

CONFERENCES

A personal impression of EUG XI, April 8–12, 2001, Strasbourg

The XIth Meeting of the European Union of Geosciences (EUG XI) took place on April 8–12, 2001, in Strasbourg, France. The pleasant timing and excellent location of the EUG meetings, together with their broad scope, have attracted an increasing number of participants over the past 20 years: from 500 at EUG I in 1981, to nearly 3000 at EUG IX in 1997, and over 2500 this time. With such attendance and more than 2000 presentations (including 1000 posters) prepared by over 6400 authors, EUG XI was certainly amongst the biggest scientific events in the earth science field in Europe and the world as well. The major task of planning and organisation of that enterprise was successfully undertaken by the Organising Committee from Great Britain and an international Scientific Programme Committee. The Meeting was co-sponsored by the American Geophysical Union and over a dozen other organisations, institutions and companies.

The Meeting started with the Opening Session. This included the Award Ceremony, during which medals and awards were presented: the Alfred Wegener Medal to Paul Hoffman (Harvard University, Cambridge, USA), the Arthur Holmes Medal to Francis Albarede (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France), the Outstanding Young Scientist Award to Gideon Henderson (Oxford University, UK) and the Medal for Research Excellence of the European Mineralogical Union to Stefano Poli (Milano, Italy). Also, Honorary Fellowships of the EUG were conferred to Harry Elderfield (Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Michael Sarnthein (University of Kiel, Germany), Jaques Touret (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Juan Watterson (University College, Dublin, Ireland). At the end of the Opening Session, David G. Gee, the President of the EUG Council, gave the Presidential Lecture “EUROPROBE: Multidisciplinary Studies of Continental Europe”, summarising the efforts and results of this international geoscience research project.

The core of the Meeting consisted of scientific presentations grouped into 12 major interdisciplinary Themes, including:

- “Contributions of Industrial Geosciences to Fundamental Understanding and Vice Versa”
- “Biogeosciences”
- “Climate Change”
- “Environment and Oceanography”
- “Fluid & Mass Flux”
- “Lithosphere Structure & Tectonics”
- “Mantle Structure, Composition & Dynamics”
- “Open Symposia”
- “Physics & Chemistry of Earth Material”
- “Rifted Continental Margins”
- “Special Symposia”
- “Volcanic and Plutonic Processes and Products”.

Each Theme comprised from 3 to 12 Symposia, with

89 Symposia in total, probably covering all the current fields of research in European geoscience. Actually, most of the Themes, and even many of the Symposia (e.g. the biggest, “Igneous and Metamorphic Geology”, one of 11 in the Open Symposia Theme, with nearly 40 oral presentations and 80 posters), could well have taken place as separate, successful international conferences. At EUG XI, however, presentations ran in 15 parallel sessions throughout each of the 5 days of the Meeting, presenting the participants with the hard logistic task of planning their individual schedules before being able to taste the scientific dishes they like. This work was aided by the Programme Volume (over 200 pages thick) and, for inquiring fast-readers, the Abstract Volume (869 pages, single-spaced, font size 6.5, printed version or CD).

The somewhat inflated geo-balloon of EUG XI cannot be easily reviewed or briefly summarised. However, it apparently comprised contributions of various rank, considering both the range of problems and the scientific standard and style of presentation. Many contributions, especially those of well-known specialists and the Keynotes to individual Symposia, were excellent. Amongst the most inspiring presentations was the Plenary Lecture “The Snowball Earth Hypothesis: Testing the Limits of Global Change” by Paul Hoffman, the Alfred Wegener Medalist. In terms of general attendance, such traditional geoscience fields as “Igneous and Metamorphic Geology”, “Structural Geology”, “Geochemistry”, “Geochronology” and “Mineral Resources” (all scheduled as Symposia in the “Open Symposia” Theme) turned out to be the most attractive for participants, having the largest number of sessions, lectures and posters. Other popular Symposia included “Origin and Significance of Major Boundaries in the Deep Crust and Continental Lithosphere” (Theme “Lithosphere Structure & Tectonics”), “The Earth’s Mantle” (Theme “Mantle Structure, Composition & Dynamics”) and “The Late Quaternary Glacial and Environmental History in the Eurasian North – Land Areas, Shelf Seas and the Adjacent Deep Arctic Ocean (QUEEN)”, (Theme “Environment and Oceanography”). Almost every geoscientist could find several good presentations in their field at EUG XI, and almost everyone had the opportunity to present their scientific results to the international geocommunity.

