



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PETROLOGY GROUP OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND, OBRZYCKO, POLAND, OCTOBER 19–21, 2012



Participants in the MSP Petrology Group meeting at Obrzycko, Poland

The Petrology Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland (MSP) gathered for its 19th annual meeting at Obrzycko, western Poland, and devoted a special session to meteorites. The conference theme was a great opportunity for the organizers, the Poznań members of the MSP under the leadership of Prof. Andrzej Muszyński, to present the famous Morasko iron meteorite, which fell to Earth in ca. 5000 BP near the present-day location of the Institute of Geology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The scientific program included 6 invited lectures, 21 talks, and 25 poster presentations. An excellent introductory talk was delivered by Matthew J. Genge (Imperial College, London). He reviewed the current state of knowledge on planetary-system formation, using an appealing format of truisms and open questions, and emphasized the informational potential of meteorites and cosmic dust. The remaining talks concerned more specific issues, for example: the impact ejection of Martian and lunar meteorites and shock metamorphic deformation in these meteorites (J. Fritz, A. Greshake); the mineralogy and chemistry of the Morasko iron meteorite (A. Muszyński and others); the mineral chemistry of the Zakłodzie achondrite (R. Kryza and others); terrestrial weathering of Antarctic meteorites (A. Losiak, M. Velbel); the similarity between Martian hematite spherules and botryoidal hematite in burning coal waste dumps (J. Ciesielczuk and others); and many other topics. The general session of the meeting (talks and posters) covered a variety of fields and gave an opportunity to learn about the latest research outcomes of the participants. Talks concerning the high-pressure rocks of the Góry Sowie Block, southwestern Poland (S. Ilnicki and others), and of the Swedish Caledonides (I. Klonowska and others), as well as new data on the age and volume of volcanic rocks erupted in the Intra-Sudetic Basin (M. Awdankiewicz, R. Kryza), were of particular interest. The abstracts of all presentations are available at www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl/mpsp30/Vol40_2012.pdf.

Three posters were rewarded for outstanding scientific merit and graphic design: (1) K. Szopa and A. Gawęda, on the breakdown of coexisting monazite and xenotime in the Tatra granite; (2) M. Jastrzębski and W. Stawikowski, on the significance of structural and petrological data from the Młynowiec Formation, Orlica-Śnieżnik Dome; and (3) K. Nejbart and others, on the use of Sudetic serpentinites for CO₂ sequestration. In addition, the poster by J. Kostylew and others on the metamorphic grade of metasedimentary rocks in the Kaczawa Complex as revealed by the X-ray diffraction properties of white mica and chlorite deserved an honorable mention.

The picturesque location of the Obrzycko Palace (19th century) on the banks of the Warta River, the warm and sunny autumn days, and the colorful trees of the historic park were the background for the discussions that lasted until late into the night. On the final day, participants visited the Morasko Reserve in Poznań, where 8 preserved craters bear witness to the largest iron meteorite shower in Europe. In the surroundings of the craters, many fragments of IAB iron have been found.

The 20th annual meeting of the Petrology Group of the MSP will be held in the Sudetes and will be devoted to mantle rocks and their geodynamic significance.

A NEW DISCOVERY: THE LARGEST MORASKO IRON



The new Morasko find, before cleaning, presented at a press conference at Poznań University

The Morasko IAB iron octaedrite (first discovered on November 12, 1914), together with similar falls in Przelazy (Seeläsgen) and Jankowo Dolne (all in west-central Poland), represent the largest iron meteorite shower in Europe. These irons differ from other IAB meteorites in their exceptionally low Ir and high Ge contents, as well as in their unusual mineralogy. The large strewn field suggests that this single iron shower originated from a large meteoroid. Just a few days before the Obrzycko meeting, a large fragment of the Morasko iron was found. It was discovered on October 4, 2012, about 500 m from the Morasko craters, by Łukasz Smuła and Magda Skirzewska using a new Lorenz detector. On October 8, a team led by Andrzej Muszyński excavated the new meteorite from fine-grained sand at a depth of 2.1–2.5 m. After cleaning, the mass of the new iron was determined to be 261.2 kg. The meteorite is partly covered by a well-developed fusion crust with abundant regmaglypts, and two graphite–troilite nodules are exposed on its surface. This new iron is the largest meteorite ever found in Poland.

