



# ASH FALL

Newsletter of the Volcanology Division  
Geological Association of Canada

#31

November, 1992

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I accept the Chairmanship of the Volcanology Division. The Division was first organized at the 1974 GAC Annual General Meeting held in St. John's; the Division will turn twenty during my tenure as Chairman!

The Division's objectives, as set out in its Constitution, are to: 1) advance the study of the processes and products of volcanism, and 2) to ensure Canadian representation in the international sphere on matters concerning volcanology. The Division has broadened its scope to include igneous petrology but the aims are the same. It is meant to serve its members by increasing awareness of research in volcanology and igneous petrology in Canada and around the world. It has done so by organizing field trips, special sessions and symposia and by awarding prizes in recognition of excellent research. In the international sphere, the Division nominates a candidate for one of two positions representing the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) to the Canadian National Committee (CNC) of the IUGG. This year I have been elected to the CNC to serve a four year term. Another candidate will be sought in 1994 to fill the second position.

As a member of the Division you can have input by contacting any of the Executive and giving them your views on how we are doing or what we should be doing. Or come out to the Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with the GAC Annual Meeting.

The AGM is your chance to air your ideas! Are we meeting our goals? How would you like to see things done, or what types of programs would you like to see the Division support and sponsor? In the past two meetings the Division has discussed significant items such as the awarding of a prize for lifetime career contributions in volcanology and/or igneous petrology. The decision was made to go ahead with this prize (see minutes) and we will be seeking nominations so that this award may be presented for the first time during Edmonton '93. However, the Division does not have the necessary funds to strike a medal as a suitable commemoration of this award. Your donation to a medal fund would ensure that recipients of this award have a suitable token in recognition of their significant contributions to the science of volcanology and/or igneous petrology.

Support your Division by submitting articles of interest to *Ash Fall* - let people know what YOU are doing, what advances YOU are making! Looking for Graduate Students? Send a note for inclusion in *Ash Fall*. Use *Ash Fall* as a communication vehicle to other people interested in volcanology and igneous petrology! Paul Metcalfe (Secretary-Treasurer) and I have agreed to co-edit *Ash Fall*, so send in your contributions. The next issue will be in February!

**Cathie Hickson**

## (WHO ARE?) YOUR EXECUTIVE

### **Chairman - Cathie Hickson**

Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada, Vancouver. Research interests focus on volcanism in the Canadian Cordillera, with a special interest in Quaternary volcanism. Work includes the Quaternary centres of the Wells Gray-Clearwater Volcanic Field, Miocene volcanism in the Queen Charlotte islands, and Eocene volcanism in central British Columbia. Currently involved in emergency planning and has been working on an interagency volcanic response plan which was called into action during the recent eruptions of Mount Spurr Volcano in Alaska.

### **Past-Chairman - Les Coleman**

Responsible for teaching: introductory igneous and metamorphic mineralogy - petrology - geochemistry (including optical mineralogy); part of senior ore deposits class; X-ray diffraction and X-ray microanalytical portion of graduate analytical geochemistry class at University of Saskatchewan. Most recent research interests include rock-forming mineral chemistry of layered intrusions, of meteorites and of Precambrian volcanic sequences.

### **Tom Pearce - Vice-Chairman**

Professor of Geology and Director of the Laser Lab, Queens University. Research interests include applications of laser interference microscopy, laser fluorescence and holography to geology; volcanic geochemistry and tectonics; computer simulations of geological processes; theory of chaos and non-linear dynamics applied to geology (e.g. crystal growth); practically anything that's new and exciting. Research areas include the Lesser Antilles, Cascades, Hawaii and Archean greenstone belts.

### **Secretary-Treasurer - Paul Metcalfe**

Postdoctoral fellow with the Mineral Deposit Research Unit at the University of British Columbia. Presently working in the Iskut Project area, northwestern British Columbia, on the geology and mineralization of the Bronson Corridor. Previous research includes petrogenesis of the Klondike Schist, Yukon Territory. Other research interests include Sr-Nd isotopes, volcanic geochemistry and the volcanology of the Wells Gray-Clearwater area of east-central B.C. (Ph.D.).

