



# Mineralogical Society of Poland

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## GEOCHEMICAL CONFERENCE: "CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN GEOCHEMISTRY," IN KIELCE, POLAND



Conference attendees standing on the staircase of the Institute of Chemistry building; the authors of this note are in the foreground.

The "Contemporary Problems in Geochemistry" Conference, organized by the Geochemical Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland and Jan Kochanowski University, was held in Kielce on 27–30 September 2010. This biennial meeting was cosponsored by Nikon Microscopic Polska Preoptic Co. and Leica Kawa Ska Sp. z o.o.

The official opening was conducted by the chairman of the Geochemical Group, Zdzisław Migaszewski, the vice-president of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Wiesław Caban, and the president of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, Ryszard Kryza. The leading theme at the conference was environmental geochemistry; however, many participants presented the results of their studies in isotope geochemistry, applied geochemistry, and geochemical modeling. Four keynote speakers presented very interesting talks on a broad range of topics: "Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements – Environmental Issues" (Alina Kabata-Pendias, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation in Puławy), "Recent Geochemical Investigations at the U.S. Geological Survey" (Paul J. Lamothe, USGS), "Selected Geochemical Investigations of the U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska" (James G. Crock, USGS), and "Current Issues in Establishing the Geochemical Background of Trace Elements" (Agnieszka Gałuszka, Jan Kochanowski University). The discussions were very fruitful, encouraging scientific cooperation and the taking up of new scientific challenges, all in a friendly atmosphere.

The meeting also included a walking tour of Kielce entitled "Geodiversity and Geologic Heritage Protection in Kielce." The conference was followed by two field excursions: (1) "Biogeochemical and Hydrogeochemical Studies in Świętokrzyski (Holy Cross Mts.) National Park," and (2) "Influence of Pyrite Mineralization on the Generation of Acid Mine Drainage in the Wiśniówka Mining Area near Kielce." The latter trip ended in an abandoned Eifelian dolomite quarry (Zachelmie), in which tracks of the oldest amphibians have recently been found.

It is difficult to summarize a three-day conference in just one sentence, but if we tried, it would read like this: "Contemporary geochemistry requires from the scientists a multidisciplinary approach and the use of various techniques; in return, it provides great challenges, gives satisfaction, and brings major benefit to the public."

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Field trip participants posing in the Zachelmie quarry

## 17<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PETROLOGY GROUP OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND: "LAMPROPHYRES AND RELATED MAFIC HYPABYSSAL ROCKS: CURRENT PETROLOGICAL ISSUES"

The annual meeting took place in the Kłodzko region of the Sudetes (southwest Poland), at the northeast margin of the Bohemian Massif, on 14–17 October 2010. The Mineralogical Society of Poland coorganized the meeting, together with the Institute of Geological Sciences of the University of Wrocław and the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, and the Polish Geological Institute–National Research Institute. Sixty scientists and students from Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, and other countries attended the meeting and presented 24 talks and 33 posters. The presentations spanned various disciplines in basic and applied mineralogy and petrology. A special session addressed the leading theme of the conference, "Lamprophyres and related mafic hypabyssal rocks: Current petrological issues." Lamprophyres constitute a "special" group in the classification of igneous rocks and, though minor in volume, attract much attention from specialists in various Earth science disciplines. This is due to, for example, their mineralogical and geochemical peculiarities, their derivation from subduction-modified or contaminated mantle sources, and the possible links between lamprophyric magmatism and ore mineralization, e.g. Au. The lamprophyre session included 11 talks and 7 posters, with four keynote addresses by Vojtech Janousek (Praha), Lukáš Krmíček (Brno), Dejan Prelevic (Mainz), and Thomas Seifert (Freiberg). The Sudetes, where crystalline-basement rocks of the eastern part of the European Variscides are well exposed, are one of the larger lamprophyre provinces in Europe. This provided an excellent learning opportunity for participants in the field trip on the last day of the meeting, which focused on differentiation and emplacement processes in lamprophyres.



Field trip participants on the way to a minette outcrop

During the meeting, several prizes were awarded: to Elena Vasyukova (Novosibirsk) for the best talk (on the lamprophyres of Altai); to Kouakou Yao (Paris) and coauthors, for the best poster (on albitized granitoids in the Sudetes); and to Krzysztof Szopa (Sosnowiec) and Krzysztof Nejbert (Warszawa) and coauthors, for their excellent posters. Other events during the meeting included displays of optical equipment, a barbecue, and a trip to nearby Bear Cave, the most beautiful cave in the region. More information on the conference, a postconference photo gallery, and a list of publications can be found at [www.ing.uni.wroc.pl/~lamprophyres2010/index.htm](http://www.ing.uni.wroc.pl/~lamprophyres2010/index.htm).

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