EURISPET, THE TRAVELING PETROLOGY SEMINAR, IN BUDAPEST

After successful schools in Paris, France, in October 2007 ("State-of-the-Art Analytical and Imaging Techniques in Petrology") and in Canberra, Australia, in February 2008 ("Isotopes Applied to Petrological Problems"), the Eurispet school came to Hungary on 21–31 August for a seminar entitled "Petrology of the Lithosphere in Extensional Settings." This school was one of a series of six schools to be held between 2007 and 2010, with future stops in Granada (Spain), Padova (Italy) and Zurich (Switzerland). Eurispet (European Intensive Seminars of Petrology) is part of the Marie Curie "Series of Events" of the 6th Framework Programme, funded by the European Commission (EC). At each seminar, 35 early-stage researchers in petrology convene with 20 world-class scientists to acquire the latest knowledge in their research fields during intensive, thematic and interactive seminars. The participants in Budapest, whose travel and living expenses were covered by the EC, originated from 24 different countries in four continents.

Why is it worth having a topical petrology seminar in Hungary, aside from the fact that Hungary is a culturally rich country and that one can eat *goulash*, drink *palinka* and dance *czardas*? The answer is that the wider Carpathian-Pannonian region and in particular the Pannonian Basin system – one of the geologically most studied areas of the world – offer a great opportunity to study the lithosphere in an extensional setting. In Budapest, Eurispet was hosted jointly by Eötvös University and its Lithosphere Fluid Research Lab, which has extensive knowledge on the overthinned lithosphere of the area. The seminar covered a wide range of topics, including the petrography and geochemistry of mantle and lower-crustal xenoliths in extensional settings, geospeedometry, silicate melt inclusions, and the strengthening of the European Research Area. The lectures and open discussions provided participants with an excellent forum to discuss the most recent developments in the field. The field trips to the marginal (Nógrád-Gömör) and central (Bakony-Balaton Highland) areas of the Pannonian Basin gave insight, through xenoliths hosted in alkaline basalt, into the architecture of the lithosphere in its thicker and thinner parts. After the field trips, the scientific excitement was "quenched" by excellent wines in a cold cellar of the famous Badacsony area and by mind-blowing *czardas* dances, lending a Hungarian flavour to the underlying overthinned lithosphere.

By the end of the 10-day seminar, participants had made new scientific connections; learned about the latest developments in their field of interest; sampled the lithosphere in a well-known extensional setting; gained insight into Hungarian science, infrastructure and culture; and last but not least, made many new friends. Eurispet promises a great follow up at its next seminar in Granada, in June 2009, entitled "High-Pressure Metamorphism and Subduction Zones." Don't miss out on an unforgettable scientific and cultural experience. For more information, please visit www.eurispet.eu.

Participants in the Eurispet Budapest 2008 seminar at Szigliget castle (central part of the Pannonian Basin), with some of the alkali basalt cones of the Bakony-Balaton Highland volcanic field in the background. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDRÁS FALL

Károly Hidas, István Kovács and **Csaba Szabó** (Eötvös Loránd University), and **Bernardo Cesare** (Università di Padova)

NATURE'S TREASURES: MINERALS AND GEMS

On Sunday, 7 December, three societies (the Russell Society, the Gemmological Association and the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, all head-quartered in the UK) came together for the first time to run a joint meeting. Hosted at the Natural History Museum's (London) Flett Theatre, the meeting consisted of 10 short talks in the morning, followed by a mineral exhibition in the early afternoon. Delegates responded very enthusiastically to the event, and the talks prepared were perfectly pitched at what was a mixed audience, including professional and amateur mineralogists and gemmologists, with the odd student thrown in for good measure. The ambition of all three societies was to reach out to non-traditional audiences, and this was met successfully. Discussions are already being held about the next such event.

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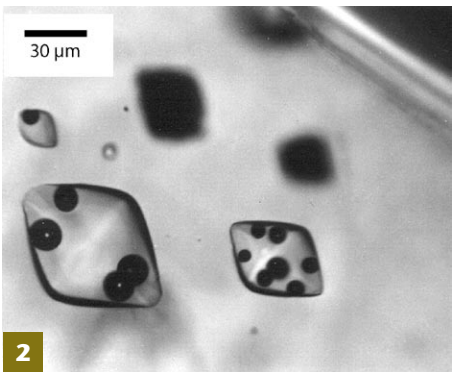

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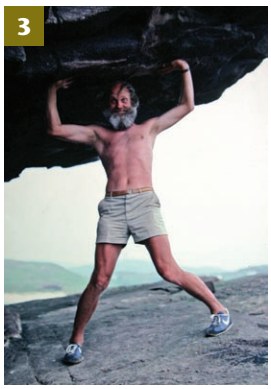

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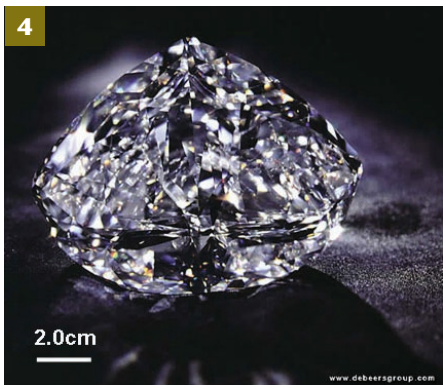

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The meeting boasted a huge range of talks, as the following examples attest. Karen Hudson-Edwards spoke about 20 nm sized microbes and how they are used (1). Andy Rankin talked about fluid inclusions and their use in the assessment of the mineralogical aspects of the Yucca Mountain site (2). Roy Gill (3) spoke about "neural dumps" (he was talking about colour in minerals). Chris Stanley threatened to sing a song about the Periodic Table of the Elements. Jeff Harris gave a talk on "smashing diamonds", wherein he professed his preference for smashing up diamonds (so he can study them better) over cutting them up (to make jewellery out of them) (4).

