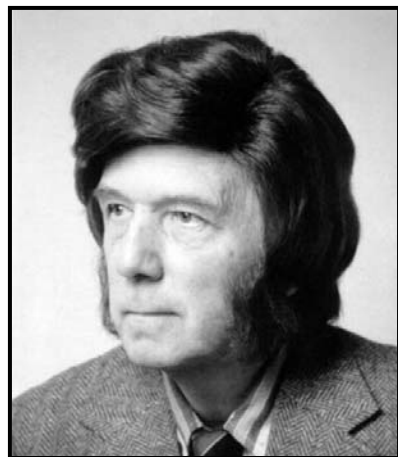


GEOLOG

The Newsmagazine of the Geological Association of Canada / Le Bulletin de l'Association géologique du Canada

JERRY RÉMICK'S RARE-COIN COLLECTION NETS OVER \$3-MILLION FOR THE CANADIAN GEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

By R. Frank Blackwood



Jérôme (Jerry) H. Rémick III passed away on March 1, 2005. He had been a long-time member and supporter of the GAC[®], and at the time of his death, the main benefactor of the Canadian Geological Foundation (CGF). Interested readers may refer to GEOLOG Volume 34, Number 2 (summer 2005) for a tribute to Jerry.

At Jerry's request, the CGF had established an endowment trust fund in his name, to which he had contributed more than \$500,000 - his last donation of \$40,000 was made in the late fall of 2004, just three months before he died. Over the dozen years or so that he had been making annual contributions to the Rémick

Endowment Trust Fund, CGF had made numerous grants (based upon Terms of Reference endorsed by Jerry) totaling thousands of dollars from the revenue earned by the Fund (the principal amount remains invested and intact; grants are made from annual income only).

In his Last Will and Testament, Jerry named the CGF as his principal beneficiary. He also included the GAC for a gift of \$200,000 to be paid out of cash from his estate (this amount plus interest was paid to GAC in May, 2007, and was added to the more than \$100,000 he had donated while alive to GAC's Rémick Trust Account). CGF, however, was identified in his Will under 'Residual Bequest', which meant that the Foundation would benefit from the proceeds of the sale of Jerry's rare-coin collection.

Jerry was a renowned numismatist and numismatic writer (having published much on numismatics to international acclaim). He started collecting coins, medals and rare bank notes early in life, and it was the fruits of this passion that would be his legacy to CGF (and via the Foundation, the Canadian geoscience community).

It has taken the last four years to complete the probation of Jerry's Last Will and Testament, and the distribution of the assets of the Rémick Estate. This included the cataloguing and auctioning of his large coin collection, as specified in his Will, by the ancient firm of Spink and Son Ltd., London, England, dealers and auctioneers in coins and medals.

Several times during my dealings with Jerry over the years (on behalf of GAC and CGF), he expressed the hope that his coin collection would realize somewhere between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 for CGF. The final amount, he explained, would depend upon the unpredictable market value of his coins at the time of auctioning. He would be absolutely delighted that after all commissions, administrative fees, etc. have been paid, the sale of his coin collection has netted \$3,425,712.78 for the Foundation!

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GEOLOG (ISSN 0227-3713; 1712-3747) est le bulletin trimestriel de l'Association Géologique du Canada, à St. Jean, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. GEOLOG s'adresse aux membres de l'AGC[®] et son contenu reflète le caractère polyvalent de cette organisation. Nous invitons la soumission de nouvelles et articles courts pouvant intéresser les membres, incluant les thèmes de sensibilisation du public aux sciences de la Terre. Les articles suscitant des échanges d'opinions et d'informations entre les secteurs académique, industriel et gouvernementaux sont également la bienvenue. GEOLOG accepte et publie les articles dans les deux langues officielles du Canada. Les idées sont celles des auteurs et ne représentent pas nécessairement la position officielle de l'AGC[®]. GEOLOG n'est qu'un des nombreux forums offerts par l'AGC[®] aux scientifiques à travers le monde.

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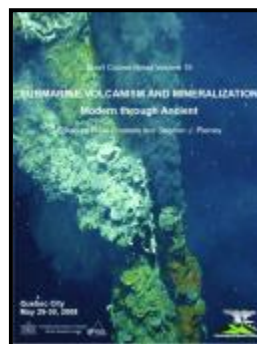
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SCN 19: Submarine Volcanism and Mineralization

This short course was given in conjunction with the 2008 joint annual meeting held in Québec City. This volume can be purchased by visiting the GAC[®] bookstore at www.gac.ca/publications.

Want to publicize your event?

Email it to:

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This **GEOLOG** benefits from the contributions and assistance of / Nous voulons souligner la contribution et l'assistance de: Daniel Lebel, Stephen Johnston, Frank Blackwood, Sandy McCracken, Alwynne Beaudoin, Karen Dawe, and Karen Johnston. Apologies to any I have missed. This **GEOLOG** was produced with support from the Yukon Geological Survey in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Your contributions for future editions are welcome / Désolé pour ceux qui auraient été involontairement oubliés. Cette copie de **GEOLOG** a été produite grâce à l'assistance du bureau géoscientifique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest de Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Nous sollicitons vos contributions pour les publications à venir.

