



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

GEOANALYSIS 2015 CONFERENCE

The Geoanalysis 2015 meeting was held 9–13 August at the Montanuniversität in Leoben (Austria), the ninth such gathering in this triennial conference series. These conferences are one of the core activities of the International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG), and they have, over the years, established themselves as a key forum by which IAG members and guests can exchange ideas on the latest developments and technique refinements in the field of analytical geochemistry.

Geoanalysis 2015 itself was a resounding success. There were 130 registered participants, thus maintaining the very healthy level of interest seen at the previous two Geoanalysis meetings in Brazil (2012) and South Africa (2009). Sunday (August 9) began with three optional workshops: “Portable XRF Instruments”, “Fundamentals and Applications of LA-ICP-MS” and “The GeoPT Proficiency Testing Programme”. Conference registration was also open for those not attending the workshops. The evening ice-breaker reception went on to set the tone for the remainder of the week: a barbeque on the city’s renaissance/baroque “Marktplatz”, including traditional Austrian dances demonstrated by a local dance troupe.



The youngest members of the Sunday evening cultural programme, held on Leoben’s central market square. PHOTO: K. STOCKER.



Geoanalysis 2015 provided much time for detailed discussion during the poster sessions, which were a major highlight of the conference.

The Leoben meeting was well structured, with an emphasis on poster presentations for which ample time was included during the conference schedule. The talks were arranged to avoid parallel sessions, with an invited keynote presentation placed at the beginning of each day. On Monday, Thomas Prohaska (University of Vienna, Austria) presented a talk on isotope tracers in archaeological sciences. On Tuesday, Wolfgang Müller (Royal Holloway University, London, UK) gave a talk devoted to laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICPMS) and secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) analyses of teeth as a tool for archaeometry and forensics. On Wednesday, Frank Melcher (Montanuniversität Leoben, formerly at the German Geological Survey



Henry Longerich (middle) after receiving the award of Honorary Fellow of the International Association of Geoanalysts. He is congratulated for his long and highly productive career in geoanalysis by Doug Miles (founding President of IAG, left) and Thomas Meisel (current President of IAG and Chairperson of the Geoanalysis 2015 organizing committee, right).

in Hannover) outlined the current situation regarding the geochemical fingerprinting of conflict minerals. Thursday, the final day of the conference, was a particularly memorable one: it kicked-off with an invited talk from Henry Longerich, emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences at the Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland (Canada). For those involved in the microanalysis of geomaterials, Henry is one of the great names of analytical geochemistry. His pioneering work over some three decades laid the foundation for laser sampling in conjunction with the inductively coupled plasma ion source. It is fair to say that the LA-ICPMS method, as we know it today, rests on methodology largely established by Henry Longerich’s group in St. John’s. In recognition of his great achievements, the IAG has awarded him the status of Honorary Fellow of our society.

As one would expect at a Geoanalysis meeting, social aspects were also a major focus, with every day having something new on offer. In addition to the Sunday ice breaker, the conference also organized a trip to Leoben’s Gösser museum and its adjacent brewery, where participants could witness beverage production on a massive scale (Monday evening), an excellent classical music recital at the university’s Rector’s Auditorium (Tuesday night) and an amazing conference meal held at a country estate that specializes in locally produced products. The many events offered not only excellent opportunities to discuss science but also provided many enjoyable memories of Leoben, resulting in a very successful conference.



Group photo of conference attendees taken during the trip to the traditional southern Austrian restaurant Buschenschrank, where the conference dinner was held. PHOTO: K. STOCKER.



International Association of GeoChemistry

www.iagc-society.org

IAG GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR 2015–2018

Not only does the Geoanalysis conference series work on a three-year schedule, so too does the membership of the Governing Council of our association. Subsequent to the call for nominations at the end April, the composition of the council for 2015 to 2018 was announced in Leoben. For the coming three years, the International Association of Geoanalysts will be led by the following people:

PRESIDENT: Thomas Meisel

VICE-PRESIDENT: Jacinta Enzweiler

HONORARY SECRETARY: Jennifer Cook

HONORARY TREASURER: Christopher Jackson

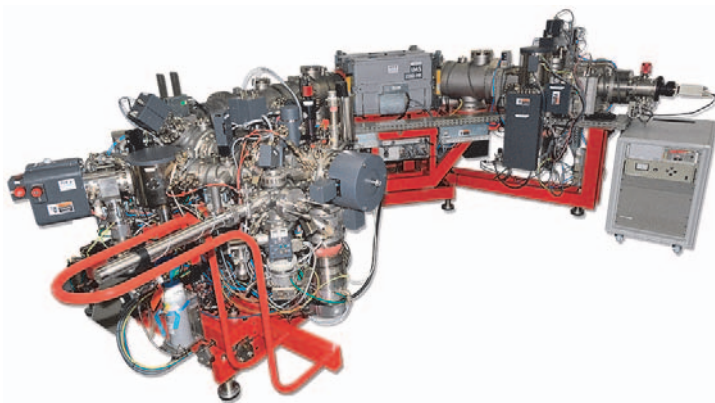
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Michael Wiedenbeck

REGULAR MEMBERS: Mathieu Benoit, Jerome Chmelleff, Regina Mertz-Kraus, Doug Miles, Phil Potts, Martin Rosner

It is permitted for the newly seated council to recruit additional regular members via a majority vote by the council. Council can also co-opt people closely associated with key IAG activities, such as the manager of the *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* editorial office and the leader of the *GeoPT* proficiency testing programme. Any decisions to expand the membership of the Governing Council will be reported in a future *Elements* society news item.

SIMS COURSE 2016

The IAG has approved sponsorship of the short course "Introduction to Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry in the Earth Sciences", which will be held in Potsdam, Germany on 7–15 November 2016. The final two days of this programme will be devoted to optional visits to institutes in Dresden (accelerator SIMS) and Leipzig (NanoSIMS and Time-of-flight SIMS). Details of how to apply to attend will soon be available under www.gfz-potsdam.de/SIMS/short-course.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ian Cartwright

I am writing this having just attended the 11th Conference on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-11), held 21–25 September 2015 in Orléans (France). This was the latest in a long series of stimulating meetings organised by the working groups of the IAGC that combine high-quality presentations on a variety of topics with ample opportunities for networking and informal discussions. The meeting was splendidly organised by the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) and was attended by over 90 participants from several countries. I was particularly impressed by the standard of presentations from the research students and postdoctoral fellows, both in terms of content and depth of understanding. A fuller report of AIG-11 will be presented on the IAGC web page in due course, and for those of you who have not attended one of the working group meetings I recommend that you to add it to your to-do lists.



Participants of the 11th Applied Isotope Geochemistry IAGC Working Group meeting in Orléans, France, 21–25 September 2015

While at Orléans, we took the opportunity to have an IAGC business meeting because there were several of the committee in attendance. Of the topics discussed were improving the procedures for nominating scientists for the IAGC awards and the publication awards. The committee will engage with the broader society over these important issues over the coming months. We are also eager to hear from our members as to ways in which the society might do things better in the future.

So as 2015 winds down and we get ready for winter/summer (depending on which hemisphere you find yourself in), I wish the membership all the best for 2016 and hope that your endeavours in geochemistry are fruitful.

Ian Cartwright, President IAGC