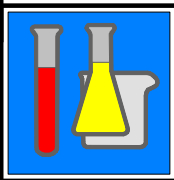




THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 4

December, 2007

ISSN 0743-3816

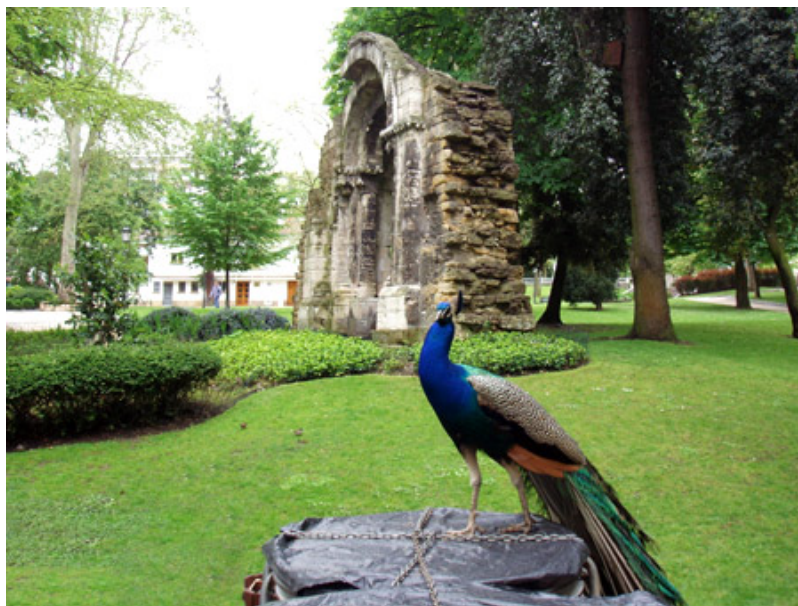


La Catedral de Oviedo, Spain

**2008:
The 25th Annual TSOP Meeting with
ICCP will be in
Oviedo, Spain.**

Meeting information available
at

www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop



Campo de San Francisco, Oviedo, Spain

**25th Annual TSOP Meeting with ICCP
September 22-28, 2008
Oviedo, Spain
See pages 11-13**

Conference Themes Include:

- **Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic Geochemistry.**
- **Applied Organic Petrology to Coal utilization and coal by-products.**
- **Organic Petrology in the context of Clean Coal Technologies**
- **Organic Petrology and Environment**

Meeting details at the website below:

www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop

Planned Schedule Includes:

Sunday, September 21:

Ice Breaker and ICCP Council Meetings

Monday September 22:

ICCP Commission Meetings

Tuesday, September 23:

ICCP Commission and Council Meetings

Wednesday, September 24:

ICCP Commission and Plenary Meetings

TSOP Council Meeting

Thursday, September 25:

TSOP Technical Sessions and Business Lunch

Joint TSOP-ICCP Science Session

Friday, September 26:

TSOP Technical and Poster Sessions

Evening Conference Dinner

Saturday, August 27:

Field Trip to Asturian Jurassic and Museum

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at www.tsop.org. You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Paul Hackley <phackley@usgs.gov> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to **AGI's Geotimes**, see their web site at www.geotimes.org/current

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter

ISSN 0743-3816 published quarterly

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**DEADLINES: March Issue: March 5, 2008
June Issue: June 5, 2008**

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Color illustrations may be possible in some issues.

Please do not embed **graphics** or **photos** in word processor files. You can provide photos or other graphics as slides or prints (which will be returned after being scanned) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) via email or on cd or dvd. Low resolution images are discouraged as they cannot be reproduced well in print. **Text** is preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the Editor:

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Address Changes

Please report any changes in address or contact information to:

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U.S. Geological Survey
956 National Center
Reston, VA 20192 USA
e-mail: phackley@usgs.gov

Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

www.tsop.org

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

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Cover photos of Oviedo, Spain, location of the upcoming 2008 TSOP and ICCP Meeting.

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Officers and Committee Chairs are reminded to provide their records to Ken Kuehn, **TSOP Archivist**. Please contact Ken at kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu for further information.

* * * * *

President's Letter

Dear TSOP Members,

This is going to be a very short note informing you of a change on the Council. Jennifer O'Keefe, our Student Representative and Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, has resigned her position. She is leaving to finish her dissertation and teach in her current full-time tenure track position. On behalf of the Society, I wish her luck and thank her for her service. I am currently looking for a replacement for Jen and if you have suggestions, I'd appreciate hearing from you. The primary responsibilities include serving as a representative on the Council and organizing student events at the Annual meeting.

Included in this newsletter you will find a CD-ROM of the Delegate Manual from the 2007 Victoria meeting and scanned copies of all of our Program and Abstracts volumes from 1984 to 2006. As a special added feature, the 1987 and 1992 field trip guides and the 1989 fluorescence workshop notes are also included. We have Peter Warwick to thank for the Herculean task of finding and scanning the entire collection of TSOP Programs and Abstracts. Thank you Peter! And my special thanks to Alex Karlsen, a USGS geologist, who helped organize and create the CD-ROM.

Enjoy your holidays, and please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or advice.

Best,
Jingle Ruppert

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Email Updates Needed!

