

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1989-1991

Since the Paris General Meeting, the new five-person Executive Committee has been concerned primarily with the Organisation of the Berlin conference and with attempting to put the Organisation of the Association on a sounder footing. To this latter end, the Executive Committee is suggesting some changes to the Statutes which are detailed later in this report.

One new venture was undertaken during 1989-1991. This was the initiation of a house Journal for IASPM. The house Journal was to have been financed in the early stages of its development through an agreement with a publishing house in East Germany. Under the terms of this agreement, the house Journal was to have been provided free to all IASPM members for two years in exchange for the efforts of the Organisation in attempting to make the Journal financially self-sufficient and therefore provide a source of hard currency for the publishing house. Because of the political changes that have taken place in East Germany over the last two years, this possibility is no longer open to us. However, the first issue of the Journal has been edited and will be published in association with the Berlin conference. It will be made available free of Charge to IASPM members at the Berlin conference. The Executive Committee will be considering the future of the Journal at its final meeting to be held in Berlin shortly before the conference. The future of the Journal has possible implications for the membership fee structure which will also be reviewed by the Executive at this time. The Executive Committee will bring forward a recommendation to the General Meeting in Berlin and, if necessary, will ask that its successor be empowered to constitute an editorial board for 1991-1993. The Executive Committee will also at this time bring forward any changes to the membership fee structure that it feels should be made.

The Executive Committee would like to thank its colleagues in the Benelux branch for taking responsibility for the production of RPM since 1989. The work of our Benelux colleagues has resulted in RPM continuing to function as an important medium of communication between IASPM's different branches and members. The Executive Committee will consider the future of RPM at its final, Berlin meeting, and will bring forward a recommendation concerning its future to the General Meeting.

Under the Association's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the outgoing Executive Committee is charged with nominating a slate of members for election to its successor. The constitution of the Executive Committee is no longer governed by considerations of a fair and balanced representation of different continents, nations, cultures and specialisations but by the necessity of having an Executive Committee whose membership can in practice meet and properly discharge their responsibilities of running the Organisation on a day-to-day basis. Considerations of geo-cultural balance and representation now govern the constitution of the Board of Representatives, which oversees the work of the Executive Committee. After due deliberations and consultations, the Executive Committee is recommending that its successor have the following members: Sara Cohen (U.K.), Simon Frith (U.K.), Steve Jones (U.S.A.), John Shepherd (Canada) and Peter Wicke (Germany). Although the new Executive Committee decides at its first meeting which of its members will be assigned to become the different officers of IASPM, it is possible to report that Sara Cohen has agreed to become the Association's new General Secretary. The present Executive Committee is grateful to Sara for agreeing to take on this responsibility. Simon Frith has agreed to continue as Chair. Peter Wicke has agreed to take over as Publications Officer, while Steve Jones has agreed to take on a new Position recommended by the current Executive Committee, that of Treasurer/Membership Secretary. The remaining Position on the Committee will have no formally assigned responsibilities, and its incumbent will therefore be free to take on specific, limited tasks for the Association. John Shepherd has agreed to take on this Position.

The new Executive faces a considerable challenge in running the Organisation for the next two years. Over its ten year history, IASPM has grown remarkably, both in terms of its membership, and in terms of the level of its international representation. IASPM now has branches in Australia, the Benelux countries, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, the Nordic countries, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and the United States of America. This expansion has put considerable strains on the Organisation in terms of effective communication between international and branch officers and of the effective administration of the Organisation. When branches started to proliferate within IASPM, it was thought best to make individual branches the focal point for the administration of membership fees and membership lists. The branch, after all, is the level of the Organisation which has most relevance for the majority of IASPM's members on a day-to-day basis. This arrangement worked well while IASPM was a kind of extended family, and while

most branch officers had personal knowledge of the Organisation at the international level and the requirements of running the Organisation successfully at this level. Problems faced by the international officers (and especially the General Secretary) could be traced to the fact that IASPM was a growing Organisation and that its financial base did not match the money necessary to run the Organisation successfully. For this reason, IASPM has much to be grateful for to the institutions of its first three General Secretaries, which in practice made up this financial shortfall.

