



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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XXIV SESSION OF THE PETROLOGY GROUP IN WROCLAW

The XXIV Session of the Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland was organized in conjunction with the Soil Science Society of Poland's Subcommittee of Micromorphology and Soil Mineralogy. The organizers this year were from the Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of Wrocław, the Institute of Soil Science and Environmental Protection at the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences Committee on the Mineralogical Sciences, and the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Geological Sciences. The meeting took place 19–22 October 2017 at the Congress Centre in Pawłowice (Wrocław), which boasts a beautiful natural venue that includes a peaceful park with a central lake and is a tempting place for walks, especially during the typical Polish golden autumnal weather. Fortunately, the excellent quality of the presentations prevented many participants from wandering off: both the oral and poster sessions were well attended by over 70 scientists.



The recipients of the best oral and poster presentation awards, from the XXIV Session of the Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, with their special prizes of books, cups, and bottles of beer from a local Wrocław micro-brewery, all hidden in Wrocław-themed bags. **FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Chris Barnes, Alicja Wudarska, Anna Potysz, Katarzyna Kądziołka, Artur Pędziwiatr.

The novelty of the meeting centred on its co-organization with soil scientists. The aim was to bring together petrologists, geochemists, mineralogists and soil scientists using/interpreting/modelling isotope analyses in their respective research fields. The leading session was “Isotopes as Tools to Understand the Earth and Environment”, but petrologists, geochemists and soils scientists also intermingled at two other sessions: “Petrogenetical Records in Phosphates: Insight into Their Formation/Transformation Processes”, which was organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences' Committee on the Mineralogical Sciences; and the “General Session on Petrology”. The interest and success of such interdisciplinary research was highlighted by the fact that three posters dealing with petrological aspects of soils and industrial wastes won the competition for the ‘Best Poster Presentation by a Young Researcher’ – the winners were Katarzyna Kądziołka, Artur Pędziwiatr and Anna Potysz. Two other young researchers were awarded ‘Best Oral Communication’ prizes: Chris Barnes discussed how to use $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ isotopes for in situ dating of metamorphic micas; Alicja Wudarska described new approaches to in situ analysis of chlorine and oxygen isotopes in apatite by secondary ion mass spectrometry.



Participants on the local field trip “Geology in the City: Isotopic and Mineralogical Aspects of Wrocław” visiting the Observatory Department of Climatology and Atmospheric Protection



Lively discussions at the poster session.

Besides good science, the meeting had a number of special events that were accompanied by beer, wine, good food, dancing and live music (an amazing performance by Hot Plasma, an amateur band that included some of our exhibitors and their friends). These events created a friendly atmosphere that inspired long scientific discussions, established new collaborative projects, and increased the number of good friends in our mineralogical and soil societies. The good spirit of the conference was not even diminished by heavy rain during the Sunday trip to Wrocław City Center. This trip focused on presenting different aspects of mineralogical and geochemical studies in the urban environment. Everyone returned home in a good mood and with plenty of new ideas.

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