

## FROM THE SOCIETY NEWS EDITOR



Klaus-Dieter Grevel

**EMC<sup>2016</sup> hosts annual DMG meeting**

DMG's annual meeting will this year be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Mineralogical Conference (EMC<sup>2016</sup>) at the Palacongressi in Rimini (Italy), 11–15 September 2016.

For EMC<sup>2016</sup> itself there will be 16 general themes, and these will include 42 different sessions. The following plenary speakers have agreed to give a lecture at EMC<sup>2016</sup>:

- Karen Appel (European X-ray Free-Electron Laser facility, Hamburg, Germany)
- Liane Benning (University of Leeds, UK, and GFZ Potsdam, Germany)
- Rod Ewing (Stanford University, USA)
- Emilio Galán (University of Sevilla, Spain)
- Frank Melcher (University of Leoben, Austria)
- Marco Scambelluri (University of Genova, Italy)

Registration and abstract submission: emc2016.socminpet.it

Deadline for early registration and abstract submission: 9 May 2016



**Mineral, rock and fluid:  
alphabet and words of planet Earth**

**DMG awards for young scientists**

The **Paul Ramdohr Award** is given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG). Student members of the DMG may apply when submitting an abstract for EMC<sup>2016</sup> in Rimini.

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 female young scientists in the areas of petrology and geochemistry. Female undergraduate or PhD students who are also members of the DMG are eligible to apply for this prize. Please submit your application by 30 June 2016 to our president, François Holtz (f.holtz@mineralogie.uni-hannover.de).

**DVGeo established**

Together with colleagues from geology (DGGV), geophysics (DGG), paleontology (PalGes), and mineralogy (DMG), a common umbrella organization called Dachverband Geowissenschaften (DVGeo) was founded in Berlin last September. This new not-for-profit NGO was initiated with the following purpose: to advance and promote all geosciences, to support the teaching of Earth science concepts and procedures in order to increase Earth science literacy among the public, and to have Earth science representation in politics and society. For additional information, please visit the DVGeo website at www.dvgeo.org.

**NEW HONORARY MEMBERS**

In recognition of distinguished service to our society and outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences, DMG has appointed four honorary members in 2015: Jochen Hoefs (University of Göttingen), Martin Okrusch (University of Würzburg), Hans A. Seck (formerly of the

University of Cologne), and Friedrich Seifert (formerly of the University of Bayreuth). Sadly, Hans Seck had but a short time to enjoy this honour: he passed away in early February 2016 (see obituary).

**Jochen Hoefs**

Jochen Hoefs

Jochen Hoefs was born in 1939 in Cammin, Pomerania (today Kamień Pomorski, northwest Poland), and received his PhD from the University of Göttingen in 1964. His thesis, "Ein Beitrag zur Geochemie des Kohlenstoffs in magmatischen und metamorphen Gesteinen", was the first comprehensive account of the geochemistry of carbon in magmatic and metamorphic rocks. He spent a postdoctoral fellowship in the USA at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology between 1967 and 1968. Subsequently, he joined the Institute of Geochemistry at the University of Göttingen in 1970, where he remained throughout his academic life. Jochen Hoefs has been working in the field of stable isotope geochemistry since 1965. His book *Stable Isotope Geochemistry* was first published in 1973 and formed the foundation of many university courses worldwide: in 2015 he published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, a reflection of the exponential increase in our understanding of the application of stable isotopes for the Earth sciences over the last four decades. Hoefs has authored and co-authored more than 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals and written almost 20 textbook chapters.

Apart from his scientific achievements, Jochen Hoefs has served the scientific community throughout his life and in multiple ways. He has been the assistant/managing/executive editor of the *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology* for the past 45 years and a member of the editorial board of *Isotope Geoscience*, and later *Chemical Geology*, between 1983 and 2008. He became member of the DMG in 1966 and served as treasurer from 2008 to 2013.

Jochen Hoefs remains a modest and approachable person. He always has his office door open so that students can ask him a question at any time. Jochen Hoefs has been a mentor and an inspiration to students and senior scientists alike.

**Harald Strauß** (University of Münster)

**Martin Okrusch**

Martin Okrusch

Martin Okrusch became a member of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG) back in 1959 when he was a 24-year-old PhD student under Prof. Siegfried Matthes at the University of Würzburg. In 1961, he finished his dissertation on metamorphic rocks from the Spessart mountains. After his habilitation in 1968, with a thesis on the thermal aureole at Steinach, Oberpfalz (Germany), Martin Okrusch stayed as a visiting scientist at the University of California, Berkeley (USA) for several months before he became a professor of mineralogy at the University of Cologne. In 1972, he was appointed as a full professor at the University of Braunschweig. Ten years later he returned to Würzburg, where he succeeded his PhD supervisor, Siegfried Matthes, as the chair of mineralogy. Martin Okrusch's extensive research in the field of regional petrology can be found in more than 200 publications and book chapters. Although he has characterized the petrology and geochemistry of igneous rocks, he is especially known for unraveling the metamorphic conditions of an area in question in order to trace its plate-tectonic history. Key case studies are represented by the Hellenides (Greece), which include the blueschist belts of the Cyclades

and the metamorphic rocks of Samos and Crete; the basement rocks of the Pan-African Damara orogenic belt; the Kaoko Belt and pre-Pan-African basement of Namibia; and the basement series of central Germany and Bavaria. The results of these studies have led to fundamental progress in our understanding of the geodynamic evolution of these areas. Also, he contributed significantly to the German continental deep drilling program (Kontinentales Tiefbohrprogramm der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, or KTB) in Windisch-Eschenbach, Bavaria. During his scientific life, Martin Okrusch never forgot the Spessart mountains: in 2013, it was appropriate that the new mineral "okruschite" (a beryllium arsenate) would have its type locality there.