### **Councillor, East - Georgia Pe-Piper**

Georgia Pe-Piper received her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge and then taught for eight years at the University of Patras in her native Greece. She then moved to Canada and is now a professor of Geology at Saint Mary's University. Her research interests include: (1) Triassic and Cenozoic rocks of Greece, particularly as examples of back-arc volcanism; (2) Mesozoic volcanism offshore eastern Canada and (3) Carboniferous igneous activity in the Cobequid Highlands of northern Nova Scotia.

### **Councillor, Central - Tony Fowler**

Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Ottawa and member Ottawa Carleton Geoscience Centre. Research interests are within the domain of Archean volcanology, in particular the evolution of various suites renowned for their non-equilibrium textures (variolites and komatiites). Current work includes studies of far from equilibrium processes, using computer simulations, fractal geometry and nonlinear dynamics.

### **Councillor, West - Stephen Juras**

Presently employed as an exploration geologist with Westmin Resources at their Myra Falls mine site on Vancouver Island, B.C. Working within the Paleozoic massive sulphide deposit affords the opportunity to pursue interests in volcanic facies delineation in an island arc environment, particularly with regard to mass flow emplaced subaqueous volcanoclastic deposits and the relationship between sulphide mineralization and arc volcanism / magmatism

**Councillor, Student - Shirley Péloquin**

B.Sc. Hons. 1982, University of Manitoba; M.Sc.A. 1990, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. Presently working on a Ph.D. at the Université de Montréal under the direction of Dr. John Ludden. Current research interests are the stratigraphy and petrogenesis of the Archean Blake River Group, Abitibi, Québec and its importance in Archean crustal evolution (Ph.D.) and the interpretation of regional and high-resolution seismic lines in the Blake River Group (LITHOPROBE).

**Councillor on Research - Kelly Russell**

Associate Professor, University of British Columbia. The processes which generate igneous rocks are numerous and diverse in character. My research into the origins of igneous rocks can be split into two parts: i) studies of magmatic processes based on field observations and laboratory measurements, and ii) theoretical studies directed at elucidating the physical and chemical controls on magmatic processes. My current research concerns open chemical system processes affecting magmas, such as mixing and assimilation.

**REPORT OF THE VOLCANOLOGY DIVISION  
March 23rd, 1992**

The principal activities of the Volcanological Division since last October have been planning for the Greek Islands field trip, design and production of the Leopold Gelinás Medals and preparations for their 1992 award and publication of "Ash Fall".

The field trip to the Greek Islands that the Division originally planned for 1991, attracted the minimum number of subscribers to make it possible for them to proceed. Karen Stamatelopoulou-Seymour led the modified field trip mentioned in last October's report. The trip ran from May 9th to May 23rd with 11 participants in addition to Karen.

Because of a generous donation by Jerry Remick, a close friend of Leopold Gelinás, the financial obstacle to the production of a Leopold Gelinás Medal, mentioned in last October's report, was overcome, the medal has been designed and initial copies have been struck. A request for nominations of theses for the medal was sent to all Canadian universities offering postgraduate programs in geology. The submitted entries presently are being judged and, depending on there being entries judged worthy, a silver medal for the best M.Sc. thesis and a gold (plated) medal for the best Ph.D. thesis will be awarded at the Division's annual meeting at Wolfville '92.

A lower level of Division membership, mentioned in last October's report, has required careful management of the Division's finances by Ted Grove, our Secretary-Treasurer in 1992. Costs of producing "Ash Fall" were reduced by publishing only three issues during the year, by using a warehouse outlet for copying and by limiting the size of its issues to keep postage to a minimum. It must be noted that Ted Grove and his wife Pat have contributed materially to the Division's solvency by the fact that they have done all the work on "Ash Fall" in house and without charging any incidentals.

