PSAMMONALIA is sent to individuals interested in the study of the minute biota of aquatic sediments.

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The main item discussed at the business meeting included the question of whether or not registrants of PSAMMONALIA should establish a formal society in the near future, and, if so, select a name for the organization, elect officers, form a constitution and bylaws, etc.

At the meeting it was decided that we should continue to function as an informal organization. Although it was suggested that this association continue to exist within the framework of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology of the American Society of Zoologists, subsequent investigation has shown this to be impractical except for meeting purposes.

Dr. W. Duane Hope, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. was elected acting chairman for a term of two years by those present. Dr. Hope was directed to appoint an ad hoc committee for the study of organizational matters and establish a system whereby the organization might function effectively with a minimum of formality.

In addition to the business meeting, two motion picture films were shown and a panel discussed selected topics pertaining to interstitial research.

Films Available on Interstitial Fauna.

The two 16mm B&W films shown at the New York Meeting of the Association were highly regarded by those present. The two films: "Biological Adaptations of Marine Sand Microfauna" by P. Tessier, B. Swedmark, and J. Dragesco, and "Halamohydra" by P. Tessier may be obtained on loan by writing: Mme H. Chesnais, FACSEA, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021.
2) **Name of the Organization:** Considering the choice between the terms Association and Society, the committee recommends Association because of its less formal connotation. The subject of study can be defined by three terms (or derivatives of these terms) depending upon the degree of inclusiveness desired, i.e., meiobenthos, interstitial biota, and Psammon. Meiobenthos (-ology) is preferred because it denotes biota generally smaller than 2mm and association with marine and freshwater sediments. It includes organisms commonly neglected because of their small dimensions and inherent problems of collection and preparation for study. Meiobenthos not only includes interstitial biota in the strict sense (biota of the interstices of sedimentary particles) but also the epibenthic and burrowing biota of a similar size range. The term psammon etymologically and historically has denoted the biota of sand or more coars sediments and is, therefore, by its inferred restriction, less desirable in our organizational name.

The *ad hoc* committee for the study of organizational matters proposed the name: The Association of Meiobenthologists.

3) **Officers:** Until such time as reorganization is warranted, the officers shall include a Chairman, Board of Editors, and Board of Councilors. The Board of Editors shall consist of the Chairman and several members appointed by him; the Board shall be responsible for organizing, editing, and distribution the newsletter.

Prior to the next issue of *PSAMMONALIA*, persons representing different disciplines of meiobenthic research and diverse geographic regions as well, will be invited to volunteer their services as members of the Board of Councilors. Their contributions will be to (1) assist in gathering and compiling information for *PSAMMONALIA* (conferences, recent literature, etc.); (2) advise on organizational activities; and (3) represent the general interest of the membership. The duration of such services will be for 2 or more years, depending upon the availability of alternates. Names of the first members of the Board of Councilors will appear in the next newsletter.

While members of the Board of Councilors will be expected to do much of the gathering of information for the newsletter, the Board of Editors will continue to encourage all members of the Association to contribute information for inclusion in *PSAMMONALIA*.

(4) **Financial Support:** Expenses for previous issues of *PSAMMONALIA* have largely been assumed by Drs. Higgins and Zinn. With the present mailing list now over 100 it is necessary to request financial contributions if the goals of the newsletter are to be met. The *ad hoc* committee recommends that non-student members donate $2.00 each year to help meet these expenses. The funds will be used only for purchasing such materials necessary for producing and mailing the newsletter. Student members will not be expected to donate funds for support.
hope that this enthusiastic support will grow, for it is contributions from all over the world that will increase the value of *PSAMMNALIA* for each of us.

The editors also wish to give special thanks to Dr. John Gray, who has acted as intermediary in contacting European meioentheologists.

**Future Issues of *PSAMMNALIA***.

A future issue of *PSAMMNALIA* will include information on European laboratories where meioentheic research is being conducted. If the membership will respond, we would like to include occasional briefs of research being conducted by various individuals or groups of individuals. A future issue will contain such a report on the work being done in the Woods Hole community. Once again, this information depends on contributions from the membership; please help us. Let us have your comments on this issue.

**The Association Invites New Membership.**

Any interested person or institution may receive *PSAMMNALIA* by writing the Chairman.

**Help Support *PSAMMNALIA***.

This issue of *PSAMMNALIA* (200 copies) has cost approximately $0.40 per copy. The *ad hoc* committee has suggested that non-student members donate $2.00 annually for the support of the newsletter. Make checks payable to "Association for Meioentheologists" and send to Dr. W. Duane Hope, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, USA. Future issues may depend upon your response.


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