Just a friendly reminder to TSOP Members to make sure they have an up-to-date email address on file with TSOP. Email is an important and useful method for the TSOP Council to contact members and disseminate information and receive notice that the latest issue of the Newsletter is available.

If you have changed email addresses recently, please remember to send the new email address to the Editor at rwalker@coalpetrography.com.

To check whether TSOP has your current email address, please consult your current copy of the TSOP Membership Directory.

* * * * *

Call for Research Subcommittees

After being active for several years the two research subcommittees sponsored by TSOP are nearing completion of their work. The Research Committee is therefore calling for

proposals for new subcommittees. Sponsorship by TSOP of a research proposal has advantages. Among them are the following: 1) having an international network of colleagues to consult and assist 2) the potential to receive grants from TSOP of up to \$1000 US per year to pursue the research and 3) the prestige of having one's project officially sponsored by an international scientific society.

Starting a Research Sub-committee

Starting a Research Subcommittee is a straightforward process. New subcommittees may be initiated at any time. A proposal is submitted to the Research Committee Chairman using the form provided for that purpose. With the endorsement of the Research Committee Chairman, the proposal is submitted to Council for approval at its mid-year or annual meetings. Monetary grants (\$1000 US per year) are available through Council to pursue subcommittee activities. A subcommittee chairman will be nominated by the Research Committee Chairman (generally the principle investigator) and approved by Council. A subcommittee is discontinued when there has been no activity for two years. There is presently no limit on the number of years a subcommittee may exist as long as there is progress on the research.

To receive a copy of the Proposal Form for TSOP Sponsored Research Subcommittees, please email Suzanne Russell at sj russ@sbcglobal.net.

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2008 Oviedo Meeting Website Announcement

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee for the Joint ICCP-TSOP Meeting that will be held in Oviedo, Spain from September 21-27, 2008, it is a pleasure to inform you that you will find information about this meeting at the Conference Website:

www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop

This Web site can be also reached via the ICCP and TSOP Web pages.

The Joint Meeting is being organized by the Instituto Nacional del Carbon INCAR (CSIC) in Oviedo (Spain).

Conference oral session and posters include the following themes:

- Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic Geochemistry.
- Applied Organic Petrology for coal utilization and coal by-products.
- Organic Petrology in the context of Clean Coal Technologies.
- Organic Petrology and the Environment.

Abstracts for oral presentations and/or posters should be submitted by April 15, 2008.

Please visit the website for further details or contact:

Isabel Suarez-Ruiz

Email: isruiz@incar.csic.es

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TSOP Web Site News

By David Glick,
Internet Committee Chair

Please tell colleagues and students about the newly updated Join TSOP! Why and How page which can be accessed near the top of the home page. Council members and others have recently updated this page; it now lists benefits of joining TSOP and provides statistics on the fields, occupations and locations of the membership. Benefits for student members are discussed as well. The membership application form can be downloaded from this page.

The home page also now features a link to the 2008 Meeting web site which is operated by the meeting organizers. That site has full information about the meeting, registration, abstracts, field trip, etc.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of an anonymous contributor, the References section has once again been updated and expanded. A new section on sampling has been added, so 29 categories of bibliographic references are now provided:

General References on Organic Petrology and Geochemistry:

- Kerogen Isolation
- Visual Kerogen Analysis
- Rock-Eval
- Coalbed Methane (short list)
- Coalbed Methane (full list)
- Coalbed-Methane Associated Water
- Coal Mine Methane
- Coal as Oil Source Rock
- Solid Hydrocarbons
- CO₂ Sequestration
- Oil Shale
- Chemistry of Coal Macerals
- Macerals in Reflected White Light
- Fluorescence Microscopy
- Quantitative Fluorescence
- Vitrinite Reflectance Analysis
- Vitrinite Reflectance
- Suppressed Reflectance
- Effects of Overpressure on Vitrinite Reflectance
- Bitumen Reflectance
- Zooclast Reflectance
- Minerals in Coal

- Mineral Matrix Effects
- Coal Balls
- Coal Exploration
- Sampling
- Weathering and Oxidation
- Combustion

Through the years we have heard that this section is useful in attracting new users to the TSOP web site. Suggested additions may be sent to David Glick, Internet Committee Chair: xidg@verizon.net.

* * * * *



Call for nominations for the 2008 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award

Deadline: March 15th, 2008

You are invited to nominate the scientist of your choice for the 2008 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, The Society for Organic Petrology's highest honor (www.tsop.org/honmem.htm). The award acknowledges distinction in a scientific discipline of significance to the Society, in recognition of contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. The John Castaño Honorary Membership confers life membership in the Society. It is named in honor of John Castaño, one of our most active Houston-based founding members. John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later, as President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area, and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. John served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June 1997 issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

If you would like to suggest a candidate for the 2008 Castaño Honorary Membership Award, **please submit a letter of recommendation and a brief vita of the nominee to Hamed Sanei (Geological Survey of Canada, 3303-33rd Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2L 2A7, E-mail: hsanei@nrcan.gc.ca) by March 15th, 2008. It is suggested that supporting letters of recommendation from colleagues and other scientists accompany the package. Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work.**

Nominations are reviewed by the Castaño Award Committee and results are announced at the Annual Meeting. The selection process is confidential and nominees do not have to be former or current TSOP members.