The participants of EUG XI came from all European countries (and from other continents), although German, French and other western European geoscientists were apparently the most numerous. The participants included students and young scientists, as well as well-established Professors. Polish geology at EUG XI was represented by 24 contributions (12 lectures, 12 posters), prepared by 28 authors, some 15 of whom personally attended the Meeting. Most of the presentations were scheduled within the “Open Symposia” Theme (11 presentations, Symposia

“Igneous and Metamorphic Geology”, “Geochemistry”, and “Tectonics and Sedimentation”) and within the “Lithosphere Structure and Tectonics” Theme (5 presentations, Symposia “The Dynamics of Basin Inversion: Observations and Numerical Modelling” and “Origin and Significance of Major Boundaries in the Deep Crust and Continental Lithosphere”). Three further contributions were presented in the “Special Symposia” Theme (Symposium “Origin and Evolution of Precambrian Anorogenic Plutonism”) and the rest in various other Symposia. Almost all the major Polish institutions involved in geological research were represented: the Universities (Warsaw University, University of Wrocław, Jagiellonian University), the Polish Geological Institute, and the Polish Academy of Science, as well as most of the geo-research centres: Warszawa, Wrocław, Kraków and Sosnowiec.

The scientific part of EUG XI was accompanied by

many other activities. During the Meeting, 34 exhibitors, including publishers, producers of geological, geophysical and analytical equipment and other companies, offered their products and services (e.g. gadgets, catalogues, free samples of journals, books at a lower price). Social events included the Wine Party with testing of famous Alzace wines and Easter cakes and breads. During the Party, and the scientific sessions as well, the participants had the opportunity to meet old friends and make new contacts. The exchange of ideas was also facilitated by beer served free during the poster sessions and providing a “lubricant” (according to the Organising Committee) for efficient discussions. And evening walks through the beautiful old city of Strasbourg, with its many restaurants serving local specialities, gave some relaxation after one strenuous day, and before the next one... . Certainly, the EUG Meetings are worth experiencing.

*Marek Awdankiewicz
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6th Meeting of the Czech Tectonic Studies Group, Donovaly – Nizke Tatry, May 3-6, 2001

The Slnecno Hotel in Donovaly, middle Slovakia, was the venue for meeting of the Czech Tectonic Studies Group. It was the sixth annual meeting of the CTS Group, but for the first time it was held outside Czech Republic. The goals of these conferences are to present innovative multidisciplinary research in resolving tectonic problems; to demonstrate their significance in solving problems in the field of regional geology; and to bridge the political gap between geologists from Central European countries.

The conference was jointly organized by the Geological Survey of Slovak Republic and the Geological Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences. The events were very well attended by 120 delegates from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. It included 2 days of presentations and 2 days of field trips.

The first day of the conference was spent in the field, led by Juraj Janocko and Stanislav Jacko (Geological Survey of Slovak Republic), where the group observed turbidite deposits systems of the Central-Carpathian Paleogene basin. The following two days of the conference were devoted to oral and poster presentation. Presentations and discussions were divided into eight theme sessions: 1) Sedimentary sequences and systems, 2) Development of the sedimentary basins, 3) Tectonics of the Sudetes, 4) Alpine

development of the Carpathians, 5) Crystalline basement of the Carpathians, 6) Geophysical methods, 7) Crystalline basement of the Bohemian Massif, and 8) Open session. The meeting was characterized by the high quality of papers presented (43 oral presentations) and what was especially valuable was the excellent opportunities that existed for discussions with the speakers at the Conference. Forty posters were on display throughout the meeting and acted as the focus for many discussions. The two days of technical sessions were followed by field trip led by Marian Janak, Dusan Plasienka and Igor Petrik (Slovak Academy of Sciences), and focused on tectonometamorphic records of Variscan and Alpine orogeny in the Tatra Mountains.

