

## EVENING MEETING APRIL 12, 1976

### RICHARD A. GEYER — Biographical Review



Richard A. Geyer is Professor and Head, Department of Oceanography at Texas A & M University.

Dr. Geyer received a B.S. in 1937 and a M.S. in 1940 in geology from New York University. He then received his M.A. in 1950 and Ph.D. in 1951 in geology from Princeton.

He began his professional career with Humble, first as a Research Geophysicist and then as Head of the Oceanography Section. In 1954, he went to work for Texas Instruments, first as a geophysicist and then in oceanography. He has had his present position at A & M since 1966.

### RESULTS OF A 5-YEAR STUDY OF NATURALLY OCCURRING HYDROCARBONS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN (Abstract)

by: Richard A. Geyer

The results are discussed of a five-year research program to study naturally occurring hydrocarbons on the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as within and floating on the surface of the water column. The geographic emphasis has been in the Gulf, but data on hydrocarbons found floating at or near the surface have also been collected on a profile from Dakar to Trinidad. Tar samples have also been collected seasonally and analyzed chemically from along the entire Texas coast as well as a portion of the Mexican coast.

Geological, geophysical and oceanographic data were obtained from large oceanographic research vessels and a submersible, as well as occasionally from remote-sensing aircraft. The results corroborate historical evidence of tar on beaches from naturally occurring seeps. These include its use in making pottery by the Karankawa Indians in pre-Columbian times, to Spanish explorers caulking their ships. More recently, notations appear on charts published by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey from 1902-1909 of heavy oil slicks off the Louisiana and Texas coasts, and reports in a United States Geological Survey publication in 1903 of oil ponds off the Sabine River. This research has also resulted in scores of gas seeps being documented on seismic sub-bottom profiler records and by visual and photographic observations from a submersible.