The committee evaluates research, service and educational impact on the following criteria:

- Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.
- Nominees recommended for service must demonstrate significance contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the Society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the Society.
- Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines.

Dr. Hamed Sanei,
TSOP Vice-President and
Chair of the Honorary Member Selection Committee

* * * * *

50th TSOP Meeting

As advertised, the 2008 joint meeting of TSOP and ICCP will be the 60th meeting of ICCP and the 25th meeting of TSOP. TSOP, however, was the direct descendant of North American Coal Petrographers, which met 25 times under various names from 1956 to 1983 (we acknowledge Dennis Kaegi for compiling this list for the 1983 North American Coal Petrographers meeting). With organized sessions and printed abstracts, the last few meetings of North American Coal Petrographers were taking on the form still recognizable in the TSOP meetings. The final North American meeting, organized by Dennis Kaegi and hosted by Inland Steel, included a discussion by John Castaño, representing the Houston Committee for Organic Petrography, on the formalization of an organization for coal and organic petrology. In this manner, the loosely organized North American meetings continued as the more formally organized TSOP meetings.

North American Coal Petrographers, with its roots in the steel industry in the eastern United States (Dutcher and Crelling, 2000; Spackman, 2000; Thompson, 2000), was the organization from which TSOP, with meetings on five continents in six years from 2004 to 2009, has grown to become the primary means of disseminating research results in

organic petrology. Even though the 2008 meeting will be TSOP's 25th session, we should recognize the deeper roots of the organization.

Meetings of predecessors of The Society for Organic Petrology:

1. Eastern American Anthracologists, 12 March 1956, US Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh
2. Eastern American Anthracologists, 26-27 May 1958, Penn State
3. Eastern American Anthracologists, 8-9 April 1959, Harvard
4. American Coal Petrographers, 26 January 1962, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
5. American Coal Petrographers, 7 March 1962, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
6. American Coal Petrographers, 9 May 1962, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
7. American Coal Petrographers, 3 October 1962, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
8. American Coal Petrographers, 23 January 1963, US Steel, Pittsburgh
9. North American Coal Petrographers, 9 May 1963, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
10. North American Coal Petrographers, 23 October 1963, Penn State
11. North American Coal Petrographers, 4-5 February 1964, US Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh
12. North American Coal Petrographers, 8-9 October 1964, Illinois State Geological Survey
13. North American Coal Petrographers, 13 May 1965, Bituminous Coal Research, Pittsburgh
14. American Anthracologists, 4 March 1966, Penn State
15. American Coal Petrographers, 30 June 1966, Bethlehem Steel
16. American Coal Petrographers, 15 December 1966, Institute of Gas Technology, Chicago
17. North American Coal Petrographers, 28 March 1967, Geological Survey of Canada
18. North American Coal Petrographers, 9-10 October 1969, Geological Survey of Canada
19. North American Coal Petrographers, 5-6 June 1972, Penn State
20. North American Coal Petrographers, 11-13 May 1975, Southern Illinois University
21. North American Coal Petrographers, 9-11 May 1976, West Virginia University
22. North American Coal Petrographers, 25-26 January 1978, Cincinnati
23. North American Coal Petrographers, 1-3 April 1980, Southern Illinois University
24. North American Coal Petrographers, 2-4 December 1981, University of Kentucky
25. North American Coal Petrographers, 16-18 November 1983, Merrillville, Indiana

Dutcher, L. A. F., & Crelling, J. C., 2000. History of applied

coal petrology in the United States. I. Early history of the application of coal petrography in the steel industry. *International Journal of Coal Geology* 42, 93-101.

Spackman, W., 2000. History of applied coal petrology in the United States. II. A personalized history of the origin and development of applied coal petrology at the Pennsylvania State University. *International Journal of Coal Geology* 42, 103-114.

Thompson, R. R., 2000. History of applied coal petrology in the United States. III. Contributions to applied coal and coke petrology at the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. *International Journal of Coal Geology* 42, 115-128.

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Dr. Sue Rimmer (University of Kentucky) selected for 2007 AWG Outstanding Educator Award

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sue Rimmer was selected by the Association of Women Geoscientist (AWG) to receive the 2007 Outstanding Educator Award. This prestigious award was established in 1988 to honor educators who have played a significant role in the education, support and encouragement of women geoscientists. Awardees are selected on the basis of their contributions as professionals, involvement with professional societies or groups, and/or participation in science education programs in their community. Sue's nomination, initiated by students Rachael Von Mann and Lois Yoksoulia, included letters of recommendation from professional colleagues Dr. Harry Rowe, Dr. Dave Moecher and Dr. Paul Howell, former students Sarah Hawkins and Jennifer Thompson and current students Julie Floyd, Rachael Von Mann and Lois Yoksoulia.