Jack Ogden combined mineralogy and gemmology nicely in his talk on the history of how precious and semi-precious stones have been used for thousands of years as personal adornments (5). Brian Jackson took us on a tour of agates, where he got up close and personal with some very beautiful specimens, and spoke about the origins of some of the

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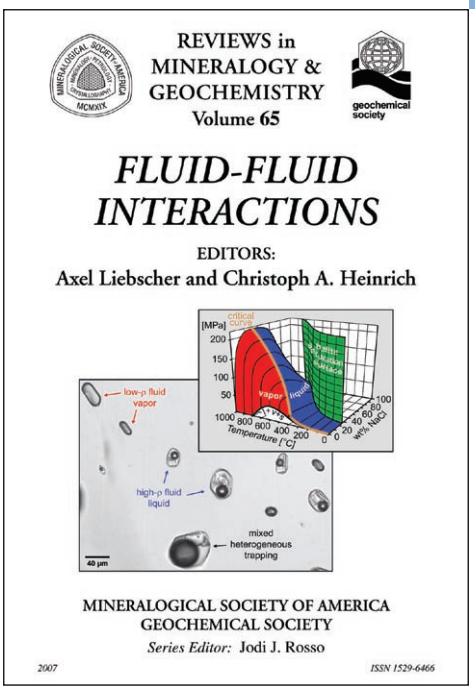
FLUID–FLUID INTERACTIONS[1,2]

The different regions of the mantle and crust give rise to a wide range of fluid compositions, which, according to temperature, pressure and composition, can show complete miscibility to complete immiscibility. Partial miscibility of fluids in the crust and the changes in miscibility as conditions change have a range of consequences, which are explored in this volume. There are 12 chapters on fluid–fluid interactions in the Earth's lithosphere: Experimental Studies in Model Fluid Systems, Equations of State for Complex Fluids, Liquid Immiscibility in Silicate Melts and Related Systems, Phase Relations Involving Hydrous Silicate Melts, Aqueous Fluids and Minerals, Numerical Simulation of Multiphase Fluid Flow in Hydrothermal Systems, Fluid Phase Separation Processes in Submarine Hydrothermal Systems, Fluids in Hydrocarbon Basins, Fluid–Fluid Interactions in Geothermal Systems, Fluid Immiscibility in Volcanic Environments, Fluid–Fluid Interactions in Magmatic–Hydrothermal Ore Formation, and Fluid Immiscibility in Metamorphic Rocks.

It is not the sort of book that one selects for casual reading. Geoscientists who are fearful of phase diagrams, equations of state or solubility curves will handle it with trepidation, but the subject matter is well explained, and these scientists (most of us?) can learn from it. For researchers seeking to interpret fluid inclusion, stable isotope or melt composition data in a range of crustal environments, valuable insights are provided. This is particularly so concerning volcanic environments, metasomatized rocks, subduction zones, seafloor hydrothermal systems and geothermal systems. *Fluid–Fluid Interactions* may, by virtue of its title, result in purchase by some people expecting something more general about fluids in rocks. Be warned: this volume is focussed on fluid immiscibility.

Unfortunately, the volume does not have an index. However, the chapters are laid out clearly, and in consequence the volume is easy to navigate. The figures are in a quite consistent style, which is not always the case in such review volumes. They are clear and generally uncluttered, all of which makes for good teaching material. Most aspects, however, are quite advanced for an undergraduate course, and this volume will find more use at the postgraduate stage, including geochemistry courses, and in research.



Overall, *Fluid–Fluid Interactions* brings together key aspects of geological processes in a variety of environments where different fluids are juxtaposed, and the volume will serve the Earth sciences community well.

John Parnell
University of Aberdeen

1 Liebscher A, Heinrich CA (eds) (2007) Fluid–Fluid Interactions. Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry 65, Mineralogical Society of America, Chantilly, VA, ISBN 978-0-939950-77-5, 430 pp, US40$ (20% discount for MSA and GS members)

2 This review was first published in *The Canadian Mineralogist*, Volume 46, pp 1380. It is reprinted with permission from the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

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weird and wonderful shadings and patterns in a variety of samples, including many from Scotland. Brian also gave away a large batch of agates in the exhibition afterwards. Thanks Brian! Kathryn Goodenough (6) gave a fascinating talk about the work being done by the British Geological Survey in Africa, in particular in Madagascar, where they are mapping a number of economic deposits and helping local scientists to use GIS methods for data management. Adrian Finch spoke about luminescence as an analytical tool in mineralogy, and Bob Symes (7) talked about responsible mineral collecting.

Many of the slide sets for the talks have been loaded on the Mineralogical Society website at www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/meetings-archive.html (click on 'Nature's Treasures'). The images are particularly attractive as this was part of the brief to the speakers.

Thank you to all concerned, especially the speakers and exhibitors, for their efforts in making this a very successful and fun event.

Kevin Murphy
Mineralogical Society of
Great Britain and Ireland