

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL HAS APPOINTED
A COMMITTEE ON GEOPHYSICS, ADVISORY TO THE
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

Acting upon a request from Admiral Paul F. Lee, Chief of Naval Research, the National Research Council has appointed a Committee of active scientific investigators to advise the Geophysics Branch of the Office of Naval Research regarding scientific and related aspects of their research programs. The Committee is as follows:

Walter H. Newhouse (Chairman), Harry H. Hess (Vice Chairman), Roland F. Beers, Maurice Ewing, Ellis A. Johnson, Lester E. Klimm, William C. Krumbein, William W. Rubey, and J. Frank Schairer.

Dr. R. C. Gibbs, Chairman of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences of the NRC, acts as Administrative Adviser to the Committee, in collaboration with Dr. Arthur Bevan, Chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography.

The Committee held its first meeting on January 7 and 8, 1948, in Washington, D. C. As stated by Dr. Roger Revelle, Head of the Geophysics Branch of the Office of Naval Research, that Branch is charged with the responsibility within the Navy Department of sponsoring basic research in appropriate fields of earth sciences through financial and other support of worthy projects. Functioning within this general framework of responsibility the Committee will, for the present, restrict its consideration to research problems dealing with the crust of the earth and the properties of the earth as a whole.

Since it is part of the policy of ONR to sponsor research in fields not adequately covered by other agencies, the Geophysics Branch, with the Committee's concurrence, has established the following objectives for Research within the fields covered by the Committee:

1. To foster, in cooperation with other agencies, geological, geographical, and geophysical explorations of little known area of the earth such as the islands of the Western Pacific and the Arctic and Antarctic. Such exploration may include all aspects of the natural environment and problems of human and economic geography and ethnography as well as the more limited objectives implied in the terms geology and geophysics.
2. To conduct laboratory and field studies leading to a greater understanding of the properties and processes existing in the outer hundred kilometers of the earth's crust.
3. To develop instruments and techniques for determination of the earth's properties; for example, universal airborne magnetometer equipment.

The Office of Naval Research has adopted the policy of avoiding formulation, detailed direction, and "farming out" of projects for basic research in the belief that maximum progress and results will be realized if projects for investigation grow out of the ideas and interests of the investigators themselves. The Committee warmly endorses this policy and will seek at all times, through advice and recommendations, to further its operation to the maximum degree possible. The submission of significant and well-organized research proposals will be helpful in this connection.

The Geophysics Branch of ONR has asked the Committee

1. To advise it on the over-all objectives of the ONR basic research program in this field.
2. To encourage the submission of worthwhile research proposals.
3. To evaluate the scientific merits of proposals received and recommend appropriate action thereon.

The Advisory Committee on Geophysics has formulated, chiefly for its own guidance certain bases for evaluating research proposals, as follows: (These are subject to change as further experience may indicate. The order of listing at any point is not to be regarded necessarily as the order of importance.)

1. General.

- a. Preference should be given to specific individual proposals in contrast to multiple proposals, the several parts of which are not closely related.
- b. It is desirable that proposals be submitted in the name of the individual or individuals who will be actively engaged in the proposed investigations.

2. Scientific Merits.

- a. Would the solution of the problem be important to the progress of the science of Geophysics; that is, would the solution lead to new problems rather than to a cul de sac?
 - b. Does the problem appear capable of solution by the techniques proposed?
 - c. Will the conduct of the research lead to valuable training of younger scientists?
 - d. Does the problem to be investigated lie within the Research objectives of the Geophysics Branch of ONR?
 - e. Are important unforeseen results likely to come out of the research?
 - f. Is the investigation timely in relation to other contributory operations?
3. Qualifications of the investigator and adequacy of proposed project.
- a. Are the training, experience, and demonstrated ability of the principal investigator suitable for the project?
 - b. Are the assisting personnel and the equipment available for the project adequate?
 - c. Is the budget submitted commensurate with the requirements of the project?
4. Possibilities of undesirable duplication.

For further details consult the Office of Naval Research, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C., or the National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
XVIII SESSION—GREAT BRITAIN, 1948
GENERAL SECRETARY: GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND MUSEUM,
EXHIBITION ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 7

29th January, 1948

Dear Dr. Aldrich,

Thank you very much for your letter of January 7th. Professor Read certainly found his visit and the welcome you gave him most enjoyable and stimulating.

He tells me that he found that certain difficulties in obtaining shipping passages are being experienced by American geologists who wish to join the Congress, and I have received directly one or two complaints and enquiries about the same point. I have taken the matter up with Cooks and with Cunard White Star (who gave us assurances some time ago that traffic to the Congress could be adequately handled); and they are doing all they can from this end to make sure that members are accommodated and that their American offices are alive to the urgency of the situation. Cooks think that the trouble may be in part that it is not always possible at the moment to assure an applicant of a specific sailing date, even though there is no doubt that it will eventually be possible to provide a berth for him about the time he specifies. I understand that additional boats are very likely to be brought into service on the Atlantic route before the summer: but that negotiations on this are not yet quite complete.