It is no coincidence that ~65% of Sue's past and current students are women. As one of the very few female faculty members within the department over the years, Sue has served as a positive role model for many female students, graduate and undergraduate alike. Her presence in this department has promoted diversity within the graduate student body by encouraging female undergraduates to not only pursue graduate studies, but to do so at University of Kentucky. Her enthusiasm for her and her students' work, ideas for challenging and stimulating research and ability to balance her work and family life are just a few reasons why Sue's students find her so appealing to work with.

Although it might seem appropriate to discuss Sue's professional achievements, I would much rather take this opportunity to share what others around our department think of her, as presented in her letters of recommendation for this award:

"There is no faculty member in our department whom I hold in higher esteem for dedication to the academic ideals of disciplinary research, teaching/mentoring, and community building than Sue Rimmer...She has a remarkable working

relationship with her students, from fresh undergraduates with little experience working in her lab to Ph.D. students diving headlong into complex dissertations...Sue is an all-around academician – cutting-edge researcher, mentor to her graduate students, able community member – and she balances it all with her other lives" - Dr. Paul Howell, former Associate Professor, University of Kentucky

"As director of Undergraduate Studies, I maintain a keen interest in the quality of undergraduate instruction. I need not worry about Sue giving the students the best they deserve. She is the most conscientious faculty member we have teaching at both instructional levels. I greatly value having her as a colleague..." -Dr. Dave Moecher, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Kentucky

"During my time at UK, Sue was a clear model of well-rounded professionalism...As dean and in the department, she aggressively supported the recruiting of female faculty members and female graduate students, and has acted as a mentor to assure the success of both." -Jennifer A. Thompson, Professional Geologist, KY Department for Natural Resources, (M.S., 2004)

"Experiencing the guidance and leadership exhibited by an excellent female mentor in the geosciences such as Sue is rare...[The] formula for success that Sue has cultivated in her lab has instilled a sense of teamwork and mutual support in her students for each other. We take this attitude with us to our future places of work, and it continues to add to the strength of our working environment, and will likely do so throughout our careers." - Sarah Hawkins, Pioneer Natural Resources, (M.S., 2006)

"Dr. Rimmer was instrumental in my choosing the field of Geology. I am a non-traditional student and mother of three who is currently pursuing a M.S. degree...When I chose to make a drastic career change to Geology, I sought the advice of Dr. Rimmer...She was forthright in explaining the challenges that lay ahead of me, but offered encouragement that my goals could be met. As a result of that one conversation, I made a career change to Geology." -Julie Floyd, current M.S. student

"She is clear with her expectations, quick to respond when you need help, and even quicker to praise you when you succeed, even if all you did is crush rock samples...Sue believes in what this department can become, as she believes in what her students can become." - Rachael Von Mann, current M.S. student

"Dr. Rimmer is hardworking and devoted, yet light-hearted and fun to work with. She is committed to her work, her students and her family. Most importantly, she maintains all of these qualities with the utmost professionalism and integrity in a way that inspires those around her."

-Lois Yoksoulia, current Ph.D. student

Dr. Sue Rimmer was honored at the 2007 GSA Annual Meeting

AWG Breakfast in Denver, CO on Monday, October 29th. Several attendees spoke in Sue's honor, including her oldest son James Stepusin, who flew in from Indianapolis to attend.

Lois Yoksoulian
Ph.D. student, University of Kentucky

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William L. Fisher Congressional Geoscience Fellowship

The American Geological Institute is pleased to announce the William L. Fisher Congressional Geoscience Fellowship. The successful candidate will spend 12 months (starting September 2008) in Washington, DC, working as a staffer for a Member of Congress or congressional committee. The fellowship is a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the legislative process and contribute to the effective use of geoscience in crafting public policy.

Minimum requirements are a master's degree with at least three years of post-degree work experience or a Ph.D. at the time of appointment. The fellowship carries an annual stipend of up to \$55,000. Support for the fellowship is provided by an endowment, established through the AGI Foundation, in honor of William L. Fisher.

All application materials must be transmitted by February 1, 2008. For more details, visit www.agiweb.org/gap/csf. AGI is an equal opportunity employer.

Other Fellowship Opportunities:

Several of AGI's Member Societies also sponsor Congressional Science Fellowships. For further information, contact the American Geophysical Union, Geological Society of America, or Soil Science Society of America. AAAS itself also offers a number of fellowships for both Congress and the executive branch. It is acceptable to apply to more than one society and fellowship. Stipends, application procedures, eligibility, timetables, and deadlines vary.

Geoscience Student Internships in Public Policy

AGI seeks outstanding geoscience students with a strong interest in federal science policy for a semester-long internship in geoscience and public policy in Washington DC. Interns will gain a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and the operation of executive branch agencies. They will also hone their writing and Web publishing skills.

AGI is planning to accept three interns for the summer at a fixed stipend of \$4,000 apiece for twelve weeks. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2008. AGI is also planning to accept one intern for fall 2008 at a fixed stipend of \$4,500 for fourteen weeks (application deadline is April 15, 2008) and one intern for spring 2009 at a fixed stipend of \$4,500 for fourteen weeks (application deadline is October 15, 2008).

More information is available at www.agiweb.org/gap/interns/index.html. AGI is an equal

opportunity employer.

