

Nestor J. SANDER

Nestor John SANDER (December 5, 1914 – February 11, 2012), "Sandy" for his friends, was a *living history book*, describing himself as a *positivist*.

Nestor was born and grew up in Oakland, California. In 1932, after graduating from high school, he moved on to the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor degree in 1936, followed by a Masters degree in Paleontology in 1938. That same year he joined the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (CASOC), an affiliate of the Standard Oil of California (SOCAL, today's Chevron Corporation), which later (in 1944) became the Arabian American Oil Company, that is ARAMCO. Nestor was sent as a junior geologist for his first assignment to Saudi Arabia (see Photo 1). That was before World War II started and much before the country became known as the major worldwide oil producer. There he probably gained his nickname and entered into the history of petro-

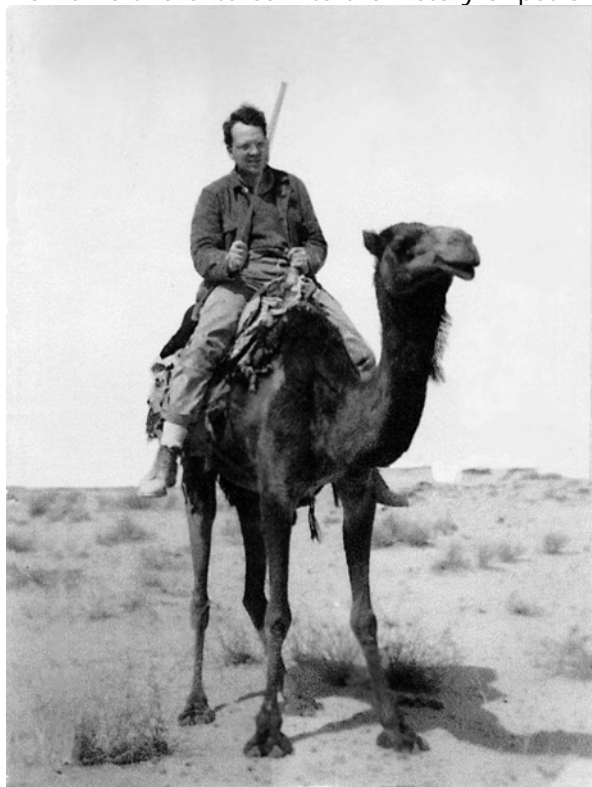
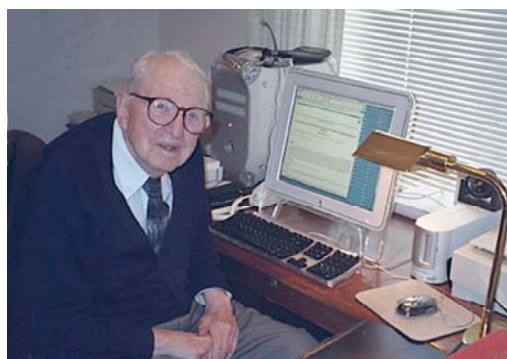


Photo 1: 1939 in Saudi Arabia.



leum exploration, for he was given responsibility for the delineation of the Abqaiq field, which led to Ghawar, that was to become the world's largest oilfield: SANDER's name will remain associated with those of pioneering explorationists in the Middle East, including "Dick" BRAMKAMP (SANDER, 1959), Robert G.S. HUDSON, "Mike" MORTON (DUNNINGTON *et al.*, 1959; Q.M. MORTON, 2006), R.W. POWERS (1968), Max STEINEKE (STEINEKE *et al.*, 1958), W. SUGDEN (SUGDEN & STRANDING, 1975), René WETZEL (DUNNINGTON *et al.*, 1959), ... They are now almost forgotten for - with few notable exceptions- most of their work remains unpublished, being proprietary reports archived at their employers' headquarters.