The Division is sponsoring a special session on "Appalachian Volcanism", which is being organized by J. Dostal and R. Laurent, at Wolfville '92 and it expects to sponsor a special session or symposium on tephra chronology and/or Quaternary volcanism at Edmonton '93. Plans for the latter are being looked after by Cathie Hickson and Tom Pearce and, quite possibly, will involve a related field trip to Eocene, Pleistocene and Holocene exposures in the Canadian Cordillera.

In response to Ian McIlreath's request of March 17th, members of the Division who have made outstanding contributions to the Division during the past several years, who have given generously and unselfishly of their time and for whom a GAC service award would be most appropriate are Bob Baragar, Jarda Dostal, Ted Grove and Tark Hamilton.

Respectfully Submitted by Les Coleman, Outgoing Chairman

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VOLCANOLOGY DIVISION, GAC  
May 27, 1992

**Attending:** Les Coleman, Chairman; Cathie Hickson, Vice-chairman; Roger Laurent, Past-Chairman; Georgia Pe-Piper, Councillor-East; Bob Baragar; Jarda Dostal; Shirley Péloquin; Allan Donaldson; Nancy Van Wagoner; John Ludden; S.S. Gandlu.

1. **The meeting was called to order** by L. Coleman, Chairman, at 12:00 in BAC227, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

*Les Coleman announced to the Division Members that Walter Gibbins, a long time supporter of the Division had died suddenly of a massive heart attack.*

2. **Agenda** for the meeting was presented by the Chairman and approved as presented. R. Laurent moved, 2nd by G. Pe-Piper
3. **Minutes of the previous annual meeting** were distributed and read by the Chairman, and approved as presented.
4. **Business arising from the minutes.** Report from the ad hoc committee on awards. The committee proposed an N.L. Bowen GAC prize in recognition of lifetime career achievements and a GAC Volcanology Division Outstanding Paper Award. J. Ludden and G. Pe-Piper expressed concern over the difficulty in assessing and awarding a "best paper" award. B. Baragar considers the Bowen Prize to be the Division's 1st priority and a "Best Paper" award delayed for further consideration. A suggestion was made that a "Best Paper" award for a paper presented at a Division sponsored Symposium or Special Session may be a very worthwhile thing to do. B. Baragar moved that the Division award a N.L. Bowen Prize as outlined below, 2nd by G. Pe-Piper. Unanimously passed. A medal would be awarded for the prize. The inscription must be bilingual and an appropriate design might include the continuous and discontinuous reaction series.

**AWARD NAME:** Norman L. Bowen GAC Prize

**FOR:** The N.L. Bowen Prize is awarded by the GAC Volcanology Division in recognition of career achievements in the field of volcanology and/or igneous petrology. Candidates are judged on their lifetime scientific contribution. The award is made only when a suitable candidate is found who is judged to have made major contributions to basic knowledge or clear and significant breakthroughs in volcanology or igneous petrology.

**Nomination Procedures:** Nominations for this award are due in January, and should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Volcanology Division. The nomination should include the nominee's curriculum vitae and a clear statement from the nominator describing the candidates significant contribution to the field. Each candidate will be considered for three consecutive years.

The decision concerning this award will be made by the Awards Committee of the Volcanology Division and the successful candidate will receive the prize at the Luncheon of the GAC during the Annual Meeting.

C. Hickson presented a motion that there be a formal awards committee to consider thesis for the Leopold Gelinás and the N.L. Bowen Prize. The committee should consist of the Division Chairman, Secretary-treasurer and two members at large. Members at large would initially be appointed for a term of 3 years and there after for two years to provide the committee with continuity. Members of the Awards Committee should, when possible, reflect the breadth of research in volcanology and igneous petrology done in Canada and have geographic as well as Government/Industry/University Balance. 2nd by G. Pe-

Piper. Unanimously passed.

**ACTION: R. Laurent** to write to Mr. Remick to ask if he would consider donating to a fund to strike a N.L. Bowen Prize Memorial Medal. Upon receipt of an answer, the expenditure is to be considered by the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. If sufficient funds exist then a medal will be designed and struck. Permission from GAC will be sought by **C. Hickson** to award the N.L. Bowen Prize and to make the medal presentation at the annual luncheon meeting of the GAC.