KEM

GAC[®] ANNUAL MEETINGS

As I write my first President Preamble, I can't avoid thinking about the road ahead, but also looking back and wondering what might attract you to read this. As you may recall, in an earlier VP column, I asked you about what you valued in being a GAC[®] member. Very few responded, and I thus now share the same angst as our past president, Carolyn Relf, on whether anyone reads the executive columns! Out of service to you (or is it vanity?), I will trust that I will have a great number of readers if I keep my columns short and interesting. So here we go...

GAC membership survey results on annual conference.

We surveyed our members recently about our annual conference organisation. You have responded in great numbers and we are most pleased about this feedback, since we were keen to learn what interests you in GAC-related annual conferences. As it turns out, the Toronto 2010 conference ('Meeting of the Americas') had a relatively low turn out despite having an interesting program and presenting a rare opportunity to join forces and to meet under the auspices and with the logistical support of the American Geophysical Union. GAC membership turnout was particularly low compared to our average annual turnout. The organising committee guessed that the general economic situation probably played a large role in this outcome. We wanted to understand this better. You can find the results of the survey in the member-only section of the GAC web site (www.gac.ca). As you will read in the survey, many factors seem to play out in the individual decisions to attend or not: the cost, the program, the advertisement, the timing, employer quotas, and competing events. Many of you will choose to attend only one such meeting a year or even only every second year. I will not run you through all the details of the survey, but rest assured that we are taking note of your opinion toward attracting more of you to our future conferences.

GeoCanada 2010

Less than a year from now many of us will meet again in Calgary at the GeoCanada 2010, the first successor to GeoCanada 2000. The success of this meeting will dictate whether this should be an experience to repeat in 2020.

I recall GeoCanada 2000, as a superb meeting held jointly with the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists,

Presidential Preamble

**Daniel
Lebel**



the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, and the Canadian Well Logging Society. It had a very impressive program that attracted close to 5000 people. GeoCanada 2010 is being organised by the same societies. The organising committee is presently hard at work, supported by professional staff, to make this as successful as or better than GeoCanada 2000.

You will find the first seeds of the technical program on the new GeoCanada 2010 web site (<http://www.geocanada2010.ca>). Authors and participants should find no shortage of inspiration and attraction from the proposed broad program themes: Sustainable Development of Resources; Characterizing Geological Systems; Earth Science for Society; Northern Development – Arctic Resources, Sovereignty; Bio-Geoscience; Earth and Planetary Evolution; Unconventional and Emerging Resources: Energy, Minerals and Metals; Climate Issues; New Frontiers in Earth Science; Surface and Near-surface Processes.

It is not too early to start thinking about your participation in this keystone event. Some of you may say that these are not inspiring times and pessimists will predict a dire turnout and a moody event. After all, we just lived through one of the biggest stock exchange crashes in history, and are experiencing an economic recession that some analysts say could lead the world back into the economy of the 1930's. But I am an optimist. As I write this, the economy seems to be picking up and the last economic report for June shows that we may have turned the corner as a country. Who knows, come spring the 'green shoots' may have grown into a solid recovery. In any case, if you are close to the corporate offices and capable of directing financial support, or interested in providing a donation of time as an individual, I beg

you to support GeoCanada 2010 and our Canadian geoscience societies to the best that you can. It is in these trying times that we need our friends the most.

I would also like to invite you to prepare intellectually for the challenge of GeoCanada 2010, and look beyond your close scientific interests. Perhaps some of you will want to consider and relate the distance traveled since 1999 in your field of study, or in your career, before a backdrop of our ever evolving society, drawing linkages to other spheres of science. In doing so, you may attract the public eye, generate excitement in the next generation to join the profession, and convince our masters that geoscience is not only the science of the past, but one of the future. I trust that you will meet this challenge head on, for the benefit of us all.

continued from page 1

The last payment to CGF from the Rémick Estate (via CIBC Private Wealth Management) was made at the end of June, 2009 (earlier payments were made in concert with the sale of the coins, which took place in several auctions). This has meant that the Foundation, in its latest round of granting, was able to make 15 grants from its Rémick Endowment Trust Fund, totaling over \$100,000 (see *GEOLOG*, Volume 38, Number 2 – summer 2009).

Truly, Jerry Rémick's goal of being a significant financial contributor to geoscience in Canada has been realized. In a letter to me dated March 23, 1998, which included a copy of his Last Will and Testament, he wrote, "I want to GIVE BACK to those who have given me so much happiness in life – my geological profession..." Indeed he has.

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Submissions are preferred as digital files sent as e-mail attachments to karen.macfarlane@gov.yk.ca or on a disc via the post to the Editor. Discs will be returned if sent with self-addressed mailer. Documents should be sent as unformatted text (*.doc, *.txt or *.rtf) files. Graphics should be as CorelDraw (*.cdr), Windows metafiles (*.wmf) or Acrobat (*.pdf) file types, and images should be at 300 dpi, without internal compression (preferably *.tif). Files greater than 2MB should be compressed or zipped before sending via e-mail. Additional information on other file formats can be obtained from the Editor. Hard copy text, graphics and photo images are also welcome. All contributions may be edited for clarity or brevity.

