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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY
OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONALES KOMITEE FÜR GESCHICHTE
DER GEOLOGISCHEN WISSENSCHAFTEN



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on the History of Geological
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Internationales Komitee für
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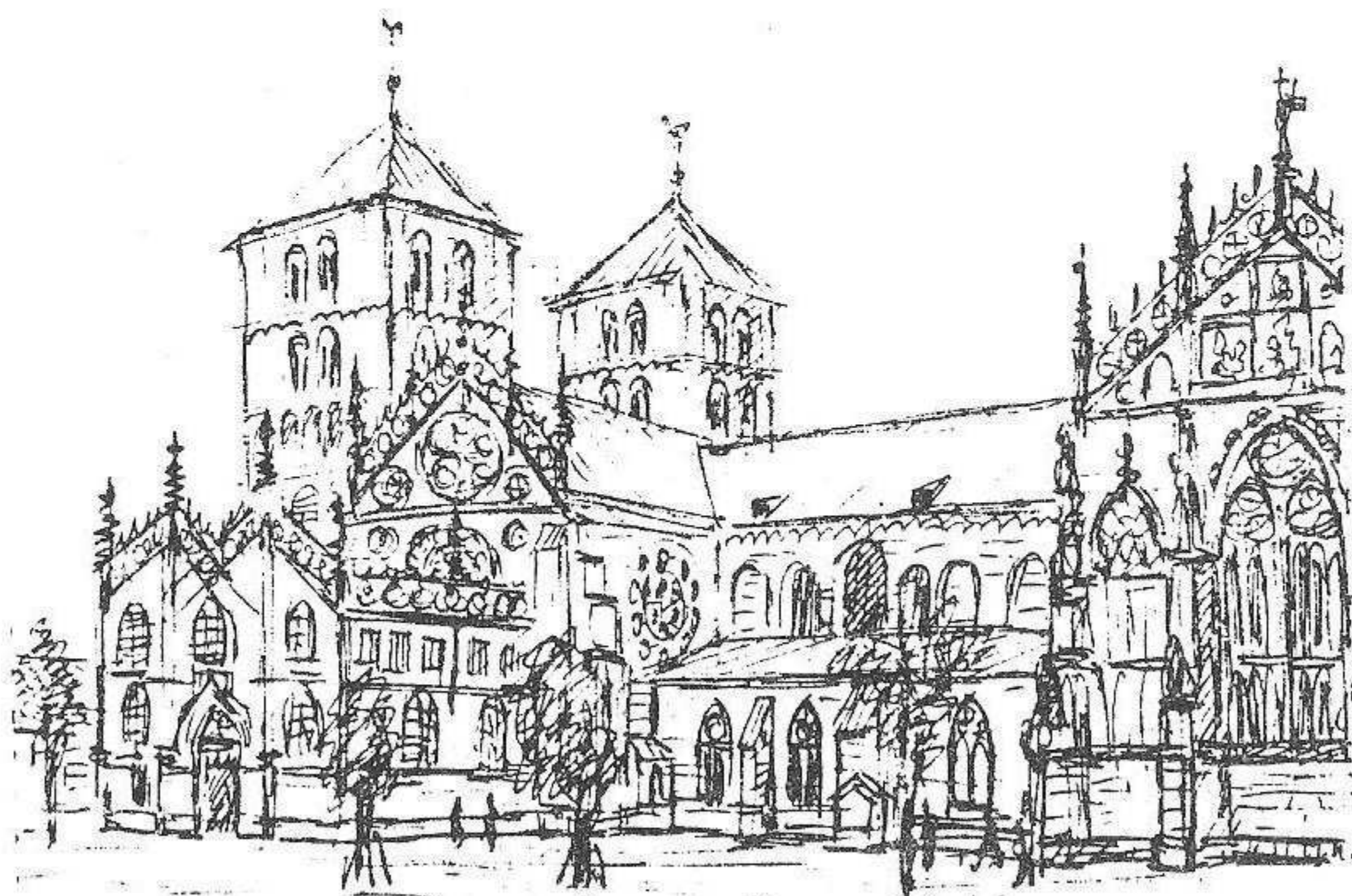
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VIII. INHIGEO-Symposium Münster - Bonn (FRG)

September 12th to 23rd, 1978



The Minster of Münster, Drawing made by E.E. Milanovsky

The INHIGEO regards their task in discussing and exposing new aspects of questions concerning the history of geology during their meeting. This VIII. INHIGEO-symposium was held under the topic "Regional influences on origin and development of geological theories" as proposed by their local manager. Regional influences on geological theories can, of course, be observed in a large number of field researches and, therefore, sometimes carry the risk of dealing with general problems only. On the other hand, quite a number of capable historians did not appear to be motivated enough to take part in this symposium. Preparation work suffered under the above mentioned difficulties and

the uncertainty concerning number and kind of participants. But finally, it proved to be right to hold on to previous planning principles and give way to a development directed by its own initiative.

