

Notes

SOCIETY VISITORSHIPS

In geological analysis, the experience gained from various terranes has to be assembled for arriving at models. The analysis of geological data also requires the testing of various concepts across different time planes. Time and space variability is thus a crucial factor in the assembly of geological data and information. A logical fall-out of this statement is the desire on the part of active workers to study as many geological terranes as possible. This would enable them to examine modern and ancient analogues, in different contexts. Several geologists feel handicapped in achieving this objective because of the various constraints – primarily the lack of financial resources.

The Society has been conscious of this limitation and is now initiating a programme of Society Visitorships to enable active field geologists to have an opportunity to examine the terranes other than those in which they are normally working. The Society would encourage Earth Scientists to apply for the Society Visitorships programme as it would not only be beneficial to the individual concerned by way of enlarging his own personal experience but will also be beneficial in that it will promote interaction between geologists having varied experience with different geological terranes.

Those seeking to apply for the Society Visitorship programme are encouraged to identify their objectives in the new terranes to be studied. They should also try to identify a host scientist (s) and institutions with which they may wish to interact. The host scientist(s) and institution(s) should preferably be located in or around the new geological terrane with which a Society Visitor is seeking familiarisation. The intending Society Visitor should initiate correspondence and obtain the acceptance of the host scientist(s) and the host institution(s) before making formal request to the Society.

The Society will be able to provide travel, maintenance and field contingent grant to the Society Visitor, not exceeding a sum of Rs. 6000/-. The period of Society Visitorship may vary from 6–12 weeks.

It is emphasised that this programme encourages work only across geological terranes and not within geological terranes.

IUGS TO STUDY THE TERMINAL PRECAMBRIAN

A new Working Group on the Terminal Precambrian System has now been established under the IUGS Commission on Stratigraphy. Its purpose is to study the latest period of the Precambrian, named variously in the past as Sinian, Vendian and Ediacarian, among others. Another aim is to contribute to the global geological time-scale by defining the chronostratigraphic base of the period. Fossils are not uncommon in this part of the geological column and include soft-bodied metazoa, acritarchs, *problematica* and trace fossils that may enable biostratigraphic correlations to be made. Other branches of stratigraphy will also be of importance: climatology (especially with respect to late Precambrian ice-ages), magnetostratigraphy, geochronometry and global sedimentary geology, making up the embracing spectrum of holostratigraphy. The Chairman is A. H. Knoll (Harvard University) and Vice-Chairman is M. R. Walker (Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia).

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