



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 17

January, 1997

EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

at last, with this "extreme" delay, I am ready with this Newsletter N° 17. It is exclusively my fault and I apologize with those who would go and check the mail box every day with the strong expectation of great news from our Society.

Well, this last year 1996 has seen a number of important events coming through. As many as 300, among old and new members, attended the 8th IHSS Meeting in Wroclaw, Poland, indeed a very interesting, enjoyable and intense meeting, for both the scientific and the social aspects, carefully organized by the IHSS Polish Chapter.

For the first time, the IHSS Board of Directors has set a special fund to finance Student Travel Bursaries to attend Society's Meeting. At the 8th IHSS Meeting in Wroclaw, Poland, six bursaries have been assigned to students of various provenance in an official Ceremony during the General Assembly. Indeed, a large number of very young students, researchers and scientists attended also this Meeting, confirming that, in fact, our Society is gaining new strength and "young blood".

A number of countries have founded new National Chapters this year and have also organized their 1st National Meeting (Brazil, France, etc.). Other countries have gone through the formal organizative steps and are ready to start new chapters (Canada, China, Czech and Slovak Republics, Venezuela, etc.). Older chapters have promoted various initiatives and activities along with their national chapters meetings.

The Society has started a number of new activities, such as publishing and re-publishing of a number of volumes, exploring the possibility to expand the Standard and Reference Sample Collection, promoting a series of ring-tests on IHSS samples, updating and increasing our Standard and Reference Collection.

Our Society is started his steps on "The Net" too and we are trying to improve our home page "as the time goes by...". Everybody is strongly encouraged to join the party.

At last, I really wish to express my best wishes to all members and friends for this newborn year 1997, hoping it will be prosperous and productive as well as enjoyable and "hum-oro-us" as we expect.

I thank all of you in advance for your contributions and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. Please, write and keep sending information, comments and suggestions to improve discussion and exchanges among IHSS members.

"My best wishes for a very hum-oro-us year 1997"

Teodoro M. (Ted) Miano
Secretary

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IHSS STANDARD AND REFERENCE COLLECTION

(Appointment of the Chairman)

Dr. Paul R. Bloom, Dept. of Soil, Water & Climate, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, USA, has been appointed by the Board as the new Chairman of the IHSS Standard and Reference Sample Collection, starting January 1, 1997.

The Board and the Society likes to express the warmest congratulations to Paul and look forward to his precious contribution to the management and the improvement of the IHSS Sample Collection.

The Board and the Society wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Patrick MacCarthy (Dept. of Chemistry & Geochemistry, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA) for his generous contribution to the Society's activities in all these years. Dr. MacCarthy is one the founder member of the IHSS and has been responsible of the Collection since its constitution.

The President
Nicola Senesi

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MEMBERSHIP DUES (1997)

20 US \$ / year (10 US \$ for students):

- European Union (including Norway)
- Switzerland
- Israel
- United States
- Mexico
- Canada
- Australia-New Zealand
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Argentina
- Venezuela
- Brazil
- South Africa

- former USSR countries, including Baltic republics
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- Albania
- P.R. China

National Coordinators should collect the fees from members of their chapters in local currencies, deduct 20-25 % out of the fees (postage, copying, etc.), and then send the balance in US \$ to the Treasurer, Dr. C.E. Clapp, Univ. Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Coordinators from 5\$-group chapters are invited to collect dues for two years (\$10, and save converting to US \$ not so often) and are allowed to keep up to 50% of the fee. Coordinators from 1\$-group chapters can keep the entire fee.

5 US \$ / year (2 US \$ for students):

- Poland
- Czech R.
- Slovakia R.
- Hungary
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Caribbean Countries
- Developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central and South America

IHSS Members are reminded that membership dues are payable at the beginning of each year directly to their National Coordinators.

1 US \$ / year:

National Coordinators are reminded that they can take orders for the Trinidad book, collect money in their currency and send it to Dr. C.E. Clapp in US \$. Dr. M.H.B. Hayes will send out the books to the Chapter Coordinators.

International Humic Substances Society on the World Wide Web

Visit our home page at:

<http://www.gatech.edu/ihss/ihss.html>

Prof. E.M. Perdue and Ms. Jian Li are coordinating the development of the IHSS WEB page. Progresses toward this goal may be followed at the above WEB site which resides on a server located at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA. Suggestions and comments regarding the content and organization of the WEB pages are actively requested from all IHSS members.