More recently, however, it has become apparent that the financial and organisational difficulties faced by the international officers are no longer traceable to Problems of relative youth and fast expansion, but to a breakdown in communication between branch and international officers. Members who have kindly agreed to become branch officers have tended increasingly not to have first-hand knowledge of the Organisation at the international level, or of the Problems of running the Organisation at this level. While the growth in the numbers of members involved in IASPM's administration is welcome, some concrete problems have nevertheless resulted. First, it is clear to the international executive that RPM is not reaching many members who are entitled to receive it. The reason for this is that the international membership list is not up-to-date at the time RPM is sent out. This breakdown in communication can have serious consequences when, for example, an issue of RPM contains news and information about a forthcoming international conference. Equally, if a conference organiser communicates directly with the membership, omissions can occur if the international membership list is not up-to-date. The real nature of the problem for the international executive is that when it receives complaints from members in various parts of the world that they are not receiving material to which they are entitled, the international executive (or the General Secretary's Institution) then has to bear the additional cost of ensuring that mistakes are rectified. This depletes a financial Base already depleted because (in the same way that the international membership secretary is not always kept up-to-date on membership) the international treasurer does not always receive monies due the international Organisation under the membership fee structure.

Under the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is charged with running the Organisation effectively at the international level. The current Committee feels strongly that the only way that this can be accomplished in the future is for a unified membership -fee to be sent centrally to the international Treasurer/Membership secretary along with all membership forms and applications. One reason for combining the two previous positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary is to in the future avoid the necessity of two international officers trying to co-ordinate their work in relation to some twenty to thirty branch officers. The proposal, then, is that all members will send their membership form and membership fee directly to the international Treasurer/Membership Secretary, who will then periodically send to the branches monies that are due to them under the membership fee structure.

The current Executive Committee recognises that such an administrative change may be viewed by some branches as eroding their autonomy. The Committee therefore wished to stress that this is not the Intention behind the changes that it is recommending. To the contrary, there are cases where branches languish from time-to-time, and where, therefore, membership in a particular country or region of the world may decline despite the existence of people who would like to join the Organisation. The international Executive Committee feels that it has a responsibility to serve such members, even though activities in a particular branch may have subsided for a while. The Executive also feels that the proposed changes in IASPM's administrative structure will give it a clearer picture of what is happening around the world, and enable it to facilitate the continued life and future development of branches by ensuring that the financial base for the running of branches is in as healthy a state as possible. To be candid, the current Executive Committee feels that if these changes are not instituted, the Organisation will gradually but surely crumble into extinction. The Executive Committee also feels that it can no longer expect the institutions of international officers to subsidise IASPM when such subsidy is required because of the inability of the Organisation to keep its collective house in Order. In this situation, putting responsibility for the financial and administrative health of the Organisation in the hands of one motivated Person seems like a very sensible move.

Under the present Membership Fee Structure and Statutes and Rules of Procedure there is an international membership fee which can then be supplemented by branches for their own activities through the mutual agreement of their members. This means, in practice,, that the level of composite membership fee between branches can, vary. As far as the current Executive Committee is aware, the composite membership fee has nonetheless remained at \$25 U.S. in all Gases (\$12 for the international Association and \$13 for the branch) because this was the level of international membership fee before the current arrangements came

into effect. The effect of the changes in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure proposed by the current Executive Committee would be to go back to the previous system, but with the Provision written into the Membership Fee Structure that 50% of the fee go to the international Organisation and 50% to branches where branches exist. The Executive Committee therefore proposes the following changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure:

1. Clause 5.1 shall now read: "Membership is acquired on payment of relevant dues to the Association's Treasurer/Membership Secretary and is valid on receipt of membership certification."
2. Clause 9.6 shall now read: "Each Branch treasurer should open a bank account in the name of the Association in the country or region concerned. National or regional membership dues and other national or regional payments to the Branch should be deposited in this account."
3. Clause 9.7 shall be struck out.
4. Clause 9.8 shall now become Clause 9.7 and read: "Branch treasurers submit a financial statement twice a year to the Association's Treasurer/Membership Secretary."
5. Clauses 9.9 and 9.10 shall now become Clauses 9.8 and 9.9 respectively.
6. A new Clause 1.2 of the Membership Fee Structure shall read: "The Association's Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall twice a year remit to Branch Treasurers monies due Branches under the Membership Fee Structure set out in 1.1."
7. Clauses 1.2 and 1.3 of the Membership Fee Structure shall now become Clauses 1.3 and 1.4 respectively.
8. Clause 1.4 of the Membership Fee Structure shall now read: "All membership fees shall be submitted in U.S. dollars. Exceptions to this arrangement may be agreed between Branches and the Association's Treasurer/Membership Secretary where circumstances make this procedure unrealistic (see, for example, 2. and 3. below)."

Dr.sc.phil. Peter Wicke
General Secretary