Congressional Visits Day (CVD) on March 4-5, 2008

Join us for the 13th annual Congressional Visits Day (CVD) on March 4-5, 2008. This two-day annual event brings scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, and technology executives to Washington to raise visibility and support for science, engineering, and technology. Participants will spend the first day learning about how Congress works, the current state of the budget process and how to conduct congressional visits. The second day will consist of visits with members of Congress. In addition to the workshops and visits, participants will get to meet other scientists and engineers, meet federal science agency representatives and attend a reception and breakfast at which members of Congress will speak and meet with the audience.

Please consider participating in these visits and plan early to come to Washington DC. Many scientific societies are involved in CVD, including several of AGI's Member Societies. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America are very active participating societies in CVD and can help coordinate your visits. In addition, these societies and AGI will coordinate a geoscience workshop on March 4 for the geoscientists and geo-engineers who participate. Individuals interested in participating should contact the Government Affairs Program at govt@agiweb.org. More details about Congressional Visits Day (CVD) and examples of past visits are available at the Working Group website.

* * * * *

Compression or cuticle - What is the difference?

José A. D'Angelo¹, Erwin L. Zodrow², and Maria Mastalerz³

¹ Department of Chemistry, ICB, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, IANIGLA – CRICYT – CONICET, Av. Ruíz Leal s/n, Parque Gral San Martín (5500) Mendoza, Argentina.

² Department of Geology, Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada B1P6L2

³ Indiana Geological Survey, Indiana University, 611 N. Walnut Grove, Bloomington IN 47405-2208, USA

Organic remains in the form of compression-impression of ancient plants, i.e., fossils, found in the geological record are known in the Western World for about 300 years. These fossils are now recognized as a source of our knowledge, however imperfect it is, of the Carboniferous and Triassic floral landscape. In contrast, fossil cuticles have been known for 152 years (since 1855), but taxonomic study of the cuticle as integral part of the compression is barely 50 years old (Fig. 1).

The questions of plant preservation and pathway of fossilization: 1) what biochemical constituents are preserved of the original plant, 2) what is the relation of the compressions preserved in the roof rocks to the underlying coal seam in terms of diagenetic influences, and 3) what is the

geochemical fate and distribution of the cuticular mass in the entombing rocks during organic metamorphism are discussed by Zodrow et al. (2007). This discussion is based dominantly on Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and functional groups.

The main conclusion of the study is that there is a world of difference between the compression and the cuticle. In the compression, the mesophyllous constituent of a Carboniferous leaf has been transformed into vitrinite which reflects the diagenetic and post-diagenetic histories in parallel with the evolution of the associate coal seam. In contrast, the cuticular component of the same leaf reflects the evolutionary pathway of biomacromolecules and their monomeric (plynomic) fragmentation. These differences have implications for chemotaxonomy of land plants, and terrestrial organic matter in sediments in general.

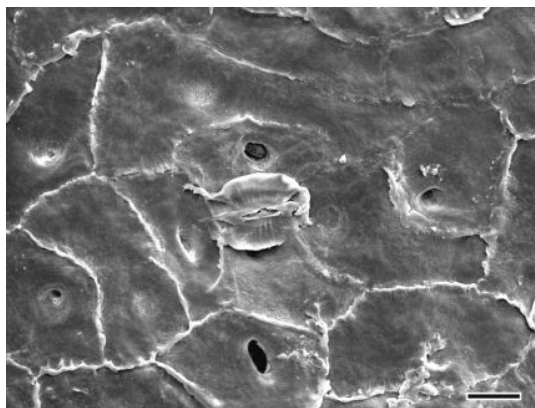


Fig. 1. SEM of an upper cuticle with stoma of an excellently preserved seed-fern *Dicroidium odontopteroides* (Morris) Gothan (Corystospermaceae, Corystospermales). Upper Triassic Cacheuta Formation, Cacheuta hill (1,413 m above sea level), Mendoza, Argentina.

Zodrow, E.L., Mastalerz, M., D'Angelo, J., (in preparation). Foliar compression versus cuticles: insight from FTIR-spectral differences of Late Palaeozoic-Mesozoic seed ferns.

* * * * *

Dr. Jack Crelling, Thiessen Medal Recipient, 2007

The Thiessen Medal is the highest award offered by the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP). In 1956, Dr Clarence Seyler was the first recipient and the award has been made on only 25 occasions since then. The medal is not applied for but rather the award committee decides that an individual deserves recognition for a lifetime of achievement and outstanding contribution in the fields of coal and organic petrology. Recipients do not have to be members of ICCP in order to achieve this recognition and the award itself consists of a bronze medal.

Laudation for Dr Crelling as read by Dr. Fari Goodarzi at the Annual Meeting in Victoria, Canada, 2007

It is my honor on behalf of the Thiessen Medal Award Committee and the ICCP to award the Thiessen medal to Dr. Jack Crelling. Jack is the embodiment of who the medal is designed to recognize - a remarkably successful scientist who devoted his professional career to organic petrology, an exceptional mentor of students and associates and a vital contributor to the success of the ICCP.