E-mail Dr. E.M. Perdue at michael.perdue@eas.gatech.edu for more information.

IHSS VOLUMES

HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN SOIL AND WATER ENVIRONMENTS. *Characterization, Transformations and Interactions.*

Proceedings 7th Int. Meeting of the IHSS. St. Augustine, Trinidad, 1994 (493 pp).

Edited by C.E. Clapp, M.H.B. Hayes, N. Senesi, and S.M. Griffith and published by IHSS.

This Volume of Proceedings contains 57 Volunteered papers intended to be presented in the 7th International Conference of IHSS. Because of the difficulties to attend the Conference, not all papers were actually presented at the Conference. The book Humic Substances IV, which is in the process of preparation, will contain the invited papers presented at the Conference. The purchase procedure that is recommended is that members place their orders with the coordinator of their Chapter, and make payment in local currency to the coordinator. The books will be supplied by the coordinator, or by Dr. Hayes as soon as possible after the order is placed and payment is received.

Please note that the costs to members are \$30 US plus \$5 for mailing charges. [If an order is made directly to Dr. Hayes the cost is £20 (GB) plus £3 for postage]. Members are encouraged to invite their libraries to purchase copies of the Proceedings. The cost to libraries (and to non-members) is the equivalent of \$50 US plus \$5 for mailing charges.

The **Proceedings of the VIIIth Int. Meeting of IHSS, Wroclaw, Poland, September, 1996**, is in preparation by the Polish colleagues who were responsible for the Organization.

NATIONAL CHAPTERS NEWS

Australia and New Zealand Chapter

A note by Kaye Spark

The Polish Chapter of the IHSS are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation of the 8th International Meeting of the IHSS in Wroclaw in 1996. The smooth conductance and stimulating variety of the scientific presentations and the special effort made to display the culture and heritage of Poland to participants was very much appreciated, I am sure, by all those who attended the conference.

The Board of the IHSS has elected to have the 9th International Meeting of the IHSS in Adelaide, Australia. This is exciting news for us all in Australia as it will allow many researchers here to participate in an International IHSS conference who have not done so in the past. At a national conference held in Adelaide we had an attendance of around 70 people, most of which were from the soils based organic matter research. Since then it has become apparent that there are similar numbers in the natural waters/water treatment areas of science who are also interested in organic matter research. It is hoped that by having the 9th IHSS conference in Australia the number of people attending from other countries on this side of the world, such as Japan, China, Malaysia etc, will also be significantly greater than that at more recent conferences.

International scientific journals offer a forum of scientific communication but this form of communication is no where near as efficient, topical or stimulating as the forum provided by an international conference. Both the regular participants of the IHSS International Meetings and the new participants from Australia and its northern neighbours will benefit by their attendance at the 9th IHSS in Australia.

Planning for the 9th International Meeting of IHSS is well on the way with the date selected to be the week beginning the 20th September 1998. Adelaide is a small city, of about 1 million people, nestled between the Mt Lofty mountain range and beautiful beaches, on the southern coast of Australia. The city has two world famous wine growing areas nearby, the Barossa and McLaren Vale regions, many tourist attractions such as wildlife reserves and national parks, and a large

range of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues which reflect the diverse backgrounds and countries of origin of the people that live here.

The first brochure for the 9th IHSS conference will be posted out around April 1997 to all members of the IHSS. If you are not a member and wish to receive the brochure please contact me before then at the address below.

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Brazilian Chapter

A note by Nicola Senesi

The "I Encontro Brasileiro Sobre Substancias Humicas" has been held from September 30 to October 4, 1996, in Belém, Pará, Brazil.

The meeting was organized by Prof. Dr. Carlos Augusto Cordeiro Costa of the Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias do Para in Belém, with the support of the Sociedade Brasileira de Ciência do Solo.

The participation oscillated between 50 and 70 researchers, scientists, students and professionals from various Universities, Research Institutions and Companies in Brazil.