Submission Deadline for 2009: November/Novembre 30

Is it all just relative?

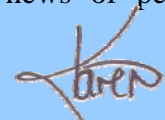
I confess I don't spend much time trying to stay on top of the events of the world as I have a hard enough time trying to stay on top of the events of my day. The odd news bite sneaks through during the day as people come and go discussing commodity prices, what companies are here or there, and oh Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, and Patrick Swayze are all dead. What?

At least in the office most of the news I hear has some bearing on the career path I chose. People round here talk about earth sciences and the economy, what short courses are going on at what conferences, and where can I get a copy of the most recent geological map of the territory. Odds of getting totally news worthy items from outside these walls is questionable.

The other night I happened to be working at my computer and had the television on too (something I rarely do), oh yeah it was because the Calgary Flames were playing and I'm a sucker for teams that start fast and have a hard time finishing. During a break in play, CBC cut to commercial and Peter Mansbridge asked me to stay tuned after the game for the National News when he would update me on further autopsy results of Michael Jackson, the state of affairs with the Phoenix Coyotes, Guy Laliberté in space, and typhoons and tidal waves in the Phillipines.

I guess in their search for better ratings even the news will lead with the stories that grab viewers. It is a shame however that it's news of personal wealth and power that captivate more people than news of the wealth and power of nature.

Go Flames.



Karen MacFarlane
GEOLOG Editor

Nous préférons que les articles nous soient soumis sous forme de fichiers numériques, annexés à un courriel, ou sur disquette, par courrier conventionnel adressé au Rédacteur en Chef. Les disquettes seront retournées si elles sont accompagnées d'une enveloppe affranchie avec adresse de retour. Les documents doivent nous parvenir en version texte non formaté (*.doc, *.txt ou *.rtf). Les graphiques doivent avoir un format CorelDraw (*.cdr), Acrobat (*.pdf) ou Windows metafiles (*.wmf), et les images doivent avoir une résolution de 300 dpi dans un format non comprimé (préférentiellement *.tif). Les fichiers de dimensions supérieures à 2 Mo doivent être comprimés avant envoi par courriel. Veuillez communiquer avec le Rédacteur en chef en ce qui concerne la possibilité d'utiliser d'autres formats. Nous acceptons aussi une copie imprimée sur papier du texte, graphiques et images. Le Rédacteur en chef se réserve le droit de modifier l'article à des fins de clarification ou de brièveté.

Can Studying Earth Sciences Provide a Better Learning Experience?

Academics took it on the chin from Margaret Wenté (*Globe & Mail* columnist) this past weekend (Want to know why professors don't teach?, September 19th, 2009). Margaret implies that professors are no longer 'creative and enthusiastic', that they don't do any marking, and that they no longer hang around with and, amongst other things, smoke dope with their students. Pretty damning stuff. What data forms the basis for Wenté's accusations? For starters, Wenté points to the high numbers of students per class, the high first year dropout rate (about 30%) and the increasing length of time required for students to complete an undergraduate education (more than 5 years for most students). And that is just the student half of the equation. The other 'problem' is that professors are rewarded for research excellence, but not for teaching. She concludes that professors have no desire to teach, do their best to avoid teaching, and when not doing research, stand around sipping sherry (as opposed to teaching). Not satisfied with attacking our poor teaching performance, Margaret even goes so far as to impugn our research, stating that despite rewarding professors for research, most of it goes unread.

Does she have a case? Most universities claim to equally reward teaching and research. At the University of Victoria professors are judged 40% on their research, 40% on their teaching and 20% on their community contribution. That is the official line. However, everyone knows that you are judged first and foremost on the basis of your research. No one is hired based on their teaching, and it is naive to think that although you are hired on the basis of your research, you would then be judged in equal parts based on your research and your teaching. So we have to admit that Wenté is right: professors focus on and are rewarded for their research. Teaching is a secondary consideration.

As for who reads the fruits of this research, there Wenté is also on solid ground. Even in the Earth Sciences (as opposed to the humanities that bear the brunt of Wenté's wrath) most papers go unread and many end up never being cited. If it wasn't for self-citation (citing your own papers in subsequent publications) many of us would never be cited at all. And while the opportunity for self-citation may be a motivation for publishing more research, it certainly doesn't provide anyone with confidence that the research being conducted is worthwhile. Indeed, one

of the favourite past-times of researchers is to complain about the volume of worthless publications (and every one of us thinks 'if only people would publish worthwhile stuff, like me'). So there is broad agreement even amongst our Earth Science community that we publish too much, low value research. Strike two.

And admittedly there is a high attrition rate amongst first year students, right across the country. I don't doubt that finding yourself stuck in classes with hundreds of fellow students with little hope of ever enjoying any personal interaction with your professor is demotivating. And yet university administration demands that put more bums in seats, and the best way to do that is to design courses that involve teaching hundreds of students in a largely impersonal fashion. There is, as Wenté points out, no way to engage students in a personal fashion when there are 400 students in the class. The very thing that drives students out of university (huge impersonal classes) is exactly what the university administration is encouraging. Strike three.