5. **The Chairman's report** was presented and accepted.
6. **Report of the Secretary-Treasurer** was presented and accepted. The Division has 139 members and is roughly \$2000.00 in the black.
7. **Leopold Gelinus Award.** This years award went to Ms. Brigitte Dionne for her M.Sc. thesis entitled "Pétrographie, géochimie et pétrogénèse de la Dolérite Hart, bassin de Kimberley, État d'Australie-Occidentale, Australie". This was the first year that a medal was presented for the award and it was graciously accepted by John Ludden for Ms. Dionne who could not attend the meeting.
8. **Field trips.** The Division hosted a successful trip to Greece (see Ash Fall for details). A discussion of possible future field trips followed with these suggestions: Iceland, New Zealand, Baha California/Mexico, Kenya Rift/Tanzania. Nancy Van Wagoner expressed concern over the cost of Foreign trips. It was agreed that foreign trips should only be attempted every two to three years and the Division should concentrate on shorter, 'local' trips in conjunction with GAC Annual Meetings. A listing of possible trips should be published in Ash Fall and Geolog to try to assess interest.

**ACTION: C. Hickson** to submit list to Ash Fall and Geolog.

9. **Edmonton '93: Special Sessions** of interest to Division members include:
  - Devonian tectonics and related magmatism in the Cordillera (L. Lane)
  - Ultra high pressure research in petrology. (R. Luth)
  - Physics and physical chemistry of magmatic process. (J. Nicholls, K. Russell)
  - Field Trip:** Quaternary volcanism in the Wells Gray-Clearwater area, B.C. (C. Hickson) 3 days

**Waterloo '93: Suggestions for this meeting included:**

Back Arc Volcanism/ Modern and Ancient  
Anorthosite  
Mantle (Continental) Plumes/dyke swarms.

**ACTION: G. Pe-Piper** to look into finding and/or organizing a special session or symposium on Back Arc volcanism. **B. Baragar/J. Ludden** to look for an organizer for a Mantle plume session

10. **Election of Officers.** Ludden moved to modify the bylaws to include a "Student Representative" on the Division Executive. Motion 2nd by A. Donaldson. This motion was viewed favourably by the members present and passed unanimously. J. Ludden nominated Ms. Shirley Péloquin as Student Representative.

Positions open for nomination and nominee:

Chairman:	Dr. Cathie Hickson
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. Tom Pearce
Secretary-treasurer:	Dr. Paul Metcalfe
Councillor, Centre:	Dr. Tony Fowler
Councillor, West:	Dr. Stephen Juras
Councillor, Student:	Ms. Shirley Péloquin

No other nominees were named from the floor. G. Pe-Piper moved nominations close, 2nd by R. Laurent.

Nominations accepted unanimously. Congratulations to the new executive of the Division.

**ACTION:** C. Hickson to contact new members of the executive and send letters of thanks to outgoing executive members T. Grove, Secretary-treasurer and R. Laurent, Past-Chairman.

11. **New Business:**

**Division Fee increase.** It has become increasingly difficult to maintain the Division's solvency in the face of rising mailing costs and falling membership. J. Ludden proposed that Division fees be increased to \$6.00 from \$4.00, 2nd by C. Hickson. A discussion of the pros and cons of the increase was made with the general agreement that a \$2.00 increase was not going to deter members from joining the Division, but would help to defray mailing and other costs to the Division. Unanimously passed.

**Division Name Change.** A proposal was made to change the name of the Division from "Volcanology Division" to "Volcanology and Igneous Petrology Division". No resolution was reached, but a general discussion followed on where to draw the line since this will reflect upon the awards given out by the Division. B. Baragar suggested that granite gneisses should be considered outside of the Division.