The meeting was structured to accommodate eight invited keynote lectures, two oral sessions, and three poster sessions. The two international keynote speakers were: Prof. Jean-Philippe Croué (Univ. of Poitiers, France, Coordinator of the French Chapter of IHSS) and Prof. Nicola Senesi (Univ. of Bari, Italy, President of IHSS), who presented lectures on: "Isolation and characterization of NOM from surface water. Comparison of resin adsorption and membrane filtration isolation procedures" and "The fractal nature and behaviour of humic polymers". The six national keynote speakers were: Prof. C.A. Cereta (Un. Fed. Santa Maria, RS), Dr. L. Martin-Neto (CNPDA-EMBRAPA, Sao Carlos, SP), Prof. S.M. Tank-Tornisielo (CEA-UNESP, Rio Claro, SP), Prof. A. Pasqual (FCA, UNESP, Botucatu, SP), Pro. E. de Sá Mendonça (Univ. Fed. Viçosa, Viçosa, MG), and Prof. A. Craievich (LNLS, CNPq).

There were about 30 oral and poster presentations, and each of these was followed by intense and stimulating discussion.

The last morning of the meeting was completely dedicated to a General Assembly having the final objective of founding the Brazilian Chapter of IHSS and nominating the Chapter Coordinator to be approved and appointed by the IHSS Board of Directors. The exhaustive and very active discussion, with the intervention of most of the participants ended with the enthusiastic and unanimous foundation of the Brazilian Chapter of IHSS, and with the indication of Dr. Ladislau Martin-Neto, CNPDA-EMBRAPA, Sao Carlos, SP, as the National Coordinator, and Prof. Carlos Augusto Cordeiro Costa as Deputy Coordinator.

The recruit of membership started immediately after, and we may expect a numerous and strong Brazilian Chapter in the near future.

A second National Meeting is being planned to be held in 1997 in Sao Carlos, SP, organized by Dr. L. Martin Neto with the help of several other active Brazilian members.

Chinese Chapter

The Chinese Chapter has been founded in Hangzhou, P.R.China, on *November 20, 1996*

A note by Jianming Xu and Ruilong Liu

With many expectations and excitements, we can now proudly announce that the Chinese Humic Substances Chapter (CHSC) is born. This is sponsored by the Chinese Soil Science Society associated with the Soil Chemistry Division. We want to take this opportunity to thank all our colleagues and friends at the International Humic Substance Society (IHSS) Headquarter for their support and friendly advices. We also congratulate our Chinese scientists at various universities and research institutes for their continuing efforts to join the IHSS and to make possible inputs to the IHSS community. Major objective for the Chinese Chapter is to promote the

scientific information exchange in humic substance studies, especially in agriculture, environmental and medical sciences. Our chapter office is located in Zhejiang Agricultural University in Hangzhou, a beautiful lake city in southeast China. Following is detailed information about the CHSC. The Chapter is making every effort to contact with Chinese scientists and make the chapter known to all Chinese scientists who want to join. Board members have planned to hold a national meeting in 1998. We sincerely hope our international colleagues will get in touch with us for developing joint research projects in China.

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International Coordinator: Dr. Ruilong Liu,
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4. Advisory Board:

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Dr. Keneng Yuan, Zhejiang Agricultural
University
Dr. C.E. Clapp, USDA-ARS

5. Chapter Board Members:

H.H. Cheng; Chang-Yong Huang; Ruilong
Liu; Jianming Xu;
Keneng Yuan (One position remains
open).

3. Chapter Officers and Board Members:

Director: Dean Chang-Yong Huang,
Professor

Current Publications on Humic Substances in China

A note by R. Liu, Jianming Xu, and H.H. Cheng, December 4, 1996

Humic substance research in China has been very active since early 1970's. Current research work has been involving environmental science, public health, animal feeding, water quality, as well as various aspects of agriculture. There are also reports on the application of humic acids in petroleum industry. However, between 1970's to early 1990's, Chinese scientists have not had effective communications with foreign scientists in this area of research. Many researchers knew little about the international standards, nor the existence of the International Humic Substances Society (IHSS). With the sponsorship by China Soil Science Society as well as our own efforts, we have successfully established the Chinese Humic Substances Chapter. It is affiliated with the IHSS (See news report on this issue). We would like to report briefly on the journals which publish reports on humic substances research.

