IUGG WG on history (WGH)

Report by John Gould

In October 2013 I accepted the invitation to become the IAPSO representative on the WGH.

The group’s members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Chair/Representative</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryosphere (IACS)</td>
<td>Mark Carey</td>
<td>OSU, USA</td>
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<td>Geodesy (IAG)</td>
<td>József Ádám</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
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<td>Geomagnetism (IAGA)</td>
<td>Ed Cliver (Chair)</td>
<td>Airforce Res Lab, Sunspot, USA;</td>
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<td>Hydrology (IAHS)</td>
<td>Maurits Ertsen</td>
<td>Delft Univ Tech, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atmosphere (IAMAS)</td>
<td>Hans Volkert (Vice-Chair &amp; Treasurer)</td>
<td>DLR, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceans (IAPSO)</td>
<td>John Gould</td>
<td>NOC, Southampton, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>IASPEI (Seismology)</td>
<td>Roger Musson</td>
<td>BGS, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAVCEI (Vulcanology)</td>
<td>Grant Heiken</td>
<td>Freeland, WA, US</td>
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Historical Advisors

- Ron Doel (Dept History Florida State Univ, US)
- Greg Good (American Institute of Physics, US)

Terms of Reference (in essence)

- To raise the historical consciousness of IUGG Association members and to help preserve IUGG scientific and institutional history.
- To promote historical content in Union and Association scientific sessions and sponsor stand-alone history sessions at Union General Assemblies, with emphasis placed on the 100th anniversary of the IUGG in 2019. The WGH will encourage publication of historical articles by Association members in relevant journals, in books, and on websites.
- To encourage the establishment of history working groups in each of the IUGG associations through the Association Representatives.

Activities to date

The WG has not met but has had discussions by e-mail and conference calls. These have focused primarily on planning the Union Symposium (U9) “Revolutions in Earth Sciences: from Different Spheres to a Common Globe” in Prague. The result has been an interesting and diverse collection of papers as follows:

- Ron Doel. “Geophysics, patronage, and national needs: IAGA from its founding to the cold war”
- Herman Drewes, “From different spheres to the Global Geodetic Observing System”
- Alan Thorpe, “Predicting the atmosphere and the progress toward Earth-system science”
• John Gould, “The 140 year voyage of ocean discovery”.
• Günter Blöschl, “Megatrends in hydrology: Projecting the future from lessons learned from the past”
• Dania Achermann, “How climate modelling changed a discipline: Epistemic authority and marginalisation in climatology, 1960s to 1980s”.
• Roger Musson, “Revolution and continuity: Seismology in the 20th century”
• Patricia A Mothes, “IAVCEI as a sponsor of evolution in volcanological studies”.
• Greg Good, “One science or many? Geophysics and the founding and evolution of the IUGG”.

I have also encouraged the convenors of IAPSO sessions in Prague to include historical focused presentations. I am pleased that several have done so (P03, P04, P06, P08).

I am grateful to IAPSO for financing my participation in the Prague meeting.

**Beyond Prague**
We have not discussed work following the Prague meeting but there will be focus on the IUGG centenary in 2019.

Compared with other Associations IAPSO’s history is well represented on its web site. However I would like to ensure that IAPSO’s role in the Standard Seawater Service, in the definition of standards in general and its role in establishing and maintaining the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level are well documented.

The International Congress on the History of Oceanography (ICHO) will hold its 9th Congress at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, April 12-15, 2016. I was consulted on the organization of the meeting and the initial programme contained a talk on the WGH. Publicity for the meeting will be available shortly. The general focus will be on key achievements in Australian and international oceanography with a particular focus on the Southern hemisphere.