Jack received a B.A. Degree in Geology from the University of Delaware in 1964 and a M.S. Degree and PhD Degree in Geology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1968 and 1972 respectively. His time at Penn State was interrupted for two years while he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He started his professional career in 1972 at Bethlehem Steel where he was in charge of the Coal and Coke Petrographic Labs. In 1977 he joined the geology faculty at Southern Illinois University and became the leader of the Coal Characterization Laboratory.

Jack has produced a body of work which stands with the best of the science. Throughout his career, he has been a leader in the petrographic examination of manufactured carbons. He has been an innovator in the petrology and chemistry of maceral separates and in applications of fluorescence microscopy.

Jack has served on the editorial boards of Fuel Processing Technology (1987 - Present), Journal of Sedimentary Petrology (1988-1991), and International Journal of Coal Geology (1998- Present). He has been honored with the Gilbert H. Cady Award from the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (2001), the Joseph Becker Award from the Ironmaking Division of the Iron and Steel Society of AIME (2002), and distinguished service awards from the American Chemical Society Fuel Chemistry Division and the Geological Society of America Coal Geology Division. Jack has published over 100 papers including co authoring land mark books and petrography atlases.

In recognition of his contributions it is our pleasure to present the Thiessen Medal to Dr. Jack Crelling.



Dr. Crelling (center) being presented the Thiessen Medal by Alan Cook with Dr. Goodarzi on the left.

TSOP PUBLICATIONS

TSOP No.	Name of Publication	Price (USD) (includes shipping)
1.	<i>Fluoreszenz von Liptiniten und Vitriniten in Beziehung zu Inkohlungsgrad und Verkokungsverhalten</i> - (in German with photomicrographs) M. Teichmüller, 1982.....	\$5
2.	<i>Fluorescence - microscopical changes of liptinites and vitrinites during coalification and their relationship to bitumen generation and coking behavior</i> , TSOP Special Publication No. I (English translation by Neely Bostick, without photomicrographs) M. Teichmüller, 1984.....	\$5
3.	<i>Influence of Kerogen Isolation Methods on Petrographic and Bulk Chemical Composition of a Woodford Shale Sample</i> , TSOP Research Committee Report, October 1989.....	Sold Out
4.	<i>Fluorescence Microscopy Workshop Lecture Notes</i> , 1989 TSOP Meeting.....	Sold Out
5.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 2nd TSOP Meeting, Houston, TX, 1985; Vol. 11, No. 5, 1987.....	\$5
6.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 3rd TSOP Meeting, Lexington, KY, 1986; Vol. 12, No. 4, 1988.....	\$5
7.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 4th TSOP Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 1987; Vol. 14, No. 3, 1989.....	\$5
8.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 5th TSOP Meeting, Houston, TX, 1988; Vol. 17, No. 2, 1991.....	Sold Out
9.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 6th TSOP Meeting, Urbana, IL, 1989; Vol. 17, No. 4, 1991.....	\$5
10.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 7th TSOP Meeting, Calgary, Alberta, 1990; Vol. 18, No. 3, 1992.....	\$5
11.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 8th TSOP Meeting, Lexington, KY, 1991; Vol. 20, No. 2, 1993.....	\$5
12.	8th TSOP Meeting Field Trip Guidebook, Lexington, KY, 1991.....	\$5
13.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 10th TSOP Meeting, Norman, OK, 1993; Vol. 22, No. 1, 1994.....	\$5
14.	<i>Energy & Fuels</i> , ACS symposium on kerogen/macerals; Vol. 8, No. 6, 1994.....	\$5
15.	12th TSOP Meeting Field Trip Guidebook, The Woodlands, TX, 1995.....	Sold Out
16.	<i>Organic Geochemistry</i> , 11th TSOP Meeting, Jackson, WY, 1994; Vol. 24, No. 2, 1996.....	\$5
17.	<i>International Journal of Coal Geology (IJCG)</i> , 12th TSOP Meeting, The Woodlands, TX, 1995; Vol. 34, Nos. 3-4, 1997.....	\$5
18.	IJCG, 13th TSOP Meeting, Carbondale, IL, 1996; Vol. 37, Nos. 1-2, 1998.....	Sold Out
19.	IJCG, Special Issue: Appalachian Coalbed Methane; Vol. 38, Nos. 1-2, 1998.....	Sold Out
20.	IJCG, 14th TSOP Meeting, Lexington, KY, 1997; Vol. 39, Nos. 1-3, 1999.....	\$5
21.	IJCG, Special Issue: Applied Topics in Coal Geology; Vol. 41, Nos. 1-2, 1999.....	Sold Out
22.	IJCG, 15th TSOP Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1998; Vol. 43, Nos. 1-4, 2000.....	Sold Out
23.	IJCG, 16th TSOP Meeting, Snowbird, Utah, 1999; Vol. 46, Nos. 2-4, 2001.....	\$5
24.	IJCG, 17th TSOP Meeting, Bloomington, Indiana, 2000; Vol. 47, Nos. 3-4, 2001.....	\$5
25.	IJCG, 18th TSOP Meeting, Houston, Texas, 2002; Vol. 54, Nos. 1-2, 2003.....	\$5

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**The ICCP-TSOP Joint Meeting, 2008
September 21-27, 2008 in Oviedo, Spain.**