In 1941 Nestor joined the American army and was assigned to intelligence services in Northern Africa and Europe because he could speak and read French (as well as German, Italian and uish). In Paris, he met Georgette CORDIN, and they were married in 1946. Later the same year, Nestor was back in Saudi Arabia, followed by "Georgia" a few months later. They lived in Dhahran until late 1951 when he was given new responsibilities which led them to move to New York. On their way back to America, they stopped in Paris for a three-month long leave. During this short entr'acte Nestor completed the writing and editing of the manuscript of his D.Sc. thesis and defended it publicly in front of a jury presided by Professor Jean CUVILLIER (see Photo 2) in Sorbonne University in early 1952 (an abridged version in French was published in 1962: an unpublished English version of this early work will be available soon in Carnets de Géologie). In 1955 Nestor resigned from ARAMCO and joined CONORADA Petroleum Corporation, a consortium created by Amerada Petroleum Corporation (today's Amerada Hess Corporation), Continental Oil Company (today's ConocoPhillips) and Ohio Oil Company (today's Marathon Oil Corporation), in charge of petroleum exploration outside the United States and Canada. In order to evaluate open acreage and screen farm-out offers, he travelled a lot (Europe, Central and South America, Africa, India, the Middle East). In 1963 he joined the American International Oil Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company [Indiana] (later merged

with BP). Still in charge of evaluation, he was sharing information with William E. HUMPHREY, the Vice-President Exploration at AIOC (SANDER & HUMPHREY, 1965; SANDER *et al.*, 1975) and Colin CAMPBELL, who became a prominent "Peak Oil" man (and the editor of a book with a chapter dedicated to Nestor: see SANDER, 2011).



Photo 2: Nestor and Georgia in 1967, with Professor Jean CUVILLIER (on the right hand side) and Mrs CUVILLIER (on the left hand side), at the "Table du Roi", Paris.

In 1967 Nestor published a practical classification of carbonate rocks which he first implemented while working in Saudi Arabia (and an early version of which was first exposed by BRAMKAMP & POWERS, 1962): unfortunately his classification came up too late after those of FOLK (1959) and DUNHAM (1962).

In 1977 the couple moved to Spain to enjoy retirement in the neighborhood of Madrid until Georgia's death in early 1992. To occupy his mind Nestor left Spain, travelled in Western Europe and started writing a manuscript entitled "*Ibn Saud - King by conquest*" (published in 2002). In 1994, he returned to California and decided to settle in Modesto.



Photo 3: 2002 in Paris (Photo B. GRANIER).

Thanks to the development of the internet, he managed to keep abreast of modern developments in geology: we first met on the World Wide Web, but he was 87 years old when I met him in person in Paris (see Photo 3). He then started a new "career" as a scientific writer

when I invited him to contribute to some projects (GRANIER *et al.*, 2006, 2009; GROSHENY *et al.*, 2011; GRANIER & SANDER, 2012). On YouTube™, the "rednasrotsen's channel" (his name spelt right to left) includes a number of didactic videos he edited (17 of them are dedicated to stratigraphy and paleontology): his last months were dedicated to mounting a video dealing with the world of the Gastropods.

Last but not least, Nestor SANDER was one of the founders of Carnets de Géologie: many non-native English speakers will remember him as a very kind and generous person who, for instance, helped them polish their manuscripts. We shall miss him!

Bruno GRANIER
Brest, March 11th, 2012

List of taxa described

- *Lockhartia haimeii* var. *nudimarginata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Lockhartia haimeii* var. *spirachordata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Lockhartia haimeii* var. *suturadicata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Lockhartia haimeii* var. *vermiculata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Lockhartia lobulata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Lockhartia retiata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Miscellanoides* SANDER, 1962,
- *Miscellanoides bramkampi* SANDER, 1962,
- *Miscellanoides pruvosti* SANDER, 1962,
- *Nummulites cizancourti* SANDER, 1962,
- *Nummulites cuvillieri* SANDER, 1962,
- *Rotalia jacobi* SANDER, 1962,
- *Sakesaria abornata* SANDER, 1962,
- *Sakesaria nodulifera* SANDER, 1962,
- *Sakesaria tereta* SANDER, 1962,
- *Sakesaria trichilata* SANDER, 1962.

List of dedicated taxa

- *Hildaites sanderi* ARKELL in ARKELL *et al.*, 1952.

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