

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/.