The ICCP-TSOP Joint Meeting in 2008 (60th Annual Meeting of The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology – ICCP, and the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Organic Petrology – TSOP) will be held at the Auditorium Prince Philip, in Oviedo (Spain) on September 21-27. This Meeting is organized by the Instituto Nacional del Carbón (INCAR-CSIC, www.incar.csic.es)

1- **Key Conference Themes** will include:

- **Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic Geochemistry**
- **Applied Organic Petrology to Coal utilization and coal by-products.**
- **Organic Petrology in the context of Clean Coal Technologies**
- **Organic Petrology and Environment**

2- **Call for Papers:** Submit Abstracts for Technical Oral and Poster Presentations by **April 15, 2008** via Email to:

Dr. Isabel Suarez-Ruiz.
Email: isruiz@incar.csic.es

Address:
Instituto Nacional del Carbon (INCAR-CSIC)
Francisco Pintado Fe, 26
33011-Oviedo. SPAIN

Phone: +34985119090 / +34985118981
Fax: +34985297662

Abstracts must be 250-300 words maximum, sent as Microsoft Word or Text files. Figures, Tables, or special formatting are not required. In the e-mail indicate whether an Oral or Poster presentation is preferred.

After review and notification of acceptance, authors will also be invited to submit their papers for a special issue of the International Journal of Coal Geology.

3- **Registration, Conference Dinner and Field Trip Fees:**

Full Registration includes the participation in both ICCP and TSOP sessions, the ice-breaker party, Business Luncheon and Meet the TSOP Council Event, and coffee breaks.

Registration:

Delegate members : 160 Euro.
Non- members: 200 Euro
Meeting Students: 60 Euro
Meeting Guests: 85 Euro

Conference Dinner: 50 Euro

Field Trip to the Asturian Jurassic Formations: 60 Euro

(All fees must be paid **in cash** at the meeting upon registration)

Additional information about the ICCP-TSOP Joint Meeting is available at: www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop

4- **Meeting Venue**

Oviedo is the capital of the Asturias Principality (North Spain) and is the administrative and commercial centre of the region. Its history can be traced back over 12 centuries. Oviedo is one of the most outstanding cities in Spain, successfully contrasting the modern features and services with its many corners just brimming with history, which are there to be enjoyed by one and all. Oviedo is also characterized by its rich architecture reflected in its Cathedral, Churches, Town Hall, etc. Some of the Oviedo Monuments were declared UNESCO World Heritage since 1985.

More information about Oviedo available at the Website: www.ayto-oviedo.es/en/theCity/theCity.php

The Joint Meeting will be at the Auditorium Prince Philip in Oviedo: A modern building with a neoclassical style erected upon the foundations of old water deposits, whose unique stone structure can be appreciated in various places throughout the edifice.

More information about the meeting venue center available at the Website:

www.ayto-oviedo.es/en/areas/culture/princePhilipAuditorium/princePhilipAuditorium.php

5- Accommodation

A series of hotels from 2 to 5 stars are recommended. These hotels are located in Oviedo downtown close to the Conference venue that may be reached by walking. Delegates must make their own reservations.

Hotel Ramiro I (4 stars): 83 €(single room)- 127 (double room) €plus 7% taxes.

Calvo Sotelo, 13. Oviedo

Phone: +34985232850 /+34902303555

Website: www.hotelramiro.com/.

Hotel Fruela (3 stars): 80 €- 150 €plus 7% taxes

Fruela, 3. Oviedo

Phone: +34985208120

Website: www.hotelfruela.com

Hotel NH Principado (3 stars): 131 €- 175 €plus 7% taxes

San Francisco, 6. Oviedo

Phone: +34985217792

Website: www.nh-hotels.com/

Hotel Occidental de La Reconquista (5 stars): 175€- 220€plus 7% taxes

Gil de Jaz, 16. Oviedo.

Phone: +34985241100

Website: www.hoteldelareconquista.com/

Hotel Santa Clara (2 stars): 50 €- 85€plus 7% taxes

Santa Clara, 1. Oviedo

Phone: +34985222727, Website: www.hscoviedo.com/

Hostal Romero (2 stars): 36 €- 54 €plus 7% taxes

Uria 36-38, 2°. Oviedo.

Phone: +34985227591

Website: www.hostalromero.net/

Email: hostalromero@telecable.es

Accommodation inquiries:

Begoña Ruiz Bobes (begorb@incar.csic.es)

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For more information and general inquiries about the Joint Meeting:

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Joint ICCP-TSOP Meeting, September 21-27 (Sunday-Saturday) 2008. Oviedo (Spain)

Instituto Nacional del Carbón (INCAR - CSIC)