12. L. Coleman moved that the meeting be adjourned, 2nd by J. Ludden.

**WALTER A. GIBBINS**  
1940-1992

On Monday, May 25th, 1992, Walter A. Gibbins died from a heart attack shortly after he arrived at his office in the N.W.T. Geology Division of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Yellowknife. Walter had been Arctic District Geologist for the N.W.T. Geology Division since 1974 when he joined the Department immediately after completing his Ph.D. at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Born in Winnipeg in 1940, he did a B.Sc. at the University of Manitoba and an M.Sc. at Northwestern University in Illinois, prior to his Ph.D. study of the geochronology of the Sudbury mining district at McMaster.

Walter was active in many professional organizations, including the Geological Association of Canada, the Geological Society of America and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. As well, he belonged to the Society of Economic Geologists, the Society of Exploration Geochemists, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the European Union of Geosciences, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club and the Arctic Society. He was a founding member and essentially the initiator of the Charles Camsell Geological Society of Yellowknife.

Walter worked and published in many fields of geology, mainly related to N.W.T. issues and including Mississippi Valley type deposits, gold in iron formations, radar imagery, mineralogy, metallogenic zoning and mineral potential, the mineral potential of ultramafic rocks, diamonds, prospectors' training and training of native northerners in geology and prospecting. He worked closely with Inuit carvers from many settlements in studying and exploring for carving stone resources and wrote papers on carving stone and its significance in Inuit culture and economy. He contributed a DNAG chapter on the mineral deposits of the Innuitian region. Recently, he spent four months leave in Baja California del Norte studying mineral deposits and prepared a synthesis of the metallogeny of that area.

Walter was an accomplished geologist, a scholar and a true eccentric. His amazing memory, wide interests and concern for his fellows on this planet were admired by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Bill Padgham

## VOLCANOLOGY OF THE GREEK ISLANDS FIELD TRIP

May 9th - 23rd, 1992

Ten earth scientists and one accompanying member took part in a highly successful field trip that visited classic volcanic localities on the islands of Aegina, Kos, Lesbos, Nisyros and Thera (Santorini) under the leadership of Karen Stamatelopoulou-Seymour of Concordia University and the University of Patras. Besides providing the opportunity to see and discuss a wide variety of volcanologically important exposures, the field trip offered a cultural bonus in terms of visits to archaeological and historical sites ranging from neolithic through classic to medieval.

The first three days, spent on Lesbos which has the lowest tourist population of the islands visited, provided an overview of the Miocene back-arc volcanics of the island, a visit to the petrified forest near Sigri and cultural visits to the Monastery of St. Ignatios Limonos and to the "landmark village" of Aghiassos. We also sampled the delights of the seafood tavernas along the quay of Mitilini harbour and tasted Plomari ouzo, considered to be the best in Greece. After returning to Athens by overnight ferry, we spent a day visiting the Acropolis and other major attractions of that city.

The next three days, spent on Thera (Santorini), involved visits to the excavations at Akrotiri; detailed examination of the pumice quarries at Fira; a day at Ia, a town at the north end of the island which epitomises the image of the Greek islands provided by the tourist brochures, where there are two paths that traverse the stratigraphic section exposed on the caldera walls; and, as a fitting climax, a day with a boat in the "lagoon" of Santorini caldera, visiting the recent volcano of Nea Kameni and revelling in a detailed examination of the volcanic stratigraphy and geologic structures exposed in the caldera walls.

Three days on Kos, an island which in the high season would be inundated by tourists, provided us with views of some of the most recent features in the Aegean Volcanic Arc during a day trip to Nisyros; with a visit to one of the most beautiful and historically most interesting places that we saw - the Asklepieion and Hippocratic Foundation (the temple and school founded by Hippocrates in the 2nd century B.C. \*\*); and with visits to local beaches, the 15th century Castle of the Knights that dominates the harbour of Kos town and the 3rd and 4th century B.C. ruins of the ancient city. Besides that, there was sampling of more Greek food and also some memorable Turkish food (the town of Bomari in Turkey is about 25 miles from and in clear view of Kos. Our final geological day was spent on Aegina, where the oldest volcanic rocks in the Aegean Arc can be seen, as well as a spectacular exposure of columnar jointing in one of their feeders. While in Aegina, we also visited the 5th century B.C. temple of Aphaia from which, on a clear day, can be seen the Acropolis in Athens and the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion.