Delegates commented very favourably on the organization of the conference, its technical content and the venue. The Slnecno Hotel, and Donovaly with its wonderful scenery, proved to be an excellent venue for the conference. The meeting also included excellent social events and these contributed significantly towards bringing together all the participants. Abstracts of all presentations and field trips guidebook were published in English in the 13th volume of Geolines published by the Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

*Dawid Białek
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The Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Poland and the “Diagenesis 2001” Conference, Poznań, September 20-21, 2001

The joint meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Poland and the fourth “Diagenesis” Conference (“Diagenesis 2001”) took place in Poznań on September 20-21, 2001. It was organised by the Mineralogical Society of Poland and the Institute of Geology of the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań. The conference was attended by over sixty

geologists from several Polish scientific centres: the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, the Archaeological Museum of Kraków, the Institute of Geological Sciences PAN (Kraków), the Institute of Nuclear Physics (Kraków), the Oil and Gas Institute (Kraków), the Polish Geological Institute (Warsaw and Wrocław), the Polish

Oil and Gas Company (Warsaw), the Technical University of Koszalin, the University (Academy) of Mining and Metallurgy (Kraków), the University of Silesia (Sosnowiec), Warsaw University and Wrocław University. Over the course of the two-day meeting, 40 lectures and 35 posters were presented, containing new data on various aspects of mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry.

Two special sessions took place during the Conference. The first of these was the opening session, with the three first presentations by J. Janeczek (titled "Environmental mineralogy – fashion or necessity?"), M. Sachanbiński & S. Lorenc (on continental and oceanic obsidians in the light of spectroscopic investigations) and J. Środoń (devoted to the interpretation of the K-Ar ages of illite from sedimentary rocks based on the modelling of smectite illitisation). And, at the end of the meeting, all the participants could attend a talk by A. Muszyński, W. Stankowski, P. Dzierżanowski and Ł. Karwowski, presenting new data on the Morasko meteorite, and a presentation by Z. Waleńczak about the possibilities of reconstructing images (of petrogenesis) blurred during rock diagenesis, based on their relicts. Because of the large number of participants and the wide spectrum of research topics, three independent talk sessions were arranged: the mineralogical session (both days), the "Diagenesis 2001" session (day one) and the petrological session (day two).

During the mineralogical session, a wide range of mineralogical problems of crystalline (both igneous and metamorphic) and sedimentary rocks from Poland (Tatra Mountains, Sudetes) and around the world (the western Indian Ocean, Egypt, northern Russia) were addressed. The diagenesis session consisted of nine talks, dealing with, among other topics: the silica budget in diagenetic processes in the Lower Carboniferous sandstones from Western Pomerania (J. Biernacka); fluid inclusion studies

and light isotope determinations aimed at reconstructing diagenetic processes in rocks (K. Jarmołowicz-Szulc); the mineralogy of the Carpathian ochres (J. Kotlarczyk & T. Ratajczak); and the influence of compaction and cementation on the pore space parameters of Miocene sandstones (G. Leśniak & P. Such). In the petrological session, the lectures covered a broad range of issues related to igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, dominantly from the Central Western Carpathians (Western Tatra Mountains) and the Sudetes (Kłodzko area and Kaczawa Mountains).

During the second day of the conference, there was a poster session that attracted the attention of many participants and sparked off lively discussions. The poster presentations covered various aspects of the diagenesis, mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of various kind of rocks, with case studies from the Upper Silesia Coal Basin, Western Pomerania, the Małopolska Block, Lower Silesia and the Sudetes (Intra-Sudetic Basin, Świebodzice Basin, Góry Sowie, Table Mountains, Kaczawa Mountains), the Fore-Sudetic Block, and even from the Eastern Pacific Ocean, South Africa (Witwatersrand Basin) and the North Caucasus in Russia.

The combined "Diagenesis 2001" Conference and the meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Poland were successful scientific events. The high-quality presentations, both talks and posters, and the large number of participants (academics, PhD students, and representatives of the Polish Geological Institute and oil and gas companies), testified the need to continue such meetings in the future. The organization was excellent, ensuring a pleasant atmosphere throughout the sessions as well as during the unofficial evening party.

