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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



François Holtz

Dear members of the DMG,

The German Mineralogical Society (DMG) has completed its 105<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The society is in good shape with an approximately constant number of members, around 1650, and an increasing number of student members (including PhDs), indicating that the society remains young and dynamic. The financial situation is still healthy, but the very low interest on investments is problematic and our financial reserve for awards is shrinking.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank the outgoing officers who served the society with high efficiency and enthusiasm. The work of Astrid Holzheid, who served for the last two years as president, is highly appreciated by the Board. Thank you Astrid, especially for managing the establishment of the umbrella association of five solid-Earth geosocieties (DVGeo, associating geophysical, geological, paleontological, and mineralogical societies). M. Meyer, who served for 7 years as secretary, retires at the end of March and hands over the job to K.-D. Grevel. J. Hoefs took care of the finances for 6 years and was replaced by G. Franz last year. Finally, two new councilors, C. M. P. De Campos and I. T. Derrey, will join the team, and we say good-bye and thanks to resigning officers M. Koch-Müller and C. Giehl.

The next two years will be marked by two DMG meetings with a strong international character.

- The GeoBerlin meeting on 4–7 October 2015 will be devoted to Alfred Wegener, who at the time of the meeting will have formulated the hypothesis of plate tectonics exactly 100 years before, as set out in his book *Die Entstehung der Ozeane und der Kontinente* ("The Origin of Continents and Oceans"). This event will be jointly organized by the new geological society DGGV, established in September 2014 in Frankfurt, and the German Mineralogical Society. The topics of the planned sessions will be of interest to a large national and international community, including DMG members of all sections (visit [www.goerlin2015.de](http://www.goerlin2015.de)).
- The DMG annual meeting in 2016 will be held on 11–15 September in Rimini, Italy, concurrently with the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Mineralogical Conference (EMC<sup>2016</sup>). The latter is coordinated by the Italian mineralogical society (SIMP), with the contribution of ten European mineralogical associations (visit [emc2016.socminpet.it](http://emc2016.socminpet.it)).

Last year, the DMG developed a memorandum of understanding with the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) that promotes geochemistry in Europe and internationally. A direct benefit for DMG members is participation in the EAG-led V.M. Goldschmidt Conference<sup>TM</sup> 2015 with member registration rates. DMG members attending Goldschmidt 2015 will also be granted free EAG membership and benefits.

These upcoming meetings illustrate DMG's outreach to other countries and especially to other disciplines. Two decades ago, the DMG annual meeting was still *the* event chosen by mineralogists for meeting each other and for discussing and preparing common proposals, publications, excursions, and so on. With the evolution of tools for communicating, this primary function is no longer the focus of the annual national meeting. On the other hand, annual meetings, when organized with other societies, are excellent opportunities for members of the DMG and other societies to benefit from the complementary expertise of scientists in other disciplines. Most of our young members are aware

of the importance of interdisciplinary research and choose double membership (geological society + mineralogical society), which clearly reflects the interest of young academics in the Earth sciences in general. The message of the younger generation should guide the DMG board, and I hope that I can serve the society by promoting the collaboration of DMG members with other societies at the national level, in particular in the framework of DVGeo, and at the international level.

Best wishes,

**François Holtz** (DMG President)

## DMG AWARDS 2015 – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The **Abraham Gottlob Werner Medal** is the highest award of the German Mineralogical Society. It recognizes outstanding original research in mineralogy (silver medal) or distinguished service for the advancement of the mineralogical sciences (gold medal). The **Georg Agricola Medal** recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of technical and applied mineralogy. The **Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize** is given to young researchers for outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences.

Every DMG member is eligible to submit nominations for the DMG awards. Nominations should include the CV and publication list of the candidate as well as a cover letter outlining the candidate's qualifications. Please submit your nominations to: Prof. François Holtz, Leibniz University Hannover, Institut f. Mineralogy, Callinstr. 3, 30167 Hannover, Germany; e-mail: [f.holtz@mineralogie.uni-hannover.de](mailto:f.holtz@mineralogie.uni-hannover.de).

In memory of the late petrologist and geochemist Beate Mocek, the **Beate Mocek Prize** of the German Mineralogical Society was created by her family to encourage young female scientists in petrology and geochemistry. Female undergraduate and PhD student members of the DMG are eligible to apply for this prize. Please submit your application by June 30 to François Holtz.

The **Paul Ramdohr Award** is given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the DMG. In 2015 the meeting will take place in Berlin (GeoBerlin 2015). DMG student members may apply when submitting an abstract for the meeting.

Further information on the DMG awards is available in our bylaws: <http://dmg-home.de/pdf/Satzung%20DMG2013.pdf>.

## DIFFUSION MODELING – JOINT DMG SHORT COURSE AND MSA WORKSHOP

**Application of Diffusion Studies to the Determination of Timescales in Geochemistry and Petrology** – Institute for Geology, Mineralogy, and Geophysics, Ruhr University Bochum; Prof. Sumit Chakraborty, Dr. Ralf Dohmen, and others; 24–28 August 2015.