Strike three; sounds like we are out, but in fact the very problems pointed to by Wenté represent opportunities for the Earth Sciences. A large part of Earth Science research is applied, helping us discover and remediate mines, produce oil and address climate change. Our research informs our teaching and commonly provides our students with jobs. We teach small numbers of students in close, personal quarters. Geological field schools provide students and professors with abundant opportunities for hanging out and even, occasionally, smoking dope. An Earth Science education provides all that Wenté wants in a university education. That is a message that we need to communicate; to Wenté, to our university administrators, to the public, and to our own Earth Science community. And besides, when we are not doing research we don't drink sherry (although I have to admit to a certain fondness for a bone crushing dry fino); just scotch.

Stephen T. Johnston
GAC VP



Thanks to Past President Carolyn Relf

On behalf of the Association, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Carolyn Relf for her very effective leadership as President and VP before that. She came to the roles with great talents, energy and well-honed managerial skills, the latter acquired through a number of northern executive positions with the federal government, including her previous position as Chief of the NWT Geoscience Office. She had also been a very effective co-organiser of a number of Yellowknife Geoscience forums and the very successful first ever GAC-MAC Conference held in the North in 2007. Despite the transition and heavy workload associated with her taking on her current position as Director of the Yukon Geological Survey, Carolyn very effectively engaged GAC Council during her tenure as President with the result that Council was able to carry through a number of pressing issues identified in the 5-year strategic plan that she had developed as VP. For an organisation such as GAC that relies heavily on volunteers, there is always the risk that the needs of the present prevent proper attention to longer term planning. The realistic rolling 5-yr plan developed under Carolyn's leadership should ensure Council always keeps one eye on the future evolution of the organisation. Specifically, Carolyn focused Council's

attention on developing new sources of revenue such as short courses for professional development, and strengthening our relationships with sister geoscience organisations with regard to shared initiatives, ranging from joint conferences, best practices in organisational management, and student outreach initiatives. She also supported the proposals of a number of Councillors through sometimes long and complicated discussions with her knowledge and thoughtful and decisive insight. The adoption of our new risk management policy, drafted through the diligent efforts of former GAC Councillor Alain Liard, comes to mind as a key example.

We have indeed been very fortunate to have Carolyn as President and VP, and we are most grateful that she has accepted to continue handling some key files as well as her duties as Past President on her last year on Council. I would like to close by also thanking the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Government of Yukon for the time and support lent to GAC through Carolyn.

Daniel Lebel
GAC President



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The Robinson Fund was established in 1977 by the Geological Association of Canada, using a bequest from the estate of Howard Street Robinson. The fund is dedicated to the furtherance of scientific study of Precambrian Geology and Metal Mining by:

- * sponsoring an annual Distinguished Lecturer Tour whose focus alternates between Precambrian research and economic geology (lecturer alternately chosen by the GAC's Precambrian and Mineral Deposits divisions);
 - * supporting Special Projects including publications, symposia and conferences.
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or Metal Mining should be submitted to the Robinson Fund Committee. Projects should be sponsored or organized through the GAC® or one of its Divisions or Sections. Proposals that have a wide appeal or degree of accessibility to the GAC® membership are preferred.

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Benoit Dubé, Chairman, Robinson Fund
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Deadline for nominations is December 30, 2009

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The Duncan R. Derry Medal is the highest award bestowed by the Mineral Deposits Division (MDD). It is awarded annually to the outstanding economic geologist who has made significant contributions to the science of economic geology in Canada.

William Harvey Gross Award

The William Harvey Gross Award is presented annually to a geoscientist less than 40 years of age (as of December 31, 2009) who has made a significant contribution to the field of economic geology in a Canadian context.

Paleontology Division

Elkanah Billings Medal

The Billings Medal, established by the Paleontology Division of the Geological Association of Canada, is awarded to an individual in recognition of an outstanding long-term contribution to any aspect of Canadian paleontology or by a Canadian to paleontology. The Billings Medal is named in honor of Elkanah Billings (1820-1876), Canada's first paleontologist. The nomination deadline is **November 30, 2009**, and nominations should be sent to Frank R. Burton, Ontario Geological Survey, MNM, frank.burton@ontario.ca.

Pikaia Award

The Pikaia Award is awarded biennially in even-numbered years. It is awarded in recognition of a recent contribution to research on any aspect of Canadian paleontology, or by a Canadian to

paleontology that is judged to constitute an outstanding accomplishment in the field.

Volcanology and Igneous Petrology Division

Léopold Gélinas Medals

The Volcanology and Igneous Petrology Division annually presents three medals for the most outstanding B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. theses, written by Canadians or submitted to Canadian universities, which comprise material at least 50% related to volcanology and igneous petrology.

Career Achievement Award

The Career Achievement Award is normally presented annually in recognition of career achievements in the field of volcanology and/or igneous petrology.

