

Spring '74 marks departure from usual Society meeting

The AOCS 65th Annual Spring Meeting will convene in Mexico City, April 28-May 1. On the surface, the general program outline may look like the usual Society convention, but spring 1974 marks the departure from several traditions and promises to be the most unique and exciting AOCS meeting ever. Frank Khym and Technical Program Chairman George Kreutzer have worked long and hard to organize a meeting that will be attractive to every AOCS member. Some of the new ideas are discussed below.

First time in a non-English speaking country

Technically, the Society has met on foreign soil—in Canada for national meetings and abroad for short courses. But spring 1974 will be the first full convention AOCS has held in a country in which English is not the primary language. Fortunately Mexicans have far less trouble with English than Americans have with Spanish, so no real communication problems should occur.

Mexico City and its environs offer the traveler a unique and sharp contrast of the very old and the ultramodern. The centuries-old Main Square with its government buildings and Metropolitan Cathedral and sparkling new structures along the Reforma reflect the multifaceted personality of the city. On the edge of the city is the beautiful and modern University and the home of the 1968 Olympic Games. A few miles outside the city are the ancient pyramids, so important to the religion of the Aztecs. History abounds in Mexico, and probably the greatest disappointment of the trip will be the impossibility of seeing it all. You'll no doubt want to return—or to extend your stay by taking a postmeeting tour.

Group travel

The Mexico City meeting is ideally suited to the Society's first attempt at using an official travel coordinator. Because of their experience as one of the largest convention travel firms in the world, Travel Consultants, Inc., has been chosen to handle these responsibilities.

Use of a travel coordinator can save the convention registrant both time and money. Time can be saved and difficulty avoided because you will be able to make travel arrangements, secure hotel reservations and register for the meeting simultaneously.

TCI can help you save money by grouping AOCS to take best advantage of special rates. We are urging all AOCS registrants to use TCI service because the savings can be substantial. There is a wide variety of group rates depending on a wide variety of variables. By handling all travel arrangements, TCI can assure us that the AOCS registrant will receive the best possible rates with the least possible bother.

The examples below are based on a special GIT fare requiring that 15 people travel together to Mexico, stay in that country at least 5 nights (not necessarily all in the same city), and take one ground tour.

For those who do not live in an area from which it is likely that 15 people will be attending the meeting, TCI may well be able to provide for group rates for at least part of the trip. For example, if only one person from Boston registers for the meeting, TCI may be able to connect him with a group leaving from New York City. He would pay regular full fare for the Boston-New York City round trip, but would qualify for group rates for New York City-Mexico City. TCI will make this type of arrangement

whenever possible with little or no travel inconvenience to the registrant.

It is important to note that you need travel with the group *only* one way. Go to Mexico City with the crowd; come back at your own convenience.

The table below shows the possible savings you may achieve by using the travel coordinator:

From	Sample round trip air fares to Mexico City (rates effective 4-1-73)		
	Economy class	GIT	Savings
Atlanta	\$213.00	\$151.00	\$62.00
Baltimore	273.00	198.00	75.00
Chicago	245.00	167.00	78.00
Dallas	155.00	110.00	45.00
New York	295.00	218.00	77.00
St. Louis	221.00	151.00	70.00
San Francisco	261.00	177.00	84.00

All group flights will be on regularly scheduled commercial airlines such as American, Pan Am, etc. Because of the time needed to form groups and the requirements of the various airlines, it is important that space be booked early.

Hotel/travel Packages

When you make your travel arrangements through TCI, you can also register for the meeting and make hotel reservations. Special 5 night packages—to correspond to GIT requirements—have been established. The price includes the hotel rooms, airport/hotel roundtrip transfer and tips, and a sightseeing tour of Mexico City. Arrangements can also be made easily for longer or shorter stays. The 5 day package rates are as follows:

	Maria Isabel Sheraton (headquarters)	Camino Real
5 nights single occupancy	132.00	149.00
extra for 5 nights double occupancy	39.00	33.00

Registration fees are comparable to past AOCS meetings and a special discount is made to those who register through TCI. TCI's income is derived from commissions paid by the airline and hotels, and includes no compensation from the Society; there are no added costs to registrants who use their services.

Program

Special efforts have been made to make the Mexico City program the most balanced and broadly attractive ever, and the social events are being designed with a distinctively Mexican flair.

Technical Program Chairman Kreutzer has enlisted the aid of a large and diverse group of AOCS members and others to develop an interesting and informative series of symposia. In addition, a series of sessions about AOCS, its committees and its activities is being arranged, and a special effort is being made to procure an internationally prominent speaker for this plenary session. Then, too, it is expected that an unusually large number of papers will be submitted in response to the traditional "call for papers." More detail about the program will appear in *JAACS* as it becomes available.

Special registration forms and brochures

Special brochures have been designed that include information about meeting plans, postmeeting tours and meeting registration, and are available from AOCS headquarters. Because this is indeed a unique AOCS meeting, you are urged to make plans now and to register as early as possible. TCI needs your reservation to begin to form groups, and will also be happy to help you with any special arrangements you'd like to make. Write the AOCS executive director for the brochure and start planning now to go to Mexico! ■