A majority of humus researchers are working for various agricultural universities, governmental institutes, and local governmental units. Among them, the Institute of Soil Science, Academia Sinica, in Nanjing is one of the premier units involved in humus researches. Based on a recent database search, we found that there were about 120 research papers published in various journals from 1989 to the present. The following are a few examples to illustrate the type of research efforts existing in China. For instance: Cheng Li-li et al., 1992. Effects of water regime and reactions of soil on properties of newly-formed humic substances. *Pedosphere*, 2:1:51-61. The journal "Pedosphere" is published in English. The journal "Acta Pedologica Sinica" is published in Chinese by the Institute of Soil Science, Academia Sinica. It contains a number of significant research reports on humus; e.g. Xu, Jianming et al., 1995. Formation and binding characteristics of soil combined humus. *Acta Pedologica Sinica* 32(2); Zhao Binjun & Wen Qixiao, 1988. Effect of calcareous parent materials on the composition and characteristics of soil humus. *Acta pedologic Sinica* 25(3).

In addition to the two journals cited above, humic substances articles are published in the following scientific journals: *Acta Ecologica Sinica*, *Acta Scientiae Circumstantiae*, *China Environmental Science*, *Chinese Journal of Public Health*, *Chinese Journal of Soil Science*, *Environmental Chemistry*, *Progress in Soil Science*, *Soils*, *Soils and Fertilizers*, *Tillage and Cultivation*.

Humic substances publications can also be found in university publications: Acta Guang Xi Medical Science University, Acta Universitatis Agriculturae Boreali-occidentalis, Journal of Huazhong (Central China) Agricultural University, Journal of Jilin Agricultural University, Journal of Nanjing Agricultural University, Journal of Shenyang Agricultural University, Journal of Shandong Agricultural University. There are numerous publications on humus research by provincial governmental units. Most papers published in these journals however have limited scope and are focused mainly on the application aspects.

Of special interest to the IHSS community is a journal called "*Fu Zhi Suan (Humic Acids)*". This journal is published by the China Humic Acid Industrial Association and the Office of Humic Acids, under Jiangxi Provincial Government. Due to the potential application of humic acids in medicine as well as in industry, a specialized medical section under this association was established for studying possible applications of humic acids in pharmaceutical and medical treatments. Examples from this journal include papers: "Influence of sodium humate on contracting reaction of human uterus in vitro" (No.1, 1996), "328 examples of FA bath treatment for curing of joint swelling and pain" (NO.2, 1996). Major sections in this journal include a review and commentary, experiment and research, technology and equipment, analytical method and quality control, and translation and digests. An English title is included in each issue. The journal published its first issue in October, 1979. So far over 70 issues were published to date on a quarter base.

In summary, the humic researches in China have made rapid progress in recent years. Many reports are on the potential applications of humic substances. However, the mechanisms involved in these applications are still not yet clear. Current techniques for characterizing methods and IHSS standards are not widely used. This search covered only a small fraction of information from a vast database. Most original papers are not available at the time of search. Please be reminded that if any translation in this short review is different from the authors, please follow their original titles.

French Chapter

A note by Nicola Senesi

The *Premieres Journees "Les Substances Humiques dans l'Environnement"* of the French Chapter of IHSS have been held on 28-29 November 1996 at the Centre pour l'UNESCO in Toulouse, France, organized by Prof. Michel Kaemmerer of the INP-ENSAT, Toulouse.

The meeting was very well attended with about 70-80 researchers, scientists, students and professionals, not only from various French Universities, Scientific Institutions and Companies, out also from Spain, Italy, Maroc, Portugal, and Guadeloupe.

Nine oral sessions were held, in which 31 papers were presented, and each of these was followed by extended and stimulating discussion.

In the evening of the first meeting day the first General Assembly of the French Chapter of IHSS was held with the invited participation of the President of IHSS, Prof. Nicola Senesi, who addressed the audience by illustrating the mission, role, structure, objectives and activities of the Society, the freshly-elected National Coordinator of the French Chapter of IHSS, Prof. J.-P. Croué, the chairman of the local Organizing Committee and Chapter Treasurer, Prof. M. Kaemmerer, and other distinguished members of the Chapter Board.

The membership of the French Chapter of IHSS is growing fast and enthusiastically, and is expected to become very numerous in the near future.

A second National Meeting, also open to foreign contributors, is planned to be held in 1997 in Poitiers, organized by Prof. J.-P. Croué.