Marine Geosciences Division

Michael J. Keen Medal

The Michael J. Keen Medal is normally awarded annually to a scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of marine or lacustrine geoscience.

Visit www.gac.ca, and click on 'Awards' to get deadlines and all other information you need to nominate your colleagues. Or, contact GAC[®] Headquarters at (709) 737-7660.

Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award targets talented geoscience students

By Brenda Dalglish, Communications Manager PDAC



Mary-Claire Ward was there in spirit last August when the federal government announced it was committing \$100 million over five years to fund the geological mapping of Canada's North. Ward, who died in 2004, had devoted considerable effort during her career as a geologist advocating for geoscience, something she considered a fundamental pillar of successful mineral exploration.

After Ward's death, a coalition of her many friends and colleagues at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), the Canadian Geological Foundation, the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC) and Watts, Griffis and McOuat Ltd. created the first Mary-Claire Ward Award of \$3,000 to provide financial assistance to help a graduate student in the geosciences.

The Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award is presented annually to a student whose thesis incorporates geoscience mapping in Canada as a significant component. The PDAC will be accepting applications for the 2010 award until **December 15, 2009**. The award will be presented either at the PDAC's annual convention in **March 2010** or at the annual meeting of the Geological Association of Canada, depending on the winning student's preference. An all-expenses paid trip to either meeting is offered to the successful applicant.

Geoscience mapping became a passion for Mary-Claire and she persuasively argued in many submissions to government that it should be regarded as one of Canada's key competitive advantages. "The contribution of our government geological surveys to the geoscience knowledge base is critical to the continued development of mineral resources in this country," she wrote in one appeal to government. "Canada and its provinces cannot continue to enjoy the revenues from the wealth created from our mineral resources without contributing to the knowledge base essential to their discovery."

Through her volunteer work on the board at the PDAC, where she was chair of the geoscience committee, as president of the Geological Association of Canada, as the PDAC representative on the Canadian Geoscience Council and the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, she made many contributions to her chosen field.

Her dedication to geology was matched by her enthusiasm and the dash of wicked humour that she brought to her work. Ward is said to have taken particular delight in one government program, the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy (CGMS), after she learned that a prominent cabinet minister was reputed to have said that he just agreed to support the program "to get that woman off my back," a reference to Mary-Claire's take-no-prisoners lobby efforts.

Michelle Dewolfe, the first of five students who have received the award to date, described it as the one award, of several that she has received, of which she is most proud. That's because Dewolfe said it came with a better-than-average financial gift, a fully-funded trip to the PDAC convention in Toronto, and unexpected prestige and publicity within the industry. "I was in the airport in Flin Flon, returning from a field session when I introduced myself to an industry geologist there," explained Dewolfe. The geologist surprised her, she said, by replying 'Yes, and didn't you win the Mary-Claire Award?'

Andrew Parmenter, who won the 2007 award, says that, aside from the financial contribution, which he used to fix his car and pay off his credit card bill, it gave him invaluable exposure to industry leaders that he hoped would help him get his career started. "The luncheon on the final day was slightly overwhelming but also amazing for networking and meeting the types of influential people that are working to sustain this industry in Canada," Parmenter said.

Ward, herself, would have appreciated that kind of assistance. She was born in Dublin and, after getting her BSc, worked for a year as an office geologist for a Canadian mining company there. She had originally intended to be a nuclear physicist but after taking a first-year geology course decided that geoscience held a special appeal for her. In 1967, when jobs were short in Ireland, she came to Canada. At the time of her death, she was vice-president of the independent geology consulting firm Watts, Griffiths and McOuat Ltd.

But 40 years ago, women were not readily accepted in the industry. "It was a little tough in those days," Ward recalled once. "The first six years after graduation I wasn't allowed to do field work. People just didn't allow women out there. It's amazing when you think of it now."

For more information about the Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award, go to www.pdac.ca or www.gac.ca.

Yves Fortier Earth Science Journalism Award

The Yves Fortier Award of the Geological Association of Canada (GAC®) is awarded for excellence in journalistic presentation of earth science in the newspaper medium. Nominations may be submitted by journalists, newspapers, science writers or members of the GAC. Information on the

submission requirements, including the entry form, for a nomination can be found on the GAC website www.gac.ca/awards/Fortier_journalism_award.php. Award nominations should be filed no later than January 31, 2010.

Call for Nominations, CFES/FCST Mentorship Medal

Mentorship is recognized as a critical part of professional and academic development and is vital to the health of any professional community. The CFES/FCST mentorship medal was created in 2008 to recognize the sustained and inspirational mentorship of colleagues and employees including peers, graduate students, undergraduate students and technicians. The medal was set up in honour of Paul F. Williams, a geologist known for scientific and mentoring excellence, candour and integrity, who was its first recipient.

The CFES/FCST Mentorship medal will be presented annually to an individual from Canadian

academia, government or industry. The sole criterion for the medal is excellence in mentoring over a sustained period of time. The guidelines for nominating a candidate can be found on www.geoscience.ca/awards.html. The nomination deadline for the 2010 award is October 31, 2009.