The topic was aimed at first contacts between the scientist's intellect and its object and at continuous dialogue during which regional theories were heading towards independence of regional origin without being able to neglect its regional origin. It does not exclude general considerations as the object-subject relationship or the question concerning the influence of actual ideas as a result of scientific and non-scientific imagination.

There are areas which, due to their nature and history of discovery, have the function of type regions from which a theory originates and has a natural feedback during their further development. For example: North Germany and the theory of inland glaciation, Southern Germany and the theory of the Stufenlandschaft and the theory of the nappe tectonics in the Swiss Alps. Soviet colleagues introduced East European plains as type regions for exo- and endogene views of plains and platforms (TICHOMIROV, MILANOWSKY, GORDEJEW, Moscow/USSR). Here as well as in the reports of HALLEUX (Liège/Belgium) and BÜTTNER (Bochum/FRG) discussing the problem of regional dependence of antique and medieval geological theories geological and geographical aspects could not be clearly separated. The same results from a paper sent by DEL VALLE MENÉNDEZ (Madrid/Spain) on the idea of continental drifts, due to merely cartographically gained coastal congruity in the 17th and 18th century. VIALOV (Lwow/USSR) in addition discussed the influences of regional palaeontological discoveries on modern development in mobility theories.

Some speakers connected the topic to mineral deposits: GUNTAU (Rostock/GDR) on the Saxon mining district as country of origin for the theory of ore veins, URBAN (Kutna Hora/CSSR) on the theory of ascendance, KLEZKOWSKI (Krakow/Poland) on Polish salt deposits and DUDICH (Budapest/Hungaria) on bauxites. AMSTUTZ (Heidelberg/FRG) presented ophiolites in a similar connection.

ELLENBERGER (Paris/France) demonstrated the influence of the home landscape of French scientists on their individual

theories. The paper read by BABICZ (Warsaw/Poland) dealt with the initial geological research work of Poland by St. STASZIC (1755 - 1826) and the paper by HÖLDER (Münster/FRG) with the Southwest German Stufenlandschaft. These three papers revealed the historical point of view that the stratigraphy of a landscape was primarily interpreted as a horizontal phenomenon. BOYLAN (Leicester/England) and SCHWARZBACH (Köln/FRG) were talking about regional influences on glaciation theories and JONG (Heemstede/The Netherlands) about the history in the interpretation of the postglacial Dutch landscape.

More or less intensive regional connections of geological and petrographical theories were exposed by BATJUSHKOVA, ROMANOVA (both Moscow/USSR; the latter on granite problems). MECHTIEV & BUNIAT-ZADE (Baku/USSR) underlined the importance of Azerbaidzhan as type region of mud volcanoes and petrol geology. The regional influence can be doubted as shown by WERNER's theory of neptunism, unilaterally favoured by GOETHE, as demonstrated by OSPOVAT (Stillwater/USA). WHITE (Urbana/USA) on the other hand, proved that phenomena have first priority in first impressions and interpretations during early discovery of Virginia since the 16th century. In addition to the main topic, some papers of historical, biographical, and philosophical contents were presented: CSIKY (Budapest/Hungaria) talked about the role of Hungarian scientists in the 'Jena Mineralogical Society' (1797 - 1821); KRUT's paper (Moscow/USSR) dealt with the rather abstract history and theory of geological regionalism, while O'ROURKE (Pittsburgh/USA) as a Kantian, gave his points of view on chronological and spatial understanding of geological phenomena. The question still remains, whether the character of nature influenced by the categories of our intellect according to Kant is still valid, or vice versa that in accordance to natural order the human intellect is influenced by evolution. PORTER (Cambridge/England) analysed the opposition between institutional geology of a capital (London) and practical field work in the counties.