The course is directed at petrologists, geochemists, and planetary scientists interested in retrieving information on the timescales of processes from their rocks. Such information might include the residence times of magmas in their reservoirs, the cooling or exhumation rates of rocks, the duration of terrestrial or extraterrestrial (e.g. parent bodies of meteorites) metamorphism, the duration of fluid flow (e.g. metasomatism by fluids/melts in the crust or mantle), and the evaluation and application of closure temperatures. Our focus will be high-temperature processes. Therefore "high-temperature thermochronometry" and "geospeedometry" are related keywords that describe the course contents.

Previous experience with numerical modeling and programming is not required, but an interest in learning the rudiments of these tools is necessary. One of the objectives of the course is to demonstrate that

much can be accomplished with little or no programming experience. The basic information on diffusion that is required for carrying out such calculations will be provided, but this is not a course designed to cover all aspects of diffusion in minerals and melts. In addition to lectures, a major component of the course will be hands-on training in small groups to enable participants to “do their own” modeling. Participants will be expected to bring their own laptop computers. All instruction and exercises will be in English. The course material will be designed for graduate students and postdocs starting off in the fields mentioned above, but participants with all levels of experience and expertise are welcome. To maintain the hands-on nature of the course, we expect to restrict the number of participants to around 30, to be admitted on a first-come first-served basis. Student members of DMG and MSA will be given priority for registration if the demand for a slot becomes a concern. Interested persons can express their intention to register by sending an e-mail containing a brief paragraph describing their background and reasons for wanting to participate to Ralf.Dohmen@rub.de.

For more information see [http://www.minsocam.org/msa/sc/DFFSN\\_descriptn.pdf](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/sc/DFFSN_descriptn.pdf).

## OBITUARY



### **Günther Friedrich, 1929–2014**

After a protracted illness, Prof. Günther Friedrich (RWTH Aachen University) passed away on November 24, 2014. Born in Stuttgart on April 15, 1929, he studied mineralogy and geology at his home university and obtained his PhD at the University of Heidelberg in 1954 under the guidance of “Erzvater” Paul Ramdohr. Subsequently, he joined the RWTH Aachen University as assistant professor, where he earned his

Habilitation in 1962. Günther Friedrich dedicated his life to bringing a standard of excellence to the profession of economic geology, and his distinguished career reflects the diversity and impact of the subject.

After spending two years as a visiting scientist at the University of Missouri–Rolla and the University of California–Berkeley and at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver and the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa, he returned to Aachen where he accepted the position of professor and head of the Division of Applied Ore Deposit Research. Recognizing a gem, RWTH Aachen University appointed him in 1975 as the chair of mineralogy and economic geology and director of the institute. In August 1994, he became “actively retired” from the university and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus for more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Günther Friedrich’s tenure was distinguished by extensive service to the Earth science community, including membership on the Earth Science Committee of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and

several offices in the Society of Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits, including the presidency in 1982–1984. He was also instrumental in the inauguration of the German Forschungskollegium Lagerstätten in 1988. He served for many years on the council of the German National Committee for the Geological Sciences to the IUGS, was president and vice-president of the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft in 1990–1993, and was editor of the Monograph Series on Mineral Deposits. In the process he has forged important international ties through his active participation in international Earth science committees and collaborative research projects in Europe, Canada, the Philippines, Brazil, and southern Africa.

Günther Friedrich’s knowledge of ore deposits was extensive, and his remarkable ability to home in on fundamental problems in the field of economic geology has resulted over the years in a wide range of research interests. For many years, he focused on the development of methods for geochemical exploration, including the use of mercury as a pathfinder element in the search for various types of sulfide ore deposits. In recent years, this method has been applied by environmental geochemists to detect and map areas contaminated by mercury. Much of his scientific life, however, was dedicated to the study of marine mineral deposits, and Günther Friedrich was a pioneer in manganese nodule research. Numerous cruises to the manganese nodule areas of the Pacific Ocean, including the Central Pacific Nodule Belt, the Southwest Pacific, and the Peru Basin, were planned and carried out under his scientific guidance. His research topics also included the mineralogy and geochemistry of the Kupferschiefer deposits; laterite deposits and their gold, chromium, and nickel potential; the formation of alkaline rocks and associated ore deposits; and the genesis of epithermal gold deposits.

Within the German Continental Deep Drilling Project, Günther Friedrich took an active role in the study of ore mineralogy and in developing models for ore formation in metamorphic rocks. The formation of ore deposits by intraformational processes was the subject of a long-term priority research program coordinated by him and funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. In close cooperation with the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe, Günther Friedrich and his students participated in the “Gold metallogenesis in Africa” program, during which an economic, currently exploited gold deposit was discovered as a result of systematic research.

The results of Günther Friedrich’s scientific achievements are summarized in more than 200 publications and 70 conference abstracts, which reflect his broad scientific interests in the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, ore microscopy, and economic geology. His enthusiasm and his almost endless energy have been a driving force not only for him but also for his many students, some of whom are now leading professionals in various parts of the world.

Those of us who were privileged to work with Günther Friedrich remember him for his modesty, his generosity, and his dedication to his science, students, and colleagues.

**Franz Michael Meyer** (RWTH Aachen University)

**GeoBerlin 2015 4-7 Oct 2015 • Annual Meeting DGG • GV • DMG**

**DYNAMIC EARTH – from Alfred Wegener to today and beyond**

**DYNAMISCHE ERDE – von Alfred Wegener bis heute und in die Zukunft**