Italian Chapter

On December 12 and 13, 1996, the Italian Chapter of the IHSS has held its II National Meeting in Udine, a nice city in the north-east part of the country. **Dr. Maria DE NOBILI**, who is Associate Professor at the Dept. of Crop Production of the University of Udine, has been appointed as Chairperson of the event. The theme of the Meeting was: "**From soil to plant; from plant to soil.**"

The humic substances at the base of sustainability". As many as 50 participants and 5 invited speakers attended the Meeting during the two days. The invited speakers were: Dr. James J. Alberts, USA; Dr. Etelka Tombacz, Hungary; Dr Zeno Varanini, Italy; Dr. Ingrid Kögel-Knabner, Germany; and Dr. Teodoro M. Miano, Italy.

The Meeting has been very active and stimulating, and characterized by thoroughful and intense discussions which followed all talks, poster presentations and invited lectures.

Japan Chapter

A note by Koyo Yonebayashi

The Japan Chapter of the IHSS held the 12th Meeting of the Japan Humic Substances Society in Kyushu University on November 21-22, 1996. In the meeting, Dr. Koyo Yonebayashi was elected President of the JHSS and Coordinator of the Japan Chapter of IHSS (from Jan 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1998). Members of the Board of the Directors are: Dr. T. Miyajima, *Vice President*; Dr. N. Fujitake, *Treasurer*; Dr. R. Ishiwatari, Dr. M. Kimura, Mr. Y. Kurimura, Dr. S. Kuwatsuka, Dr. K. Thuthuki, Dr. S. Nagao, Dr. S. Yamamoto, Dr. S. Tanaka, *Board Positions*.

The Meeting had been organized in 3 sections and 21 articles, and 2 special lectures were delivered by invited foreign scientists (R. Beckett, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and C.M. Moon, KAIST, Taejon, Korea).

MISCELLANEOUS

UNDERGRADUATES AT IHSS 8

One of the largest groups at the recent 8th IHSS Conference in Wroclaw included eight undergraduates from Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA. The "*Geoffrey Davies*" group consists of biochemistry, biology, chemistry and pharmacy majors who have been working on humic acids since April, 1996. Six are female and six are now second year students. Their research started with learning to extract HA from live plants and soils and now involves studies of adsorption of HA, HA-metal binding, HA demineralization, HA binding to minerals, functional group analysis and HA redox chemistry. All are learning from Dr. Elham Ghabbour, a staff Researcher at the Ministry of Agriculture, Alexandria, Egypt, who is a visiting scientist at NU. This was the first scientific meeting that all the students have attended and for many their first trip outside the USA. The friendly atmosphere of the meeting was much appreciated and many new ideas were gained from the discussions. The group are all members of IHSS, are continuing their research, look forward to many future contacts and are saving to attend the 9th IHSS Meeting in Adelaide, Australia in 1998. For further information contact Prof. Geoffrey Davies, Chemistry Department, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

WANTED

USED ANALYTICAL LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR UKRAINIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

Ukraine is easily one of the most polluted countries on Earth. With extensive mining and heavy industry, environmental contamination of every possible kind reaches every corner of the country and probably affects every citizen. On top of all of this is the radioactive contamination from the Chornobyl accident.

*“modern analytical
instruments are
desperately
needed”*

Ukrainian universities and research institutes are not equipped to begin to deal with these problems. Some of **the analytical instrumentation is so antiquated** that it is impossible to describe the situation with words - I have seen equipment in use which dates from the 1930's. For Ukrainian scientists trying to study environmental pollution, all kinds of **modern analytical instruments are desperately needed**.

During the past two years, in my spare time, I have been collecting used lab instruments in Switzerland and delivering them directly to Ukrainian scientists. All of the donated instruments have been in very good working condition. While perhaps outdated by exacting Swiss standards, **this equipment**

has been gratefully received in Ukraine with heartfelt thanks.

