German Mineralogical Society

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This year's annual meeting of the DMG was held at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany, from September 21 to 24. In keeping with the meeting's motto, "Minerals at Focal Point," the numerous contributions covered a wide range of topics, from crystallography and applied mineralogy to petrology and geo- and cosmochemistry. Almost 350 geoscientists and guests from all over the world came to Jena.

On Sunday evening, the meeting opened with an icebreaker party in the garden of the Institute of Geosciences, where participants shared a good time with their colleagues while enjoying drinks and barbequed food. The presentations started on Monday with welcoming speeches by the rector of the Friedrich Schiller University, Klaus Dicke, the mayor of Jena, Frank Schenker, the president of the DMG, Astrid Holzheid, and the conference chair, Falko Langenhorst.

Conference Chair Falko Langenhorst opens the annual meeting and welcomes all to Jena, city of light!

The meeting featured 158 talks and 123 posters divided into 17 sessions. The following plenary talks deserve particular attention: "The significance of cosmogenic nuclides in large lowland basins," presented by Hella Wittmann-Oelze (Helmholtz-Zentrum Potsdam, Germany), "Open-framework silicates at extreme conditions," by G. Diego Gatta (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy), and "Biomineralization in magnetotactic bacteria and biomimetic synthesis of magnetic nanoparticles," by Mihály Pósfai (University of Pannonia Veszprém, Hungary). An evening public lecture entitled "The early Solar System – the first 10 million years" was delivered in German by Klaus Keil (University of Hawai'i, Manoa, USA).

During lunch-time symposia, the companies FEI Deutschland GmbH, Carl Zeiss Microscopy, and PANalytical GmbH presented current technologies, applications, and analytical methods. A meeting for DMG members was held during the conference, and three awards were made at the conference dinner (see article below).

The program included a half-day field trip to the nearby former uranium mining district at Ronneburg, a guided city tour featuring the history of Jena, and prolonged opening hours for the mineral collection of the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena.

This year's annual meeting of the DMG was very well organized by the local committee. Due to the diversity of topics and the perfect organization, the meeting was well received by all participants.

Steffen Schächinger (Kiel)

DMG AWARDS FOR 2014

Klaus Keil

The **Abraham Gottlob Werner Medal** in silver is the highest award of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG) and is given for outstanding original research in mineralogy. The 2014 medal was presented to **Klaus Keil** (Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, Manoa) for his outstanding achievements in extraterrestrial mineralogy. He is one of the leading scientists investigating rock samples from the Moon brought to Earth by the Apollo missions, and he also participated in the Viking project on Mars. His detailed electron microprobe studies of extraterrestrial samples are fundamental for the classification of chondritic meteorites.

Jonas Pape (University of Bern, Switzerland), receiving his award from incoming DMG President François Holtz (right).

The **Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize** is given to young researchers for outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences. The 2014 awardee is **Oliver Nebel** (Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra) in recognition of his fundamental contributions to the geochemistry of isotopes. His high-precision determinations of $^{87}Rb/^{85}Rb$ in geologic materials by MC-ICPMS have improved Rb/Sr geochronology significantly.

The **Paul Ramdohr Award,** given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the DMG, went to **Jonas Pape**, a PhD student at the Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland. The award recognized his talk "The behaviour of the Zr-in-rutile thermometer at ultra-high-temperature conditions from paragneisses in the mafic complex of the Ivrea zone, northern Italy," which he presented at the joint annual meeting of DMG and the German Geological Union (GV) in Tübingen, 2013.

DMG SHORT COURSES 2015

In 2015 DMG will support seven short courses, listed below. All courses are aimed primarily at advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students but are always open to more senior researchers as well. Non-local student members of DMG are eligible for travel support of up to 50 €. Further information is given at www.dmg-home.de/kursprogramm.html.

Introduction to Thermodynamic Modeling: Theory and Exercises: Christian Albrecht University of Kiel, Institute of Geosciences; Dr. Erik Duesterhoeft and Prof. Dr. Romain Bousquet (Christian Albrecht University, Kiel), Prof. Dr. Christian de Capitani (University of Basel); 23–25 February 2015; contact: ed@min.uni-kiel.de.

High-Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth's Interior: Bayerisches Geoinstitut / University Bayreuth; Prof. Dr. Tomo Katsura, Dr. Stefan Keyssner; 23–27 February 2015; contact: Stefan.Keyssner@uni-bayreuth.de.

Rietveld Refinement: Basic Principles and Applications (Grundlagen und Anwendung der Rietveld-Verfeinerung): Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart; Prof. Dr. Robert E. Dinnebier; 9–12 March 2015; contact: r.dinnebier@fkf.mpg.de.

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OBITUARY

Wolfgang Hoffmann (1935–2014)

Wolfgang Hoffmann passed away at the age of 79 on July 26, 2014, at his home in Großsolt, near Flensburg in northernmost Germany. He had moved there, far from the University of Münster, several years after becoming emeritus professor. For a number of years he followed developments in science by keeping close contact with the Institute of Geosciences in Kiel until health problems and the effects of a dreadful car accident made this impossible.

Wolfgang Hoffmann was born on February 9, 1935, in Hamburg, where he began his studies of physics, physical chemistry, mineralogy, and crystallography in 1954. He completed his doctorate degree in 1961 with a thesis entitled "Crystal Optics and Crystal Structure of Whewellite, a Rare Calcium Oxalate." Seven years of stimulating scientific research followed at Fritz Laves' Institute for Crystallography and Petrography at the ETH in Zürich. Then, as a young man only 33 years of age, he accepted an appointment as chair of crystallography at the Institute of Mineralogy of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. He was to occupy this position until the year 2000.