Professor Read also found that some American colleagues were dubious about coming over here and making further inroads upon our food supplies. There may also be the very understandable point as to whether it is worth making the trip in view of reports of meagre fare here.

It seems likely that the food situation probably appears worse, in Press reports, than

it actually is. We cannot in present circumstances entertain Congress members as lavishly as we should wish. Nevertheless, we have done our best to provide for the comfort and refreshment of members, and think that they may find conditions less rigorous than reports abroad may suggest.

I may mention that, in addition to Government, University and other receptions in London, a large number of civic authorities, industrial firms and other bodies are arranging special local hospitality for the excursion parties.

We greatly hope that despite any present discouraging factors, the number of members from U.S.A. and Canada will approach the number (some 500, including relatives) who provisionally registered in response to the Third Circular. It was largely because of this great response by prospective members from North America that we further extended last autumn our excursion programme; and the success of the Congress will largely depend upon their presence.

Please be assured that on our part we shall spare no effort to satisfy the needs of our guests.

Yours very sincerely,
A. J. BUTLER,
General Secretary

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The editor of the Industrial Diamond Review has a limited number of reprints available for free distribution on recent scientific and technical progress in the diamond industry. The reprints include articles on General (diamond industry), Physical Properties, X-ray Crystallography and Radiography, Surface Finish, Diamond Polishing, Shaped Diamond Tools, Truing of Grinding Wheels, Diamond Dust and Diamond Grinding Wheels, Diamond Dies, Cutting and Machining of Glass, Diamond Drilling, Sapphire and Jewel Bearings, Hardness Testing, and Historical Aspects. Anyone interested in securing reprints should address: Industrial Diamond Review, 226 Latymer Court, Hammersmith, London, W.6.

Dr. Robert A. Dryer, associate professor of geology, has been appointed chairman of the department of geology at the University of Kansas. He succeeds Professor L. R. Laudon who has accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin.

CORRECTION

In the paper entitled "Relations Among Crystallographic Elements" by H. T. Evans, Jr. (*Am. Mineral.*, 33, 60-63 (1948)), three typographical errors occurred in Table 1, as follows:

Formula (4) should read
$$v_2 = \frac{\sin \nu}{\sqrt{1 + (x_0' \cos \nu - y_0' \sin \nu)^2}}$$

Formula (7) should read $\cot \alpha = x_0' \cos \nu - y_0' \sin \nu$

Formula (10) should read $x_0' = \cot \beta$

Formula (7) in the original paper was followed by a superscript, which is a reference to a footnote, and not to be confused with a square term.

HOWARD T. EVANS, JR.

NRC NEWS ITEM

The National Research Council has recently appointed a group of leading chemists, physicists and mineralogists, whose interests make them specially qualified, to act as Provisional Executive Committee of the American Section of the International Union of Crystallography. This Union which was formed in 1947 has undertaken the publication of an international journal of crystallography, *Acta Crystallographica*, and is planning for the continuation of the *Strukturbericht* and for the publication of a new edition of the International Crystal Structure Tables. The new Union plans to hold its first General Assembly and Congress at Harvard University from July 28th to Aug. 3rd 1948. The membership of the American Committee consists of Professor L. O. Brockway, University of Michigan; Professor M. J. Buerger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor J. D. H. Donnay, The Johns Hopkins University; Professor I. Fankuchen, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn; Professor C. Frondel, Harvard University; Dr. D. Harker, General Electric Company; Dr. M. L. Huggins, Eastman Kodak Company; Professor A. L. Patterson (Chairman), Bryn Mawr College; Professor L. Pauling, California Institute of Technology; Professor F. Seitz, Carnegie Institute of Technology; Professor A. N. Winchell, American Cyanamid Company and Dr. R. W. G. Wyckoff, National Institute of Health. This committee will act as advisory body to the National Research Council on the relationships between the crystallographers of the United States and the new Union. In addition to these duties the committee will recommend to the National Research Council a permanent constitution for the American Section of the Union and will also advise the Council with regard to any matters which are of general concern to crystallographers in the United States.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

The officers and fellows of the Mineralogical Society of America are nominated by the Council at its annual meeting. The Council is guided in its choice by recommendations made by the Nominating Committee.

It is the feeling of the Council that the general membership and fellowship should have more voice in suggesting nominees. Therefore, the Council has voted that the names of the members of the Nominating Committee be published so that those wishing to make recommendations for officers and fellows can communicate with one of the members.

The present Nominating Committee appointed by the President, Martin A. Peacock, is as follows:

H. H. Hess, *Chairman*, Department of Geology, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

H. W. Fairbairn, Department of Geology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

J. E. Hawley, Department of Mineralogy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

L. C. Ramsdell, Mineralogical Laboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

George Tunell, Department of Geology, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.

C. S. HURLBUT, JR., *Secretary*

A very unfortunate omission appears in the list of Correspondents recently published in the March-April issue of the JOURNAL. The list should include the name of Professor C. E. Tilley of the University of Cambridge, England.