I wish to continue my efforts to help these people. If you have any used lab instruments which are in good condition but are no longer needed, please contact me at the numbers given below. The greatest need is in the area of **trace metal analyses**: atomic absorption spectrophotometers (flame and graphite furnace), ICP, X-ray fluorescence, polarography. Chromatography equipment (HPLC, GC, and ion chromatography) is also sought. In addition, analytical balances, pH meters, titrators, and so on, can also be used. Finally, there is a dire shortage of personal computers and related equipment. **If you have any items to donate, please simply call or write.**

Dr. William Shotyk, Geological Institute, Univ. Berne, Baltzerstrasse 1, 3012 Berne - Switzerland
tel. +41.31.631.8761 / direct +41.31.631.8770, fax. **+41.31.631.4843**
email: shotyk@geo.unibe.ch

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

MEETINGS

The 9th International Meeting of IHSS will be held in September 1998 in Adelaide, Australia, upon invitation of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter of IHSS.

Two invitations were presented by the French colleagues and the Australian members to the IHSS Board of Directors for holding the 9th International Meeting of IHSS. Both invitations were very well based and convincing, so a long discussion on the most advantageous aspects of them was held firstly in the Board meeting, and then in the General Assembly, in Wroclaw. Finally, the majority decided that it was the right time to give the chance to the southern emisphere to organize the next IHSS International Meeting.

Preparations are well underway for the 9th International Meeting of IHSS, and more information and details can be found in the Newsletter in the note by Dr. Kaye Spark, who will be, with her Organizing Committee, our gracious lady-host in Adelaide next year.

◆ Co-sponsored by IHSS

- ◆ 6th Nordic Symposium on Humic Substances **“Humic Substances as an Environmental Factor”**, Hameenvinna, Finland, 10-12 June **1997**. Conference information: Dr. Egil Gjessing, Agder College [HiA], 4604 Kristiansand. Tel. +47.38.14.1561; fax: +47.38.14.1001; e-mail: Egil.T.Gjessing@hia.no

- ◆ XIII International Symposium on Environmental Biogeochemistry “**Matter and Energy Fluxes in the Anthropocentric Environment**”, Monopoli (Bari), Italy, 21-26 September 1997. The International Symposia on Environmental Biogeochemistry (ISEB) are a long-established and renowned forum for communication, discussion, and exchange of information and new ideas on interdisciplinary aspects of the biogeochemistry of the global environment. The objectives of the ISEB include the promotion of scientific knowledge, stimulation of scientific investigations, and improvement of education in environmental biogeochemistry and related subjects. The 2nd Circular containing detailed information on ISEB XIII is now ready and available to all those who are interested. For information contact: **Prof. Nicola Senesi**, Istituto di Chimica Agraria, Università di Bari, Via Amendola, 165/A, 70126 Bari - Italy. Tel. +39.80.5442853; fax: +31.80.5442813; e-mail: nsenesi@mail2.clio.it.

◇ Others relevant to IHSS activities

- ◇ IWSA/IAWQ Joint Specialist Conference “**Reservoir Management and Water Supply - an Integrated System** (*Theory, practice, new developments and complex solutions*)”, Prague, Czech Republic, 19 - 22 May 1997. The IAWQ (International Association on Water Quality) - IWSA (International Water Supply Association) Joint Specialist Group on "Reservoir Protection, Management and Water Treatment" was formed as a result of the need for a better understanding of the interactions between reservoirs and drinking water treatment. The conference in 1997 will be the first international event organised by the group. The Conference aims to bring together engineers, scientists, practitioners, consultants and professional managerial and technical staff from the whole spectrum of interested disciplines to exchange knowledge and experience of these important interactions. Conference information: **Dr. Petr Dolejs**, IWSA/IAWQ Conference - W&ET Team, Box 27, Pisecka 2 - 370 11 Ceske Budejovice - CZECH REPUBLIC. Tel/fax: +42-38-41624; e-mail: petrdol@marvin.jcu.cz.

- ◇ Symposium on “**Refractory Organic Substances in the Environment**”, Karlsruhe, Germany, 6-8 October 1997. Refractory Organic Substances in the aqueous phase of the Environment (ROSE) are in the focus of an funded by the Deutsche Nearly three years have been aspects of the role of these further years to go. We take specialists to come to Karlsruhe achievements. Several leading with us. Karlsruhe is not only home Germany, it also offers - situated at border of the Black Forrest - the possibility to sample Badean Wine and see nature. Come and join us in 1997 to characterize the ROSE!



interinstitutional research project Forschungs-gemeinschaft (DFG). spent working on the different substances, and there will be some pleasure in inviting the interested and to discuss the recent scientific experts have already agreed to be of the oldest Technical University in the River Rhine and the northern

The scientific program and main topics are: *Analytical Aspects and Structure (1)*; *Biological Aspects and Transformation (2)*; *Ecological Aspects and Genesis (3)*; *Physical-Chemical Aspects and Application (4)*. Invited and voluntary papers will be divided into several major topics. Papers will be presented either orally or as posters. The poster session will have adequate time for discussion. Each topic will be introduced by an invited keynote speaker and followed by voluntary oral papers.

