



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Tomasz Bajda

It is only a year till the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mineralogical Society of Poland (PTMin), which was established 17 April 1969. The flagship of the society has always been the journal *Mineralogia Polonica*, which was first published soon after the foundation of the society in 1970. *Mineralogia Polonica* has always been published in English and has proven to be very important for the development of mineralogical sciences in Poland, the promotion

of scientific research, and for international collaboration. The first issue of *Mineralogia Polonica* was 90 pages long and included seven scientific articles. For the historical record, these were the following: "Origin of Realgar in the Flysch Deposits of the Environs of Baligród (Middle Carpathians)"; "Clinopyroxenes of the Teschenitic Association from the Polish Carpathians"; "On the Occurrence of Ascharite in the Kłodawa Salt Dome"; "On the Formation of Retgersite from Chełmiec"; "Studies on Synthetic Alkali-Hydronium Jarosites. I. Synthesis of Jarosite and Natrojarosite"; "Neutron Diffraction Study of Graphite Texture"; "X-ray Powder Data for Langbeinite".

In 2008, the journal changed its name to *Mineralogia*. Currently, *Mineralogia* is a journal of geochemical, mineralogical, and petrological research whose breadth includes high- and low-temperature geochemistry; mineralogy; petrology; geofluids; crystallography; technical, experimental and applied mineralogy; environmental geochemistry and mineralogy; biogeochemistry; biomineralogy; synthetic materials of relevance to the Earth and planetary sciences; and breakthroughs in analytical methods for any of the aforementioned fields. This breadth is reflected in the topics of the centennial articles, which range from petrology on other planets to mineral structures, from metamorphic chronology to rare-earth minerals, and from fluids and trace-element transport in subduction zones to tourmaline mineralogy.



The PTMin was founded to "develop the mineralogical

sciences and to promote them among the public". Today, the PTMin is exposed to the tide of globalisation, which offers enormous challenges, but also opportunities, especially for young members, to conduct interdisciplinary research and to join international scientific networks. Young scientists need to be motivated, and we encourage all students of mineralogy (in the very widest sense) to become active in our society. By such means, members become part of a larger global network of colleagues, they can participate in our working groups, and they can publish in *Mineralogia*.

Tomasz Bajda, President of the Polish Mineralogical Society

25th MEETING OF THE PETROLOGY GROUP OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND

Petrology in Narrow and Wide Perspective. 25–28 October 2018, Brunów, Poland

The Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland has been organizing annual meetings since 1993. The aim of these meetings is to present the results of some focused petrological research to both Polish and international petrologists. Thus, each of the previous meetings had its own theme, usually related to the petrology of igneous and metamorphic crystalline rocks. The aim of the forthcoming Jubilee 25th Session, to be held 25–28 October 2018 in Brunów (Poland) and entitled "Petrology in Narrow and Wide Perspective", will be to demonstrate the wide applicability of petrological methods across a range of geological subdisciplines and to related sciences (e.g. soil science, geophysics,



A spider's web heavily loaded with particulate matter from a car transportation site in Wrocław city.

space research, archaeology, monument conservation, atmospheric pollution). The organizers are also opening the meeting to sedimentary petrologists and to young scientists

(MSc and PhD students), who will have the opportunity to present the results of their scientific work to professionals. On the last day, participants will have a chance to see how petrographic methods are applied to archaeology, economic geology ("The Old Copper Basin" in Leszczyna), sedimentary petrology, monument reconstruction (using the Cretaceous sandstones of Złotoryja), and – could we leave them out? – classic igneous rocks (Grodziec Castle).

The organizers of the jubilee meeting are honoured to welcome many noted petrologists and to welcome distinguished researchers from other sciences, such as Prof. Justyna Baron (University of Wrocław, Poland), Prof. Hilary Downes (Birkbeck, University of London, UK), Prof. Marek Grad (University of Warsaw, Poland), and Dr. Károly Hidas (Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, CSIC-UGR, Spain).

More details on www.ptmin2018.uni.wroc.pl and Facebook.

WORKSHOP: RHX [REHYDROXYLATION] DATING – CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The workshop entitled RHX Dating – Current State and Future Perspectives took place 14 May 2018 at the Polish Academy of Sciences (IGS PAS) in Krakow (Poland). The workshop was devoted to the relatively new technique of rehydroxylation dating (RHX dating), which is a promising method for determining the age of ancient ceramic objects such as bricks and pottery. It was Moira Wilson (University of Manchester, UK) and coworkers, including Christopher Hall (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), who first developed rehydroxylation dating (Wilson et al. 2009). We were fortunate to have both Moira and Christopher at the meeting. The rehydroxylation method is based on the phenomenon that fired ceramic materials slowly gain volume and mass with time, a phenomenon caused by the reformation of OH groups lost by clay minerals during firing. The relationship between mass gained and time elapsed since firing is described by a simple equation whose variables, when measured under certain conditions, can return the age of the pottery or brick.

The main idea of the workshop was to present the current state of rehydroxylation dating, its principles and applicability, and to stimulate discussions about its further development. The talks were devoted to alterations occurring in ancient pottery (Christopher Hall), the development of rehydroxylation dating methodology (Moira Wilson), the dehydroxylation and rehydroxylation phenomena in clay minerals (Arkadiusz Derkowski, IGS PAS), diffusion phenomena in nature (Jörg Kärger, University of Leipzig, Germany), the potential application of infrared spectroscopy imaging and of NMR in rehydroxylation dating (Christian Chmelik, University of Leipzig), and the activation energy of rehydroxylation (Artur Kuligiewicz, IGS PAS). The workshop was attended by ~40 participants.

Highly stimulating discussions took place during the meeting and a number of new research ideas were proposed as a result. The organizers thank all the participants and look forward to hosting a similarly successful event next year.

Arkadiusz Derkowski, IGS PAS

Wilson MA and 7 coauthors (2009) Dating fired-clay ceramics using long-term power law rehydroxylation kinetics. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences* 465, doi: 10.1098/rspa.2009.0117