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Mineralogical Society of Poland

WITOLD ŻABIŃSKI – IN MEMORIAM

Famous Polish mineralogist and geochemist – a man of merit

Witold Żabiński was a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Science and past president of the Committee of Mineralogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Science. He was a co-founder of the Polish Mineralogical Society, its past president, and finally an honorary member. He was a founder of *Mineralogia Polonica* and its editor in chief for many years. Witold Żabiński was the former director of the Institute of Geology and Mineral Raw Materials (1982–1988) and head of the Department of Mineralogy at the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy (1969–1992) and of the Department of Mineralogy and Petrography of the Jagiellonian University (1998–2001) in Kraków. The author of several academic books and hundreds of papers, he received numerous decorations and awards, both Polish and international. He was a member of several Polish and foreign scientific societies and Polish representative to the International Mineralogical Association. He was known to his collaborators and students for his fine qualities as a teacher and for his gentlemanly and modest ways.



Witold Żabiński died on January 15, 2007. Although we see him no longer, he will remain with us in spirit forever.

THE POLISH CLAY GROUP

The Polish Clay Group has the formal status of a group in the Mineralogical Society of Poland. It was founded on March 22, 1973 in Kraków and in 1998 formally joined the European Clay Groups Association (ECGA). It has about 40 members and meets once a year for a one-day session in June. A grant supporting young scientists from the former Soviet Block wishing to participate in EUROCLAY conferences was established in 2000 as the Polish Clay Group Award. The first awards (two persons from Poland and Russia, 500 Euros each) were granted to support attendance at EUROCLAY 2003 in Modena. Information on the next award has been placed

on the EUROCLAY 2007 and ECGA websites (www.euroclay2007.com/ and www.ing.pan.pl/ecga_js/ecga1.htm).

In 1999, the Polish group formed a federation with Slovak, Hungarian, and Croatian partners, for the purpose of jointly holding the Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC). MECC conferences have taken place in Stara Lesna (Slovakia 2001), Miskolc (Hungary 2004), and Opatija (Croatia 2006). The next conference will be organized by the Polish Clay Group and held in 2008, probably in Kraków.

1st CENTRAL EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL CONFERENCE

A new series of conferences with this title was initiated in 2006. The first conference, organized by Daniel Ozdin, Pavel Uher, and Juraj Majzlan, was held on 12–14 September 2006 in the picturesque village of Vyšná Boca in central Slovakia. This conference was a loose continuation of previous meetings in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It included two keynote lectures on the crystallography and mineralogy of sulfosalts and Tatric hydrothermal ore deposits, presented by Emil Makovický, and Martin Chovan, as well as over 70 plenary lectures and posters. Over one hundred participants from nine countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Germany, Austria, and Denmark) took part in the conference. The geology,

mineralogy, and petrology of the Vyšná Boca area was the focus of a field excursion. Moreover, participants could view an exhibition of rare Slovak sulfosalts, local ore minerals, and mining history lore. A book of extended abstracts was published as volume 28 of *Mineralogia Polonica – Special Papers* (Pavel Uher and Daniel Ozdin, editors). The 2nd Central European Mineralogical Conference will be organized by the Mineralogical Society of Poland and held in September 2008. The first circular will be distributed in May 2007.

PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND

Mineralogia Polonica – Geochemical, Mineralogical, Petrological Research

This publication is the official journal of the Mineralogical Society of Poland. Since its foundation in 1970, all papers have been published in English. Two issues have been printed every year to date. It is planned to increase the number of annual issues to four. All abstracts are available on the Society web page (www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl) as well as, since 2004, free access to full texts. Full texts are also available in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). *Mineralogia Polonica* is abstracted in MinAbs Online and in Georef. Instructions for authors and editorial information are available on the Society web page.

Mineralogia Polonica – Special Papers

(formerly: *Polskie Towarzystwo Mineralogiczne – Prace Specjalne*)

This is an irregular series in which extended abstracts of conferences co-organized by the Polish Mineralogical Society are published. Currently it is published in English.

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