Chairman of the symposium: **Prof. Dr. F. H. Frimmel**. Secretary and further information: **Dr. G. Abbt-Braun**. Engler-Bunte-Institut, Universitaet Karlsruhe, 76128 Karlsruhe, Germany. Tel.: +49.721.608.2580, Fax: +49.721.69.91.54. e-mail: ursula.schaefer@ciw.uni-karlsruhe.de, gudrun.abbt-braun@ciw.uni-karlsruhe.de

IN MEMORIAM

Professor László Hargitai (1930 - 1996). *Written by Monika Takacs*

Being a pedagogue and a scientific researcher is not a job or profession but a mission. Professor László Hargitai was a person who thought and lived that way, devoting his life to research work and teaching.

He was born in Bonyhád in 1930, grew up in Budapest and studied at the famous Evangelic Secondary Grammar School in 1948. There he studied the ancient cultures and the Greek and Latin languages as well as physics, chemistry and modern techniques. He became a very well educated man who read widely and was till the last minute of his life open minded and enthusiastic about science, history and culture.

He graduated and obtained his diploma of chemistry at the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences in Budapest, and began to work as an assistant in the Soil Science Department at Agricultural University in Gödöllő. In 1958, he became an assistant professor at Agricultural Academy in Kesztehely. In 1960, he was appointed as an assistant professor at the Soil Science Department of the Horticultural University Budapest, where he was working till the end of his life, holding the positions of professor and Department Head from 1977 till he retired in 1995. Just before his sudden death he became the Professor Emeritus of the University.

His research work dealt with soil organic matter, particularly the characterization of humic substances. He got his PhD (candidate) degree in 1960, his thesis dealing with the humic substances of the main Hungarian soil types. In 1984 for his research work on organic matter management of natural, agricultural and anthropogenic soils he was awarded his DSc degree. He wrote a total of 330 publications (half of them in foreign languages), including 15 scientific books and book chapters.

He was a brilliant speaker and lecturer, and very popular among the students. He was elected as "Magister Optimus" several times. His other activities characterize how untiring he was in national and international scientific organizations: President of the Soil Chemistry Section of Soil Science Society of Hungarian Agricultural Association; President of the Chemistry Section of the Hungarian National Committee of the International Peat Society; member of the International Soil Science Society and the International Peat Society since 1963, the International Fertilization Centre since 1973 and a charter member of the International Humic Substances Society. He was active at the Humus et Planta and all of the IHSS meetings and served as the Hungarian coordinator of IHSS.

His career was extremely rich: not only for the many scientific results, publications or activities, but also for the gift of his knowledge and enthusiasm, which he gave to students.

Professor Nicolas Aguilera Herrera. *Written by Prof. Lenom J. Cajuste*

Nicolas Aguilera Herrera, Professor Emeritus at the "Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) died 7 september 1996.

Prof. Aguilera Herrera earned his B.S. degree from the National Polytechnique Institute in 1942 and his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1953. Professor Aguilera was well known as a research scientist for his paper on the removal of free iron oxides from soils and clays, published in the Soil Science Society of America Proceedings.

Professor Aguilera was the first appointee to serve as Head of the Soils Department of the Colegio de Postgraduados (Graduate School), and in this position was the adviser of many generations of Mexican and foreign research scientists.

He published more than 120 papers in various national and international journals and received many recognition awards from Mexican and foreign academic centers. Prof. Aguilera was affiliated to numerous scientific societies, as for instance the National System of Researchers (Sistema Nacional de Investigadores) in Mexico.

The work of Professor Aguilera Herrera through his significant contributions to pedology, left an indelible imprint on the role of Mexican scientists in the advancement of knowledge related to the area of soil science in Mexico.