Without doubt, the volcanological highlights of the trip were the visits to the two calderas - the 10 km diameter Santorini caldera formed during the 1628 B.C. eruption that destroyed the Minoan civilization and buried the town of Akrotiri on Thera and the palace at Knossos on Crete\*, and the 4 km diameter caldera at the summit of the stratovolcano that constitutes the island of Nisyros. The latter was formed within the last 200,000 years and contains a number of felsic domes with which are associated solfataras, sulphur deposits that have been commercially exploited and a geothermal area.

\*Those interested in reading more about the 1628 B.C. \*\* eruption and its consequences are referred to "Unearthing Atlantis", by Charles Pellegrino.

\*\*Before Christ. British Columbia residents can relax (Ed.).

Les Coleman

## NEWS FLASH!

Tom Pearce has a new "white light laser" in the Laser Lab at Queen's University, courtesy of an NSERC equipment grant (other users are: A.H. Clark, J.K. Russell, A. Fowler and J. Nicholls). The new laser produces eight different colours, from red (677 nm) to blue (457 nm). The laser lines are emitted simultaneously in a collimated, coherent beam which appears white to the eye and can be used for interferometry, holography and laser fluorescence. The Laser Lab is a national facility, supported by an infrastructure grant and available for the use of interested researchers or their students (contact Tom Pearce at 613-545-6174).

## GAC VOLCANOLOGY DIVISION AWARD

**AWARD NAME:** Norman L. Bowen GAC Prize (Graduate of Queen's, native of Ontario).

**FOR:** The N.L. Bowen Prize is awarded by the GAC Volcanology Division in recognition of career achievements in the field of volcanology and/or igneous petrology. Candidates are judged on their lifetime scientific contribution. The award is to be made only when a suitable candidate is found who is judged to have made major contributions to basic knowledge or clear and significant breakthroughs in volcanology or igneous petrology

### Nomination procedures

Nominations for this award are due in January and should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. The nomination should include the nominee's curriculum vitae and a clear statement from the nominator describing the candidate's significant contribution to the field. Each candidate will be considered three consecutive years.

The decision concerning this award will be made by the Awards Committee of the Volcanology Division and the successful candidate will receive the prize at the Luncheon of the GAC during the Annual Meeting.

## CALL FOR BOWEN AWARD DESIGNS

Thanks to a generous donation by Jerry Rémick, a geologist and numismatist from Ste. Foy, Québec, the striking of the Bowen Award can proceed. Our sincere thanks go to Jerry for making this possible. Division members are encouraged to submit designs for the Norman L. Bowen Prize to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Division. Designs should be for a two-sided medal and should arrive not later than January 15th.

## CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for both the Norman L. Bowen and the Leopold Gelinas awards, from all Division members. The Bowen Award and nomination procedure is described above. The Leopold Gelinas awards are made for the best Ph.D. and M.Sc. theses (one apiece) produced in Canada during the current calendar year (1992), 50% of a submitted thesis being in the fields of volcanology and/or igneous petrology. Nominations, including a copy of the thesis, must come from the supervisor and should reach the Secretary-Treasurer of the Division not later than January 31st.

## GAC MAY FIELD TRIP: VOLCANOES OF THE WELLS GRAY-CLEARWATER AREA, B.C.

Organizers: Cathie Hickson (G.S.C. Vancouver); Paul Metcalfe (U.B.C.)

Sponsor: Volcanology Division, GAC

The Wells Gray - Clearwater area of east - central British Columbia has been a focus for basaltic volcanism, from two million years ago to the present day. The proposed (pre-conference) field trip to this area will concentrate upon examination of the intimate relationship between the basaltic volcanism, its products and their relationship to the glacial and fluvial history and deposits of the area. The terrain to be examined includes spectacular waterfalls, canyons and larger-scale volcanic and glacial scenery. A must-see!



## VOLCANOLOGY DIVISION EXECUTIVE (October 1992)

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**Councillor on Research:** May 1991 - May 1994

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