Wolfgang Hoffmann's scientific interests were wide ranging within the general field of the crystal structure of silicates. He worked on microporous structures, such as sodalites, cancrinites, and zeolites, with the objective of synthesizing templated crystals and determining the disorder of anion groups in their structural cages. This work included the study of crystallization kinetics in sodalite-type compounds, incorporating the use of ^{29}Si-MAS-NMR spectroscopy when this technique became available.

A further focus of Wolfgang Hoffmann's scientific oeuvre dealt with the transport of alkali ions in the channels of aluminosilicate structures, especially Na in hexagonal Na-nephelines, a homeotype of tridymite, and ionic conduction in Li-bearing compounds of the β-eucryptite type, a homeotype of high quartz.

For several years Hoffmann worked on the structures and phase transitions of SiO_2 types as metastable states, especially tridymites. He developed a program for structural refinement capable of handling the enormous volume of intensity and parameter data, which, in the early days of data processing, was certainly not a trivial task.

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Solid State NMR Spectroscopy (Anwendungen der Festkörper-NMR-Spektroskopie in der mineralogischen und geowissenschaftlichen Forschung): Institute for Geology, Mineralogy and Geophysics, Ruhr University Bochum; Dr. Michael Fechtelkord; 26–29 May 2015; contact: Michael.Fechtelkord@rub.de.

Timescales from Diffusion Modeling: Institute for Geology, Mineralogy and Geophysics, Ruhr University Bochum; Prof. Sumit Chakraborty, Dr. Ralf Dohmen (and others); 24–28 August 2015; contact: Ralf.Dohmen@rub.de.

Introduction to Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry in the Earth Sciences: Helmholtz-Centre Potsdam–GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences; M. Wiedenbeck; 9–13 October 2015; contact: michael.wiedenbeck@gfz-potsdam.de.

In Situ Analysis of Isotopes and Trace Elements by Laser Ablation ICP-MS (In situ-Analyse von Isotopen und Spurenelementen mit (MC-)ICP-MS gekoppelt mit Femtosekunden-Laserablation): Institute for Mineralogy, Leibniz University Hannover; I. Horn, S. Schuth, M. Lazarov, S. Weyer (and others); 12–16 October 2015; contact: s.weyer@mineralogie.uni-hannover.de.

As a leader in the field of crystallography, Wolfgang Hoffmann combined his research with extensive teaching activities, because in his view crystallography played a central role in the Diploma course of studies in mineralogy. He regularly exceeded the required teaching load of eight contact hours per semester week. His lectures encompassed the crystallography I, II, III and crystal structure determination I, II sequences, as well as X-ray crystallography, powder methods, single-crystal methods, the crystal chemistry of rock-forming minerals, and the accompanying lab courses.

Wolfgang Hoffmann served his university with rare dedication. Only two years after being appointed to the chair of crystallography, he became Deputy Rector and Vice-Rector for Research and Academic Development from 1970 to 1973. Subsequently, in a difficult period of political unrest, he was elected to the post of Rector. Conflicts with the student body and the leftist student parliament dominated these years. From 1978 until his retirement, he administered the affairs of the Society for the Promotion of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (WWU). He was chair of the university's senate committees for arts and culture as well as for international relations. He initiated collaborative agreements between the WWU and the universities of Lima and La Paz, which led to a series of requests from other universities in Latin America.

Hoffmann served not only his university but also a number of national and international organizations. He was president of the German Crystallographic Society (then called AGKr) and the German Mineralogical Society (DMG). Within the DMG he initiated the Advisory Council on Research and the Working Group on Mineralogical Museums. After Hans Ulrich Bambauer, his colleague in Münster, had laid the groundwork in tireless negotiations with colleagues from other European mineralogical societies, it was under the presidency of Wolfgang Hoffmann that the *European Journal of Mineralogy*, the first common European publication in the field, and the European Mineralogical Union, an umbrella organization, were founded.

Wolfgang Hoffmann had a strong, decisive personality and was, nonetheless, a person of warmth and kindness, always ready to help and assist. He had his principles, was fearless and of strong opinion, and was ready to raise his voice of disapproval if he disagreed. It did not matter whether he was personally involved or whether it concerned the institute, the faculty, or the university; without consideration of whether his action was "diplomatic" or not and might make him friend or foe, he was led by his principles of correctness and fairness.

Wolfgang Hoffmann enjoyed life. He enjoyed eating, drinking, and good company. His charm enlivened every social gathering. He was an avid host and customarily warned all prospective guests: "Please come hungry, because it will be a lavish meal." One tended to be overwhelmed by the lovingly detailed preparation, the small personal gifts, the wonderful food, and the relaxed and cheerful atmosphere. These events are the highlights in the memories of those who attended. His passion was sailing, and he had a yacht moored in Kiel. His offshore yachting license allowed him to travel as far as the Canary Islands.

Wolfgang Hoffmann loved to influence, to shape policy, and to set things in motion for the benefit of crystallography and mineralogy and for his university. This trait will be the essential element in our memory of his strong personality.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, his daughter and three sons, and his grandchildren.

Herbert Kroll (Münster) and **Walter Maresch** (Bochum)