The symposium continued on September 14th in Bonn with a visit of old geological literature together with precious folios of the university library including an exhibition on the history of



Steinheimer Basin. (Drawing made by E. E. Malinovsky)

Bowl-shaped depression, 1.9 mls/diameter, in the Alb highland with the village of Steinheim at the river Aalbach. Upper Miocene marine sediments, rich in fossils. In the centre an uplifted Dogger cone (the Klosterberg). At the margin of the basin overthrust and shattered blocks. AMI BOUE (1824) interpreted this basin as effected by a gigantic whirlpool. Later volcanic interpretation was by subterranean laccolithes, at present this basin is recognized as a meteorite crater in connexion with the interpretation of the Ries. Shatter-cones. Core-drillings during the last decade revealed a downward decreasing dissipation. Same age points to a connexion with the Ries incident (Nördlinger Ries at a distance of about 25 mls; presumably a segregation of a meteorite at its entry into the gravity field of the earth).

research of the Rheinisches Schiefergebirge by LANGER (Bonn/FRG). On September 16th LANGER guided a field trip into the Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic landscape of the Eifel and the Siebengebirge showing historical points of interest involved in neptunism/plutonism discussions and DAVIS' theory of erosional cycles during the trip through the central Rhine valley.

On the following day, the route led by the Black Forest and the Kaiserstuhl into the Swiss Jurassic tableland where on the same evening an eclipse of the moon could be seen. In the morning of September 17th view from the watch tower of Gempenfluh with a magnificent panorama: the southern end of the upper Rhine valley graben (epicentre of the earthquake in 1356) "searched" by the northernmost Upper Pliocene folds of the Swiss Jura mountains, along the horizon the Vosges mountains and the Black Forest with the Dinkelberg as a southernmost downthrust block, in the East the Lägern mountains (folded Jurassic) and in the South the snow-covered tops of the Swiss alps. On a similar morning in 1836 ELIE DE BEAUMONT might have recognized from the nearby Weißenstein the upper Rhine valley being a graben, thus delivering an important proof to his contraction theory. The excursion led to the following points: Rhinefalls, Hegau volcanoes, Danube sink, and the active Hohenzollern graben (latest earthquake on 3.9.78!), then to Tübingen, Altbürg and Roßberg as type localities of F.A. QUENSTEDT's "Stufenlandschaft" (1842), the Urach-Kirchheim volcanic area with the eroded Randecker crater situated at the steep slope and finally the meteorite craters of Steinheim and Nördlingen in the Jurassic landscape. In addition, visit of the Tübingen institutes and the museum HAUFF in Holzmaden, both places of rich paleontological research. The Southwest German area undoubtedly belongs to one of the most interesting places in the world as far as history of geology and sciences are concerned offering numerous impressions to all participants.

On September 22nd and 23rd, HARTUNG (Oldenburg/FRG) guided an excursion through the Northwest German provinces with Pleistocene glacial and Holocene sandy and marshy uplands to the East Frisian island of Baltrum where the genesis of this landscape was impressively demonstrated. These two days gave another good

example of history of geology by the constant change of opinion subjected to the constant threat by the sea with all its problems.

Those 12 days are a pretty long period for a meeting but time seemed not to be sufficient for all the papers, discussions, and excursions. Language barriers could almost be overcome by multilingual summaries and mutual interpretations. Even if some discussions suffered from language difficulties, they nevertheless might initiate new ideas and theories. According to the words of president HOOYKAAS (Zeist/The Netherlands), this meeting of scientists from more than a dozen countries dealing with a neutral topic can be regarded a success. The successful organisation was managed by several members of the staff of the Geological Institute of the University Münster, where on this occasion Mrs. C. STUCK and Dipl.-Geol. P. SCHMIDT-SCHÜLL have to be specifically mentioned for their distinguished work which, with no doubt, was gratefully accepted by all participants. We are also grateful to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn, the Secretary of Scientific Research of the State North Rhine Westphalia and the IUHPS for their financial aid which helped in solving many problems.

H. Hölder
INHIGEO-Member

International Meeting on Contemporary Problems of Polar Research

Warsaw, September 22 - 24, 1978

Polish-Soviet Symposium on the History of Soviet and Polish

Polar Research Wroclaw, October 26 - 30, 1978

The cooperation of geologists and historians of earth sciences manifesting itself in the above-mentioned conferences makes evident how closely the research topics of the two groups of scholars are interrelated and dependent upon each other.

The Warsaw meeting (30 participants) was concerned with the following problems: contemporary problems of periglacial researches, particularly those carried out on Spitsbergen which would allow to solve the question of glaciation in Central Europe; biological problems of the subarctic seas / considered from the viewpoint of kryn fishing/.

