (Instructors: R.V. Tyson and D.A. Wavrek). Two day post-meeting field trip: Uinta basin rocks and hydrocarbons / including Green River Formation) and Utah coalfields.

Press Releases

from The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP)

Digital Atlas of Coal Geology now available

The Atlas of Coal Geology (American Association of Petroleum Geologists Studies in Geology #45), a 4-yr publication project of the Energy Minerals Division-AAPG and The Society for Organic Petrology, is available as of the end of November from AAPG. The atlas was compiled by Alex Papp, Jim Hower, and Doug Peters; with Papp and Hower responsible for volumes I and II of the atlas, respectively. This is the first publication by AAPG that is entirely digital, with no associated printed material, and is being produced in CD-ROM format.

The Atlas of Coal Geology CD-ROM is designed as a combination reference and learning resource for novice-through expert-level geoscientists in the energy industry and academia. This publication is the first in over 30 years to fully and pictorially cover the topic of coal geology in all its aspects: coal deposition and sedimentary environments, structural geology, coal components, coal petrology, environmental aspects, coal utilization (coal mining and coalbed methane) and more. The Atlas contains over 660 color (primarily) and black-and-white digital pictures, from various coal basins around the world, pertaining to

these many aspects of coal geology. It is a first-rate research and teaching tool!

All text and picture captions on the CD-ROM can be searched by key words or through the Table of Contents. All pictures and text (both background text and captions) are downloadable for reproduction for reference, presentation, and teaching purposes.

Volumes 1 and 2 of the Atlas of Coal Geology CD-ROM emphasize coal geology and coal petrology, respectively. The coal geology volume includes 393 images relating to megascopic coal geology, exploration, mining, and coalbed methane (CBM). The coal petrology volume includes 275 sets of images pertaining to microscopic examination of coals, including macerals and minerals in coals. All pictures are fully captioned. Supporting and background text exceeds the equivalent of 250 printed pages!! Reference lists are included and linked to the Atlas text to allow you to find additional information.

The Atlas contains the following sections:

Volume 1 – Coal Geology

Overview of Coal Exploration
Introduction to Coal Mining
Overview of Coalbed Methane
Coal Depositional Systems
Paleochannel Facies Details
Splits, Partings, Rider Coals, and Subseams
Sedimentary Intrusions
Controls on Mining and CBM Development
Stress Environment
Folds and Inclined Beds
Joints
Cleats
Slickensides in Coal-Bearing Strata
Faults
Igneous Intrusions and Extrusions
Coal Seam Burns
Weathering
Environment and Coal Resource Utilization

Volume 2 – Coal Petrology: An Introduction

Origin of Coal
Macerals
Maceral Analysis
Microlithotypes
Lithotypes
Minerals and Mineral Matter
Coalification
Vitrinite Reflectance
Coal Utilization
Combustion
Metallurgical Coals
International Classification

The Atlas is best used on a Pentium or MMX (IBM-compatible) computer, Windows 95 or newer operating system, with 16 Mbyte RAM or higher, 4X CD reader, 2 Mbyte video display card set to 16-bit color („High Color“) or better, and screen resolution (desktop arca) of 800 x 600 pixels or better. The Atlas also is compatible with Mac systems.

A sample of the Atlas and order forms soon will be available on the EMD and TSOP web sites (<http://www.cmdaapg.org> or <http://www.tsop.org>, respectively). To request further information on the Atlas or to order it by phone, contact Ron Hart, Datapages, Inc. Phone 918-496-7777, Fax 918-496-3756, E-mail: rhart@datapages.com (address: 1743 East 71st Street, Tulsa, OK 74136). Cost for AAPG and TSOP members is \$39 and for nonmembers is \$52.

The Society for Organic Petrology Starts Student Grants Program

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) is pleased to announce the inauguration of its Student Grants program. Monetary awards up to a maximum of US\$ 1,000 will be granted to qualified masters or doctoral candidates who demonstrate the application of organic petrological concepts to research problems. Applications are due by March 31, 1999. Applications and information are available at the TSOP webpage (www.tsop.org) or by contacting the

TSOP Research Committee Student Grants Program
c/o C.L. Thompson-Rizer, Chairperson
Conoco Inc. PR 3072
P.O. Box 2197
Houston TX 77252-2197 USA
E-mail: carolyn.thompson-rizer@usa.conoco.com
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The purpose of the Student Grants program is to foster research in organic petrology, which includes coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related discipline, by providing support to graduate students from around the world. Factors to be weighed in the selection of successful applicants include: qualifications of the applicant as indicated by past performance, originality and research potential of the proposed project, support of the department in which the work is being done, and perceived significance of the project to organic petrology.

The grant program will be initiated with a maximum of two grants each year of up to \$ 1,000 each. Grants are to be applied to expenses directly related to the

student's thesis work, such as summer fieldwork, laboratory analyses, etc. A portion (not to exceed 25 %) of the funds may be used to attend TSOP Annual Meetings. Funds should not be used to purchase capital equipment, to pay salaries, tuition, room, or board during the school year. At the conclusion of the research project, the awardees are required to publish an extended abstract in the TSOP Newsletter and will be encouraged to present their results at the TSOP Annual Meeting.

The TSOP Grant Program focuses on support of qualified candidates for masters or equivalent degrees. Qualified doctoral candidates with expenses beyond the usual scope of funding by other agencies are also encouraged to apply.

The Society for Organic Petrology was founded in 1984. TSOP is an Associated Society of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and a member society of the American Geological Institute (AGI).

If you would like to order the **INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF COAL PETROGRAPHY** please note the change of address:

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**Dead line for the next issue of the ICCP NEWS is
March 15, 1999!**