MEETING SCHEDULE

Time	Sunday September 21	Monday September 22	Tuesday September 23	Wednesday September 24	Thursday September 25	Friday September 26	Saturday September 27
8:30 - 9:00		Registration	Registration		ICCP	TSOP	Field trip
9:00 - 9:30			ICCP	ICCP	Pl. Session	Technical Session	Asturian Jurassic and Museum Visit
9:30 - 10:00	Council Meeting	Welcome & ICCP General Assembly	Commission Meeting	Commission Meeting	Joint Scientific Session		
10:00 - 10:30	ICCP				ICCP-TSOP		
10:30 - 11:00					TSOP Technical Session		
11:00 - 11:30					Business Luncheon and Meet the TSOP Council Event	Lunch break	
11:30 - 12:00							
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break			
13:30 - 14:00							
14:00 - 14:30							
14:30 - 15:00							
15:00 - 15:30	Council Meeting ICCP	ICCP	ICCP	ICCP		TSOP Technical Session	
15:30 - 16:00		Commission Meeting	Commission Meeting	Commission Meeting		Poster Session	
16:00 - 16:30							
16:30 - 17:00							
17:00 - 17:30							
17:30 - 18:00							
18:00 - 18:30	Registration & Ice-Breaker Party						
18:30 - 19:00							
19:00 - 19:30							
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23:30 - 24:00							

The Leverhulme Climate Symposium 2008
Earth's Climate: Past, Present and Future

University of Cambridge and the Royal Society,
London
10th - 13th March, 2008

The Symposium will bring together leading scientists from around the world to explore how knowledge gained from understanding past climate change may be applied to the modeling of the Earth's present and future climate and the likely sensitivity of climate to anthropogenic forcing.

The Symposium aims to demonstrate the lessons and strengths of this multidisciplinary approach to government, policy advisors, media, educators and environmental groups. The foundation for a continuing program of joint research will be established and opportunities sought to enhance public understanding of climate change science.

More details at:
www.leverhulmeclimatesymposium.org/

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Spring 2008
American Chemical Society
National Meeting & Exposition

New Orleans, LA USA
April 6 - April 10, 2008

Join us in New Orleans for outstanding technical programming and, for the first time, cosponsored symposia with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Registered attendees from both societies can attend technical symposia at either meeting and explore the ACS Exposition.

The technical program for the Spring 2008 ACS National Meeting & Exposition promises to be robust. In addition to special programming around the theme of "Energy & the Environment," many technical divisions are co-sponsoring symposia with

the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

Network with technical professionals from more than 300 exhibiting companies inside the ACS Exposition who can help you to improve your R&D, business, and laboratory operations. Investigate new technology and techniques in instrumentation, publications, scientific software and hardware, analytical and R&D services, and chromatographic, laboratory and safety equipment and services.

More information at www.chemistry.org.

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European Geosciences Union
General Assembly 2008

Vienna, Austria,
13 – 18 April 2008

The EGU General Assembly will bring together geoscientists from all over Europe and the rest of the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists the EGU appeals to provide a forum to present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcome you in Vienna!

More details at:
<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/>

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Calendar of Events

2008

March 10th – 13th, 2008: The Leverhulme Climate Symposium 2008, London.

www.leverhulmeclimatesymposium.org

April 6 - 10, 2008: American Chemical Society Spring national meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. www.chemistry.org

April 13 – 18, 2008: European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2008, Vienna, Austria. Abstracts due by Jan. 14, 2008.

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/>

April 20 - 23, 2008: AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

www.aapg.org/sanantonio/

May 18 - 23, 2008: 18th International Symposium on Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis (PYR08) Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain. www.pyr08.org

July 13 – 18, 2008: American Carbon Society Carbon 2008 Conference, Nagano, Japan.

<http://endomoribu.shinshu-u.ac.jp/carbon2008/>

August 6-14, 2008: 33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo. Special Session 'Organic Geochemical Archives of Paleoenvironmental Conditions in Sediments of the Deep and Coastal Ocean, Lakes, and Rivers'. www.33igc.org

August 17 - 21, 2008: American Chemical Society Fall national meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. www.chemistry.org

August 30 – September 6, 2008: Joint Congress of the 12th International Palynological Congress and the 8th International Organization of Paleobotany Conference and the 41st AASP Annual Meeting. Bonn, Germany. www.palynology.org

September 29 - October 2, 2008: 25th International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc/2008%20Conference.htm

September 22 - 28, 2008: TSOP and ICCP Joint Annual Meeting, Oviedo, Spain. www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop

October 5 - 8, 2008: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas. Celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth! www.geosociety.org/meetings/

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Calendar Updates Invited!

If you have information on an upcoming meeting that is not currently in the Calendar of Events, please send the information to the Editor at rwalker@coalpetrography.com

Meeting Reports invited!

Reports and photographs from meetings of interest to TSOP members are needed for inclusion in the newsletter. Please refer to article submission guidelines on page 3 and send any reports or pictures to the Editor at rwalker@coalpetrography.com

* * * * *



Happy Holidays to all TSOP Members and their families!

Scope Time

Each day in time I travel
into the years gone by.
A half a billion years to me
is but a twinkling of an eye.

I set the glass, and move the stage,
for a new drama to appear.
I know the life there was,
so few can hold so dear.

I marvel at the beauty
and even see it in its days.
I walk along the pollen path
in a myriad of ways.

Before a man, before a bird,
before a single tree,
but every Era, there it is,
that same great mystery.

I do not know the reasons
why this privilege is mine,
but I'll not lose the blessings
it bestows upon the mind.

I'll hold the images I see
for they are all divine,
then simply open up my eyes
and transcend the cloak of time.

Daniel L. Pearson