After his retirement in 2000, he considerably enlarged and revised one of the most popular German textbooks on mineralogy, *Mineralogie – Eine Einführung in die spezielle Mineralogie, Petrologie und Lagerstättenkunde*: this book, which was originally published in 1983 by Siegfried Matthes, is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

Martin Okrusch served our society as president and vice president between 1988 and 1990, and for many years was the DMG representative of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA).

**Birgit Kreher-Hartmann** (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

### Friedrich Seifert



Friedrich Seifert

Friedrich ("Fritz") Seifert was born 8 May 1941 in Dresden. He studied geology and mineralogy at the University of Kiel and at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zurich and received his PhD degree from the University of Kiel in 1966 for his work on the synthesis and stability of micas in the system  $K_2O-MgO-SiO_2-H_2O$ . In 1970, he defended his habilitation thesis "Petrogenetic grid of the system  $MgO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2-H_2O$  in the range 0–7 kbar and 400–1250°C" at the Ruhr-University Bochum under the auspices of Werner Schreyer.

He continued his academic career at the Carnegie Geophysical Laboratory in Washington, D.C. (USA) where he investigated the structure and properties of silicate melts, thereby laying the foundation for our understanding of many deep Earth processes. After returning to Germany in 1974, he was appointed a professor at the University of Kiel. In 1986, Fritz Seifert moved to the University of Bayreuth and became the first director of the newly founded Bayerisches Geoinstitut (BGI). The Leibniz prize of the German research foundation (DFG) helped him to establish the BGI into an internationally renowned research institute.

Some highlights of his research at Bayreuth were the detailed investigations of the main constituent of the lower mantle,  $MgSiO_3$  perovskite (now called bridgmanite), and the discovery of a silicate with silicon in five-fold coordination.

Apart from his scientific achievements, Fritz Seifert was extremely active as a science manager throughout his career. He served in different committees and advisory boards for the DFG, the Humboldt foundation, and other science organizations. He joined the DMG in November 1963 and served as its president between 1997 and 2001, during which time there was an extensive re-organization of our society. Together with Walter Maresch (University of Bochum), he modernized the bylaws, introduced the four sections we have today, and started the annual DMG short course program for graduate students and postdocs.



Fritz Seifert paving the footpath to the BGI institute, with help of international students.

His working hours at the institute always started at 6 a.m. and often ended late in the evening. He also worked on many weekends and holidays, supported by a breathtaking consumption of pipe tobacco. His solutions to problems were sometimes unconventional but always very effective. For example, when the BGI was being set up, the labs were located in some provisional barracks which could only be reached via a muddy path. The university administration had refused to give any money for road paving, so, with the help of other members of the group, he paved the path himself.

**Hans Keppler** (University of Bayreuth)

### OBITUARY

#### Hans A. Seck



Hans A. Seck in discussion with colleagues Herbert Palme (left) and Eberhard Seidel (right). PHOTO: R. HOLLERBACH (COLOGNE, GERMANY)

Hans A. Seck passed away shortly after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8 February 2016. He was born in 1935 in Cologne, where he began his studies in mineralogy after graduating from high-school in 1956. In 1962, he finished his dissertation on sanidine-rich subvolcanic xenoliths from the Laacher See area (East Eifel, Germany). After spending two years as a postdoc with Orville Frank Tuttle at Pennsylvania State University (USA) and Stanford University (USA), he returned to his home city, Cologne, where he established a high-pressure lab at the mineralogical institute. In the early 1970s, he was appointed professor at Cologne. He continued his petrological and geochemical research on mantle and lower-crustal xenoliths from the Eifel area and international localities. Towards the end of his career, he came back to experimental petrology and carried out trace-element partitioning studies between Mg–Fe-silicates and melts. For many years, Hans A. Seck served as member of the review board for mineralogy and petrology of the German Research Foundation (DFG). His fairness was greatly appreciated by his students and colleagues alike.

With regard to the DMG, he became a member in 1966 and served our society as president and vice president between 1995 and 1998. After his retirement in 2002, he was treasurer of the DMG for another six years. For his outstanding service to the DMG, he was made an honorary member in 2015.

Our sincerest sympathies go to his wife Maria, his sons Christoph and Stephan, and their families.

**Heinz-Günter Stosch** (Karlsruhe)

E. Jux (Overath), V. Rudert (Göttingen) and B. Scheibner (Cologne) are thanked for information.