



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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20th ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE PETROLOGY GROUP

The Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland held its 20th anniversary meeting on October 17–20, 2013, in Niemcza, Poland. The Petrology Group was established in 1993 thanks to Professor Alfred Majerowicz of the University of Wrocław. Jacek Puziewicz, known as Puzon (“Trombone”) and at the time a young scientist, was elected chair of the group. At the beginning of the 1990s, the number of Polish researchers in petrology was around 70. They were not often in contact with each other and there was no tradition of regular meetings. So Trombone proposed that the Petrology Group organize an annual meeting. The idea was simple: bring the people together and give those at the beginning of their career the opportunity to present their work to a gathering of all Polish petrologists. The first meeting was held in Trzebiezowice in the Sudetes in 1994 and attracted about 40 participants, but no proceedings book was prepared. The lively discussions and perfect social atmosphere were an indication that Petrology Group meetings had a chance to work. The break came in 1995 in Kowary: the number of participants was still 40, but all Polish academic centers where petrology was being taught were represented. The first proceedings book was published.

The meetings between 1994 and 1999 were held in the Sudetes and all were organized by Trombone’s group. Since financial support was nonexistent or minimal and the participants had to cover all the costs, the meetings were held in relatively cheap places like rustic hotels, inns, and recreation centers. The 1995 meeting in Kowary was remarkable because the heating in the hotel was out of order for two days, which is a problem in Poland in October. All the participants crowded into a small cafeteria in the underground and consumed liquid calories, which eventually gave them the courage to go to their cold rooms and get some sleep. The meetings were always located outside large towns and all participants were housed in a single hotel, which enabled an intense evening social life—as important to our meetings as the scientific sessions. During the first meetings the number of participants stabilized at about 60, and this number continues to the present. An important watershed in the history of Petrology Group meetings occurred in 1999 when the meeting language was changed from Polish to English, an initiative of Jacek Puziewicz (resulting in one of the thinnest proceedings books!). After the first “English” meeting, the psychological barrier was broken and the first foreign participants started to come. The first non-Sudetes



Participants in the 20th anniversary meeting of the Polish Petrology Group



Jacek Puziewicz (“Trombone”), who initiated the meetings of the Petrology Group in 1994 (standing on the left), Magda Matusiak-Malek, secretary of the meeting (sitting in the middle), and the “student power” of the organizing committee

meeting was held in Osieczany in 2000 and was organized by Marek Michalik (Jagiellonian University, Cracow). Since then the meetings have been held in various places in Poland, always with some foreign participants who are attracted by the leading topic or a field trip.

The 20th meeting of the Petrology Group was again organized by Trombone and his coworkers and attracted over 70 participants. The scientific program showed a broad spectrum of petrological research, from studies of deep-seated plutonic igneous rocks to environmental and industrial matters. The diversity of topics is reflected by the talks of the invited speakers: Hubert Bril (University of Limoges, France)—“Solid speciation studies—a tool to

assess potential release of ‘heavy metals’ from contaminated mining and industrial sites”; Theodoros Ntaflou (University of Vienna, Austria)—“Geochemical and petrological constraints on the origin of the Earth’s lithospheric mantle beneath the back-arc environment in northern and easternmost Russia”; Ewa Słaby (University of Warsaw, Poland)—“Numerical simulation of magma mixing, from macro- to microscale”; and Brian Upton (University of Edinburgh, Great Britain)—“Mesoproterozoic continental rifting, alkaline magmatism, long-term lithospheric memories, and mantle plumes.” The meeting ended with a half-day field trip to see igneous rocks near Niemcza (Cenozoic alkaline volcanic rocks, Variscan basement granodiorites) and the environmental problems related to lateritic Ni-ore exploitation and smelting in an abandoned mine in the small serpentinite massif of Szklary.

Jacek Puziewicz (Wrocław University)