The late Louis Dubertret (France) as Secretary General of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) gave more than a quarter of a century of his professional life to promotion and leadership of the Association.

The IAH Bulletins were his primary contribution, but his greatest came in the form of good advice given to his colleagues. There was nothing he enjoyed more than being in the field, preferably somewhere in the Middle East where he was a recognized authority in geology, engineering geology and hydrogeology.

Retiring CGMW President Jean Marçais was honoured at the 26th IGC for his longstanding leadership in the Commission and his many contributions to it over the past twenty years. He is succeeded by Jean Auboin.

Addressing the CGMW General Assembly on July 8, 1980, Mr. Marçais outlined his views of the work carried out by the Commission; his speech is reproduced in part only.

"Today ought to mark the beginning of a new era, the first stage of which is represented by the oceanic sheets of the Geological World Atlas. Recent advances in our knowledge of ocean floor geology have led to an in-depth study of the ocean floors. Moreover, a seemingly vital connection between geology and geophysics has been developed by petroleum geologists, and maps produced in future years should be "geodynamic" maps...

If all information were to be included on our maps, they would soon become overloaded as to be illegible. I believe that the future lies in publishing a series of perhaps three or four maps on a transparent or translucent base, thus allowing them to be superimposed on a light table to show the interrelationships between various facts.

The importance of establishing an accurate form of bathymetry for use in the preparation of maps of the ocean floor cannot be over-emphasized. Because of the lack of erosion by air, underwater relief gives an instant portrayal of the Earth's crust under the oceans. When they reveal erosional forms and continental reliefs, detailed cross-sections of coastlines can be used to determine variations in ocean levels. Admittedly, marine currents which prevent sedimentation, or sediments themselves where they are thickest in sedimentary basins, alter the value of the interpretations that can be made from bathymetric measurements but in general, the importance of bathymetry is constant.

As for the projections to be adopted for geological maps and especially for maps covering large areas, it is obvious that no single projection is satisfactory. It is important that the projection chosen be equivalent rather than true, so that the relationship between surface outcrops can be maintained. For planispheres, however, the normal Mercator projection will undoubtedly be in use for many more years.

The high cost of printing maps remains a difficult problem for the Commission. Hopefully, new methods as described in..."