Members of the mentorship awards committee are Shoufa Lin, University of Waterloo (chair), Daniel Lebel (Environment Canada, Dartmouth), Rod Thomas (Votorantim Metals, Toronto), and Elisabeth Kusters (CFES/FCST, ex officio).

South-Central Ontario Fossils

A Guide to the Ancient Marine Life of the Region

By William A. Hessin (2009)

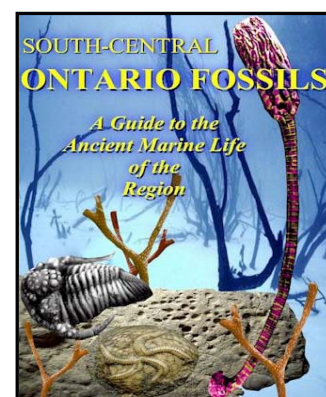
ISBN 978-0-9813428-0-1

286 pages, CD-ROM (PDF)

This new comprehensive guide book is a must for all fossil collectors who live in the area or might visit the south-central Ontario region. Over 300 different fossils belonging to at least 27 major groups are identified in the 286 page book (PDF) on CD-ROM. These fossils represent the once living creatures that lived in the warm, shallow seas of Ordovician times (ca. 450 million years ago) of the region. The work also summarizes the rock formations the fossils are found in and covers over 100 fossil collecting localities.

The guide is illustrated with over 300 text figures including the fossils themselves, maps and charts. In many cases several views of each fossil type are included to aid in fossil identification. The text provides useful descriptions to accompany the illustrations as well as information about the biology of the once living organisms.

Every purchase of the CD-ROM “South-Central Ontario Fossils ... A Guide to the Ancient Marine Life of the Region” includes a Bonus CD which is a Supplement to the main guide. It is entitled: “Quick Reference Fossil Identification Plates” and consists of 47 full page plates composed of 519 individual photographs of fossils. It is an excellent way to visually compare your unidentified fossil then look it up in the index of the main book to find detailed information on the fossil.





GEOstamps

By Sandy McCracken

Gold Panning

On August 1 last year, Canada Post issued a 52 cent stamp to celebrate British Columbia's 150th anniversary and recognize the pivotal role of the Fraser River gold rush in the province's creation.



The stamp has a gold-panning image in which a panner's hand outlines the province's eastern border. The image is superimposed over a modern-day map of B.C. This isn't the first Canadian stamp to show a gold pan. A 5 cent stamp featuring a prospector panning for gold on the banks of a mountain a stream was issued in 1958 for the centenary of BC. This stamp was also recognizing the Fraser River gold rush. And a stamp celebrating the 50 years since the discovery of gold at Yellowknife was released in 1984.

Roadside Attractions

One of the four stamps in this set depicts an inukshuk (inuksuk) so it qualifies as a geostamp. This is part of a new series on an interesting phenomenon – roadside distractions. This stamp shows the inukshuk at Hay River, NWT. This was built in 1978 as a symbol for the Arctic Winter Games.

An interesting website is “Large Canadian Roadside Attractions” <http://www.roadsideattractions.ca/> - you can search by type “Animals, Mythical/Extinct”, which has numerous dinosaurs, “Coins” includes the famous Big Nickel, miners and prospectors are listed under “People” (see also www.bigthings.ca/). I'd illustrate some of these but I want to avoid a copyright problem.



2010 Stamp Program

The sneak preview of Canadian geostamps for next year are pretty slim. The only rock-related stamp will be one of the next set of four stamps in the

Roadside Attraction series. Happy Rock at Gladstone, Manitoba is apparently honoured (see the attractions website – he looks like a grey Spongebob in a top hat and tuxedo).

GEOcoins

Coal mining coins

The Royal Canadian Mint has recently released coins of interest to GEOLOG readers. As their fifth coin in their continuing Historical Commerce series, the 2009 Coal Mining Trade coin shows a miner pushing a cart loaded with rounded lumps of coal (possibly for the Christmas stocking stuffing trade). The Mint has used laser technology on the \$200 coin to make “the coal shimmer in black against 22 karat gold”. The coin is also available as a \$20 coin in fine silver.



Prehistoric coins

The third in a four-coin series featuring dinosaur fossils (in skeleton form) is the 2009 *Tyrannosaurus rex* coin. This is a \$4 coin in pure silver proof finish. A finish has been applied to the rock and fossil image to give an aged appearance. The first of these \$4 coins was released in 2007 (*Parasaurolophus*). The second coin (2009) is *Triceratops*. The last in the series will be released in 2010 - *Dromaeosaurus*.



The RCM also has a more expensive series of \$300 coins in 1 ounce platinum – the 2009 scimitar cat (*Homotherium serum*) – \$3419.95 – unfortunately all 200 coins have been sold out. This is the second in a “fascinating, upscale series featuring prehistoric animals” – the first being the 2007 mammoth coin. In these coins, the extinct animals are fleshed out depictions, not skeletal images.





