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Association of Geology Teachers

A New Affiliated Society of the AAAS

IN May 1938 several professors of geology at colleges in the Midwest organized the Association of College Geology Teachers, as a medium for exchange of ideas, experiences, and teaching techniques. Within a few years membership was opened to teachers in universities, and the word *College* was dropped from the association's name. In November 1951 the association was organized on a national basis. Its purpose, as stated in its constitution, is "to foster improvement in the teaching of the earth sciences at all levels of formal and informal instruction, to emphasize the cultural significance of the earth sciences, and to disseminate knowledge in this field to the general public." Membership is now open to all persons interested in the dissemination of geologic knowledge. At present the association has a membership of approximately 400.

The association meets once a year, usually in the fall in conjunction with the Geological Society of America, for a half-day business and technical session. A feature of the annual meeting that has attracted considerable attention is the Kodachrome slide symposium, at which members show a limited number of their best geologic slides, and arrangements are made for duplication and distribution to other interested members.

The association publishes the semiannual *Journal of Geological Education*. Arrangements are being made to have the journal included in the coverage of *Geological Abstracts*. Editor of the journal is Anastasia Van Burkalow, Hunter College. The directory, *Departments of Geological Science in Educational Institutions of the United States and Canada*, which has been issued for several years by the American Geological Institute, will henceforth be issued biennially under the sponsorship of the asso-

ciation. Compilation is handled by S. W. Lowman, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

At its 1952 meeting, the association established an annual award for eminence in stimulating interest in the earth sciences, to be named for Neil Alden Miner, late professor of geology at Cornell College and a founder of the association. The award was given to F. M. Fryxell of Augustana College in 1953 and to W. H. Shideler of Miami University in 1954. From time to time the association also presents honorary memberships to distinguished individuals in the field. Men so honored have been M. M. Leighton, K. F. Mather, J. L. Rich, and A. C. Trowbridge.

The association is composed of six sections: New England, Eastern, East-Central, Central, Southeastern, and Far Western. Organization of a northwestern section is being considered. New members usually affiliate with the section in or nearest to which they work, although it is possible to join the association on an unaffiliated basis. Each section has its own officers and bylaws and meets once a year, usually in the spring. Sectional meetings generally involve a 1-day technical session, with an evening banquet and a field trip.

The association is a member of the American Geological Institute and an affiliate of the AAAS. National officers for 1955-56 are president, W. H. Shideler, Miami University; vice president, S. G. Bergquist, Michigan State University; secretary, R. L. Bates, Ohio State University; treasurer, C. G. Higgins, University of California (Davis). The executive committee includes these officers, the last past president, the section presidents, the directors on the board of the AGI, and the representative on the council of the AAAS.

ROBERT L. BATES

Columbus, Ohio

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