*Joanna Kostylew
(Wrocław University)*

The 8th Meeting of the Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, Łądek Zdrój, October 18–21, 2001

The eight meeting of the Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland was held in Łądek Zdrój on October 18–21, 2001, close to village of Trzebieszowice, where the first meeting took place in 1996. Since that first meeting, it has become an annual opportunity for Polish petrologists to discuss the results of their research. The 8th conference was dedicated to the memory of Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski, on the centenary of his birth. It was organized by the Mineralogical Society of Poland and the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he did research for most of his life. Three additional institutions participated in organizing the conference: the Institute of Geochemistry Mineralogy and Petrology of Warsaw University, the Institute of Geological Sciences of Wrocław University and the Institute of Geology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The conference was attended by a considerable group of foreign guests from the Czech Republic (5), Egypt (3), Ger-

many (3), Hungary (2), Canada (1) and Russia (1), and numerous participants from Poland (71).

Jacek Puziewicz, the chairman of the Petrology Group, opened the conference. The first two lectures of the inaugural session were given by Maria Borkowska ("Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski – His Life and Work") and by Jan Burchart (Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski and Petrology"). After these talks, an open discussion started, and numerous addresses to the memory of Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski were expressed.

The meeting was devoted to the metamorphism of the Śnieżnik Dome, with special emphasis on the petrology of high-pressure rocks, one of the Professor's main scientific interests. Thus, the first session was dominated by lectures on granulites, eclogites and kimberlites. Talks on high-pressure rocks in the Sudetes were given by Nonna Bakun-Czubarow ("Eclogites in the Orlica-Śnieżnik Dome"), Pavla Štípská ("Structures related to the exhumation of the Orlica-Śnieżnik Dome") and



Participants of the 8th Meeting of the Petrology Group during post-conference field trip. The outcrop of eclogites, Międzygórze. (Photo A. Wilamowski)

tion of high-pressure rocks within the orogenic root domain: examples of the SE Moldanubian Zone and the Śnieżnik Dome”). Other talks presented during the first session were given by Lauro Morten, Andrzej Skupiński, Krzysztof Dudek and Nonna Bakun-Czubarow, and dealt with the occurrence of HP rocks within areas other than Śnieżnik Dome. Apart from that, the general session covered a wide spectrum of petrological matters, including the petrology of crystalline rocks, isotope geology, and geochemistry. There were also noteworthy lectures dealing with petroarcheology, given by Joanna Trąbska (“Wall paintings of the Holy Virgin Monastery, Deir-El-Souriani, Egypt – mineralogical and petrographical research of plasters and pigments” and “Mineral pigments of medieval wall paintings – chemical and mineralogical

composition of their closest vicinity”). Such research is proof of the increase in scientific cooperation between mineralogists and archeologists, and the marked interest in presenting their research results to groups of geologists. During the conference, a total of 33 talks grouped in 7 topics were given, and 29 posters were presented during the poster session, which was scheduled for the evening of the first day. The Annual Meeting of the Board of the Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society took place at the same time as the poster session. The Board established that the next session would be held in Karpacz, and be devoted to granitoid bodies and their cover. Abstracts of all the presentations were reviewed and published in the 19th volume of the Special Papers of the Mineralogical Society of Poland.

Nonna Bakun-Czubarow, Jerzy Don and Wojciech Bartz led the post-conference trip, which was on the last day of conference. The structural and petrological problems of the rocks constituting the Orlica – Śnieżnik Dome were discussed. Exposures of eclogites within the vicinity of Międzygórze and granulites in Stary Gierałtów were visited, and their metamorphism and tectonic position were described. The trip also included the exposure of the Gierałtów migmatites (near Wilczka waterfall) and the exposure displaying the relationship between the Gierałtów gneiss and the Śnieżnik gneiss.

The conference took place in a luxurious hotel on the outskirts of Łądek Zdrój. It was well organized, which was appreciated by the participants, as were the charming surroundings. The scientific level of the meeting was, as always, very high, and particularly strongly contributed by young researchers. The presence of nearly ninety attendants reveals the great interest of both Polish and foreign petrologists in this significant event in Poland.

Wojciech Bartz
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