GEObooks

Looking Through Stone: Poems About the Earth

By Susan Ioannou (2007)

Your Scrivener Press, Sudbury, ON. 107 pages

ISBN: 978-1-896350-22-6. \$17.00

“Hmm, looking through stone?” I thought to myself, as I spotted this book on the display shelf, “How can you possibly do that? Stone’s opaque surely. Sounds curious!” On my way to an evening symphony concert last winter, I’d arrived downtown way too early and so I’d taken the opportunity to browse the aisles in one of Edmonton’s fine independent bookstores. With that striking title, the book was just too intriguing to resist, so I made the purchase and settled down in the theatre atrium to read it while sipping a cup of coffee. I wanted to see if the writer, Ontario-based poet Susan Ioannou, could really show me how to look through stone.

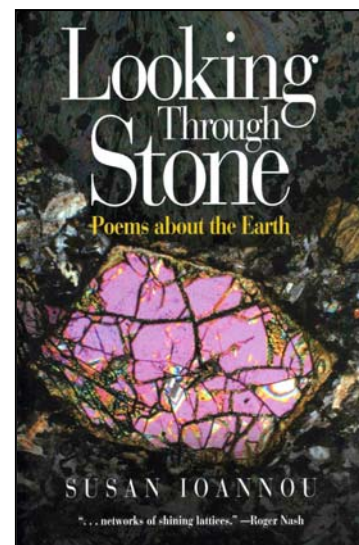
Ioannou tells us that, like many parents, she became interested in what her son was studying in graduate school. In her case, he was completing a PhD in geology, so that turned her attention to the materials that make up the earth. Already a published poet, she found “exploring the science of rocks and minerals a refreshing change from writing personal lyrics”. *Looking Through Stone* is the result of that exploration. Her collection is a reminder that there are many ways of looking at the earth. The dispassionate eye of a petrologist looks at rocks for structures and clues to origins. The prospector examines rocks for their potential economic yield. An artisan or craftsman searches for beauty and workable material. The poet contemplates rocks and minerals as things of splendor in their own right, beyond any utilitarian function. “Science analyses, and art creates metaphors,” declares Ioannou in her preface. She explores beyond the geologist’s field and draws together information from diverse sources – science, technology, mythology, and folklore – to construct her perspective on the earth and the materials of which it is composed.

In *Looking Through Stone*, Ioannou delves into many aspects of geology, from exploration to mining, from lava to gemstones. The sixty-three

poems are organized in four sections – *Petra*, *Metallica*, *Gem Lure*, and *Going Under* – book-ended by a prologue and epilogue. Stylistically and in terms of approach to their subject matter, they fall into two groups, with *Petra* and *Going Under* forming one, and *Metallica* and *Gem Lure* comprising the other.

Throughout, Ioannou incorporates technical terminology with everyday words in an interesting and sometimes startling contrast. In our workaday world we tend to forget the oddity and richness of the language used in geology – igneous, metamorphic, and kimberlite - and mineralogy – opal, amethyst, and geode. Ioannou has mined this evocative vocabulary and in doing so finds that *even the words are solid / enough to pan for sound*. The language of geology has a rhythm and timbre of its own. In *Even the Words*, Ioannou savours the sounds of geological terminology, observing that *Beyond tight definition / their syllables bristle and throb / more than full of themselves*.

Most of the twenty-three poems of *Metallica* and *Gem Lure* focus on one metal element, gemstone or semi-precious stone. The metals are identified by a significant and distinctive characteristic. Thus Ioannou classifies copper as *The Power Metal*, lead as *The Oldest Metal*, and tin as *The Vital Metal*. For each, she combines information about its physical properties with the way in which these are reflected in the uses of the metal through the ages. Platinum is *A metal so hard, / to melt it: 1,775 degrees. / To boil it: 2,000 degrees more. / In open air / it will not tarnish / at any temperature*. And we learn that *tin coats cookie sheets and grocery cans, / solders drinking-water pipes, / or as fluoride toothpaste / shines up fillings*. Interwoven with this rather plain recitation of facts are aspects of folklore or beliefs about each metal’s properties, occasionally leavened by reference to its use in alchemy or medicine. *The Lunar Metal* is *the moon’s tears / falling to earth as silver, / or so the Incas believed*. Lead has more sinister associations



and is linked to Saturn, time and death, whereas alchemists believed that mercury meant both / death and life, heaven and earth. Indeed, Ioannou is fascinated by the many ways in which earth materials have symbolic meanings within cultures. We are familiar with diamond rings or gold bands as indications of commitment but many other metals or gems are associated with major life events, especially birth and death. In ancient Egypt, Ioannou tells us, *Cleopatra's mummies bore / emeralds to reach their afterworld*, whereas hematite in the form of *red ochre painted / cave walls, tombs, and beloved dead / for astral travel to the afterworld*. Ioannou ranges far afield to find further examples of folk beliefs drawn from many traditions.