Julita Biernacka and Andrzej Muszyński
(Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

Ryszard Kryza
(University of Wrocław)



Excavation of a new large fragment of the Morasko iron, October 8, 2012

CONFERENCES IN KIELCE, POLAND – “CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS OF GEOCHEMISTRY” AND “DATING MINERALS AND ROCKS XI”

The “Contemporary Problems of Geochemistry” and the “Dating Minerals and Rocks XI” conferences, hosted by the Geochemical Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, were held in Kielce on September 24–26 and 26–27, 2012, respectively. The meetings were cosponsored by Bruker–Polska, Hydrogeotechnika Sp. z o.o. Kielce, Precoptic Co.–Nikon Mikroskopy Polska, and Perkin Elmer Polska Sp. z o.o.

The first conference was officially opened by the chairman of the Geochemical Group, Zdzisław Migaszewski, and the president of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Jacek Semaniak. The main theme of the conference was environmental geochemistry; however, many participants presented the results of their studies in isotope geochemistry, applied geochemistry, and geochemical modeling. Two keynote speakers spoke on the following topics: “Black carbon and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon pollution in India” (Khageshwar S. Patel, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University) and “Using ICP-MS to decipher biogeochemical processes: Speciation and isotope doping case studies” (Ruth E. Wolf, USGS). The meeting agenda also included a tour of the Center of Geoeducation located in the abandoned Wietrznia quarry in Kielce. The plenary session was followed by an excursion to the Romanesque Cistercian abbey in Wąchock and the Neolithic flint mine at Krzemionki (leaders: Zdzisław Migaszewski and Agnieszka Gałuszka). At the end of the meeting, prizes were awarded to Justyna Smolarek and coauthors for the poster “New molecular indicator of fossil conifer wood degradation by wood-decay fungi,” to Marta Prell and coauthors for the poster “Petrography, deterioration, and lichenology of sandstones from the Pomorski bridge in Wrocław and the old Plakowice quarry (a comparative study),” and to Elżbieta Zwolińska and coauthors for the poster “Carbon isotope analyses of PM10 dust in the vicinity of Bogatynia (SW Poland) as an indicator of anthropogenic impact.”

The geochronology conference was divided into four plenary sessions, each preceded by keynote talks: (1) “Possible errors of Ar ages on young basalts: Methods for their recognition and correction” (Kadosa Balogh, Institute of Nuclear Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), (2) “Construction of age–depth models using calibrated radiocarbon dates” (Adam Michczyński, Radiocarbon Laboratory, Silesian University of Technology), (3) “Stable isotopes, mineralogy, and absolute age dating of Miocene volcanics and alteration products in the Alpine-Carpathian-Pannonian area” (Ana-Voica Bojar, Department of Geology, Salzburg University), and (4) “Preliminary clay mineral data on burial history of the Holy Cross Mountains, Poland” (Jan Śródoń, Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences). More information on the conference and a postconference photo gallery are provided at www.ujk.edu.pl/geochemia2012. The two conferences were a great opportunity to share views, exchange opinions, and discuss important interdisciplinary problems.

Zdzisław M. Migaszewski and Agnieszka Gałuszka
Conference Organizers, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce



Geochemical conference participants posing in front of the Romanesque Cistercian abbey in Wąchock



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY 33RD ANNUAL MEETING

The 33rd annual meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) will take place in Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia) from June 24 to 28, 2013. It will be organized by the University of Murcia and will consist of a workshop/seminar, scientific sessions, and field trips.

A one-day workshop/seminar will be held on the subject “Geological and Mineralogical Heritage.” It will take place on June 25, and the speakers will be scientists of international prestige. The aim of the workshop is to present and discuss new perspectives and ideas about the theme; the event will be of particular interest to young scientists.

The scientific sessions will take place on June 26–27 and will feature invited scientists who will deliver plenary lectures on topics of general interest. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations in the fields of clays, mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry may be submitted for acceptance. Our main objective is to organize high-quality scientific sessions that become a platform for debate, the exchange of ideas, and the building of new scientific collaborations.

Two field trips are being organized: on June 24, “Geosites of the IUGS and UNESCO in Murcia Province–Volcanic outcrops of Neogene ultra-potassic rocks at Calasparra, Moratalla, Hellín, and Cancarix,” and on June 28, “The mining and mineral heritage of La Union.”

Important dates:

- 30 April 2013–Closing date for submission of revised and accepted abstracts
- 21 June 2013–Registration ends

For updated information, visit www.ehu.es/sem/.