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MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT

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MY TERM AS PRESIDENT of The Oceanography Society expired in June 1994, and now I take the position of Past-President. I have the unique distinction of being not only the first President-Elect of our newly formed society, but also the first Past-President of the Society, as Jim Baker resigned from the TOS Council when he was appointed NOAA Administrator. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience being associated with TOS during these formative years; I thank the membership for giving me the opportunity. I enjoyed working with the TOS Council. Our meetings are always very lively as we all realize that our precedent-setting actions determine how effectively and for how long we will serve our community. As a fledgling organization we could ill afford a mistake.

With a strong belief that the international community of ocean scientists requires and deserves a "home of its own," TOS was born in 1988 under the expert guidance of Jim Baker. We provided a magazine format and a meeting venue new to our field. The community responded positively. In those initial years we were vulnerable to pass into oblivion: if we didn't provide the correct and sufficient services we would fail; if we provided more services than our income would allow, we would fail. We had to keep our balance and we have done so. We are now carefully considering expanding services within the confines of a more secure though not ample financial position. We now have annual meetings, the thematic meetings in the spring of the odd years and topical meetings in the even years, the latter beginning with the Pacific Ocean meeting in Hawaii in July, 1994. Our magazine is produced on a more regular basis under a more efficient budget. Increasing the number of issues per year is a high priority objective.

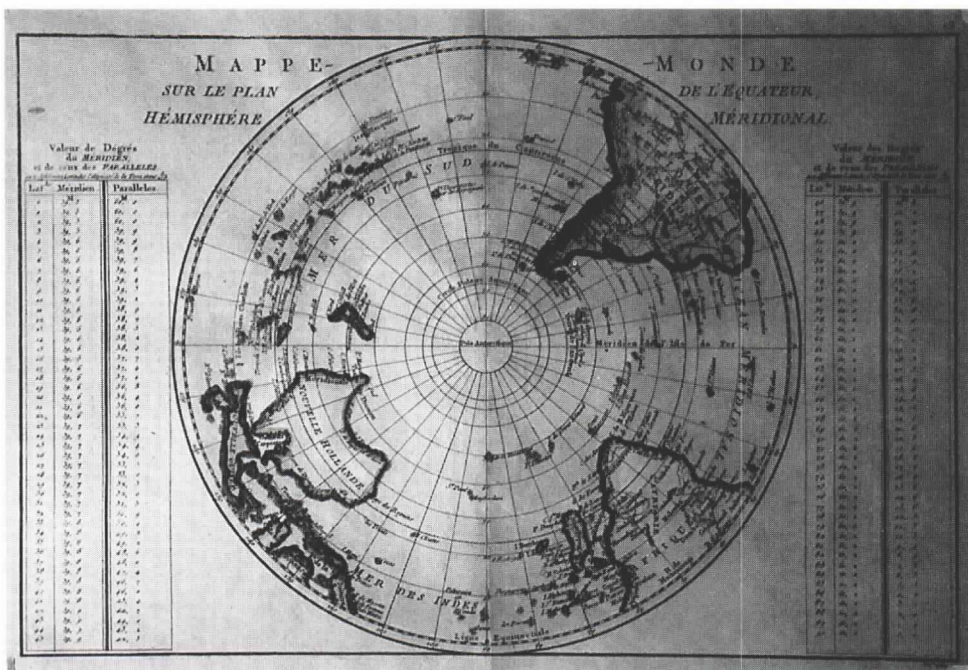
TOS is searching for ways to better meet the needs of the international community of ocean scientists. We are always open to suggestions of how TOS could do this and in particular we appreciate offers of help in the development of new activities and the improvement of current ones. Margaret Leinen is now the TOS President, and I am confident that she will skillfully guide our continued development; we are in good hands!

Imagine, the ocean sciences now have a Society of their own! We determine its course—become part of the action.

—Arnold L. Gordon

"IT'S NOT THERE!"

That was Arnold Gordon's response when he examined the framed chart given to him by the Council on behalf of the members. The chart is a southern hemisphere stereographic projection centered on the South Pole that is reasonably correct, save the missing Antarctic continent. Evidently Cook had already discovered the continent, but chart makers had yet to include the new discovery on the charts.



MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

I JUST RETURNED FROM the first of a new type of TOS meeting—the Pacific Basin “focus” meeting. We had an outstanding opportunity to hear the results of the large Pacific Basin programs of the past few years, WOCE, TOGA-COARE, JGOFS EqPac, and RIDGE. The meeting reflects the TOS Council’s interest in providing new services to our members. The topic of our services to members has been high on our list of efforts and has been on my mind as I think about my term as president of the society. Jim Baker, our first president, viewed his role as one of generating excitement about the possibilities of a new society for oceanographers that fully realized and capitalized on the interdisciplinary aspects of our science. Arnold Gordon, our second president, saw his job as ensuring that the society made it through that period of initial euphoria, that we had a regular scientific meeting of interest and high scientific quality, and that our magazine began a regular publishing schedule. I think both succeeded and we owe them great thanks.

Where do we go from here? Listening to you at TOS meetings and reading your letters in *Oceanography*, it seems clear to me that we do not have clear agreement on our goals as a society, and more importantly, have not clearly defined the ways in which we can and should serve you as members. For example, I see concerns over the poor coverage of international oceanographic programs in our meetings and magazine. Within the Council of the Oceanography Society, the lack of a clearly defined direction makes it difficult for us to prioritize possible projects that we should take on. I see my principal task as helping the society to decide on its function and its goals and to set its priorities for activities in the next few years.

I asked the Council to join me in sessions during our last two meetings to prepare some proposals to present to you. Our first priority must be to define the community that we serve. Should we be a society like the American Meteorological Society that seeks to represent academics, professionals (government and private), educators, and students? Should we continue on our present path, which appeals primarily to academics and government professionals? The answer to this important question will determine not only what we do in the future but how we do it. For example, if we represent all those whose work relates to the ocean, we might want to consider professional services and educator services. I asked that the TOS Council consider for each of six possible constituencies (academic and agency researchers, students, government and industry professionals, undergraduate and other educators, and the public) the implications for membership, services, representation, advocacy, job and other career information, publications, meetings, topical-regional focus (e.g., blue-green-brown water issues), and which other societies and organizations represent this constituency.

The Council presented the results of its deliberations to our business meeting in Hawaii, and we are presenting them in this issue of *Oceanography*. You will have several months to comment through letters to *Oceanography* magazine and/or to the Council. On the basis of your responses, we expect to develop a plan for the society and to present it at the April 1995 meeting in Newport, Rhode Island.

In the meantime, we expect to expand the international focus of both the Society and *Oceanography* Magazine. We are discussing plans to have our 1996 meeting outside of the U.S. and to focus on a topic that will be of international interest. We also plan to add a new section to *Oceanography* magazine that has an explicitly international focus, allowing us to report news of other international marine societies.

—Margaret Leinen

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