This seems to me a type of poetry for the Internet age, pulling together an odd juxtaposition of factoids, some true, some bizarre, just as one might find in an on-line search. The accumulation of factual snippets can seem merely trite and banal and at times this structural approach seems overly contrived and constraining. Yet at its best, such as in the poem *The Metal of Heaven: Iron*, somehow the whole *mélange* works. Certainly, when Ioannou gets away from details and allows her imagination more play, the poems take on greater resonance. Maybe this is why I find the poems of *Petra* and *Going Under* more appealing and successful.

Petra, comprising twenty-two poems, deals mainly with rocks and geological processes, while the sixteen poems of *Going Under* describe aspects of mining and extractive industries. Here the focus is more active, highlighting larger themes, such as the grand cycles of erosion, earth movements, and mineral formation. Ioannou also introduces some of the people who make their living from the earth. Thus we try to interpret complex data with *The Magnetometrist*, spend time taking a *Mineralogy*

Lesson, and walk beside a *Prospector* who *one May morning, strides over the hills / to the edge of a shallow stream in search of leftover volcanics / for crumbly, dark kimberlite*. Now the scope narrows and Canada, especially the Canadian Shield, becomes the center of attention. Many of these poems feature scenes from working life, especially the hard grind involved in mining, prospecting and other types of geological fieldwork. The darker side of mining is not ignored as Ioannou recounts some *Horror Stories* of lives destroyed by the pernicious effects of cyanide or silicosis. Yet she also expresses awareness of the intangible rewards and pleasures of the field geologist's predominantly outdoor life. In *He Sits*, a geologist pauses on a high ridge to enjoy the landscape. There *he sits atop his world, / face full of light, knowing that in fissures and dust there is meaning / beyond the mere metallic / excuse for his coming*.

Ioannou's poems are straightforward, mostly narrative and primarily descriptive. They are readily accessible and written in simple language. Beyond geological terms, they contain no arcane words, contorted structures, convoluted metaphors or complex imagery, nor do they contain jingling rhymes. Like the rocks they describe, these poems are direct and uncompromising. The world of bioscience has long had its poets; anthologies abound with fine word-paintings of animals and plants. The world of geoscience is much overdue for a similar treatment and spotlight. In this collection, Susan Ioannou has made a valuable contribution to this enterprise. And, along the way, she amply succeeds in showing us different ways to look through stone.

Alwynne B. Beaudoin
Edmonton, Alberta



National Science and Technology Week
“Exploration and Discovery: Past, Present and Future”
October 16 – 25

National Science and Technology week will be co-hosted by Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Space Agency. For more details please visit:
<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6CC62559-1>



GEOcalendar

* new

2009

October 18 – 21

GSA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

Web:

www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/index.htm

*October 25 – 30

79th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), Houston, TXWeb: <http://bit.ly/1BPVGo>

*October 27 – 28

Young Earth Sciences for Society (YES) 2009 Roundtable Symposia, Beijing, China

Web:

www.yescongress2009.org/RoundtableDetails/Roundtables.html

*November 7 – 9

Arctic in Rapid Transition (ART) Initiation Workshop, Fairbanks, AK

Web: www.aosb.org/art.html

November 17 – 19

Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, Yellowknife, NT

Web: www.nwtgeoscience.ca/forum/

November 22 – 25

Yukon Geoscience Forum, Whitehorse, YT

Web: www.ycmines.ca/forum.html

*November 23 – 26

Quebec Exploration 2009, Quebec City, QC

Web:

www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/mines/quebec-mines/index.asp

*December 4 – 12

International Polar Year International Early Career Researcher Symposium, Victoria, BC

Web:

http://apecs.is/index.php?view=details&id=47&victoria09&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=83

2010

January 18 – 21

Mineral Exploration Roundup, Vancouver, BC

Web: www.amebc.ca/

*March 16 – 19

2010 State of the Arctic Conference, Miami, FL

Web: <http://bit.ly/1ZR8W>

*March 29 – April 1

6th Annual IMA Modelling Permeable Rocks Conference, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Web:

www.ima.org.uk/Conferences/modelling_permeable_rocks.html/index.html

April 6 – 9

13th Quadrennial IAGOD Symposium, Adelaide, South Australia

Web:

www.geology.cz/iagod/activities/symposia/adelaide-2010

*April 29 – May 1

2010 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining, Columbus, OH

Web: www.siam.org/meetings/sdm10/

May 10 – 13

GeoCanada 2010, Calgary, AB

Web: www.gac.ca/activities/

June 21 – 24

11th Annual International Platinum Symposium, Sudbury, OntarioWeb: <http://11ips.laurentian.ca>

*August 30 – September 3

GeoSciEd VI, International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa

Web:

<http://web.wits.ac.za/NewsRoom/Conferences/GeoSciEd>

*September 5 – 10

11th Congress of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment, Auckland, New ZealandWeb: www.iaeg2010.com/

*October 2 – 5

Society of Economic Geologists Conference, Keystone, CO

Web: <http://www.seg2010.org/>


*October 31 – November 3

GSA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

Web:

www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/index.htm


GEOcalendar



Québec mines Bulletin d'information minière

Québec Mines is a Mining Information Bulletin produced by the Government of Québec

www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/mines/quebec-mines/index.asp

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