At the conference devoted to the history of Soviet and Polish polar researches (60 participants who represented among others scholars doing research in this field at present) contributions were offered of both individual and collective expeditionary researches carried out in the arctic regions (Alaska, Canada, Iceland, Svalbard and Greenland) and in the Antarctica. Within that regional approach geological, paleontological, glaciological, botanic, zoological and geophysical problems were discussed. The purpose of the meeting was to reassume the research results so far achieved by Polish scholars (the respective bibliography comprises about 1 300 works) and by Soviet scientists whose works are much more numerous (e.g. studies referring to Asia have been presented in a 5-volume work by I.A. Bielow). On the basis of an analysis of the achievements obtained so far future research tasks were discussed and outlined.

J. Babicz
Corr. Member INHIGEO

BYE - LAWS

OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

(Accepted unanimously in Münster September 13, 1978)

1. INHIGEO is a Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and it is affiliated to the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS).
It is therefore bound to the rules set in the Statutes, Bye-laws and Regulations of IUGS for the Committees of IUGS (Bye-laws IUGS VI, 22; cf. Statutes IUGS VII, 24-28).
2. The task of INHIGEO is to promote studies in the history of geological sciences and to stimulate and coordinate the activities of national and regional organisations that have the same purpose. It does so inter alia by promoting the holding of national, regional and international symposia and the publication of individual and collective works on the history of geological sciences (cf. Statutes VII, 24).
3. Reports on work performed and an evaluation of the fulfilment of working terms and the accounts are submitted on 1st December each year to the Secretary-General of IUGS (IUGS Regulations, III Committees, p. 15). Reports on the work performed in the period between Sessions of IUGS and IUHPS are submitted to the Sessions of those organizations (Statutes VII, 27). The budget for the following year is submitted by the President and the Secretary-General to the Secretary-General of IUGS before Oct. 1st.

Structure

4. a. INHIGEO consists of a convenient number of members, kept at a practical minimum in relation to the nature of its work (Statutes VII, 26).
b. Members are selected from persons conducting studies on the history of the geological sciences. There shall be only one member of the same country.

- c. The members are elected by the Council of IUGS, on the proposal of IUGS-members or the Executive Committee of IUGS, after nomination by the Chairman and Secretary-General of IUGS (cf. Statutes VII, 25) and assent being given by the Committee.
- d. The Bureau of INHIGEO consists of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General and the Past-President. The members of the Bureau represent the major regions: America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, Australia and Oceania (and Africa).
- The President and members remain in office until the next session of the Council of IUGS. The President and the Secretary-General are re-eligible for one term only; the other members are eligible for re-appointment (Statutes IUGS VII, 25).
- e. It is recommended that membership of the Bureau should circulate among regions and countries as much as possible.
- f. Corresponding members are elected by INHIGEO among scientists known by their publications on the history of geological sciences. They are elected for one period, but may be re-elected without limit. First nomination for election of a corresponding member must be approved by the National Committee of Geology, the Geological Society, the Academy of Sciences or by another scientific body of the country concerned.

Functions

5. The Bureau directs the activities of INHIGEO. The president may delegate his powers to one of the Vice-Presidents by mutual agreement. The President and the Secretary-General divide the management of organizational and financial matters between themselves.
6. The Bureau gives annual information to the members and corresponding members by means of a bulletin in the language of the official text of IUGS-statutes (cf. Statutes VIII, 32), and, if convenient, in one of the other official languages of IUGS (cf. Bye-laws IUGS par. 25: French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish).

7. Regular meetings of INHIGEO are held at the time of the sessions of the International Geological Congress in order
- a. to discuss reports on the work of INHIGEO and of national groups (which have been formed either by free association of historians of geological sciences, or by appointment by national Geological Societies or Academies of Science), and to consider plans for the next term.
- b. to make the nomination of ordinary members for election by the Council of IUGS and to elect corresponding members and the members of the Bureau for the next period.
8. Special meetings of INHIGEO or of its Bureau can be held at any time by decision of the Bureau.
9. In the meetings of INHIGEO only the full members have a vote. A decision is considered valid if it is approved by the majority of the total number of the full members of INHIGEO. In case a full member is not present at the meeting, his vote can be made by proxy. Each scientist participating in the meeting may act only once as a proxy voter.
10. The work of INHIGEO may be discontinued by decision of the Council of IUGS (Statutes VII, 25).

New Corresponding Members of INHIGEO

(elected September 13, 1978)

Tore Frängsmyr (approved by the Swedish National Committee for the History of Science), born in 1938. Graduate of the University of Uppsala (1961); Fil.lic. (1966) Fil. Doctor (1969); Assistant Professor of the History of Science and Ideas and member of The Royal Academy of Arts and Science of Uppsala (1973). Author of books and papers on the history of geology: *Geology and the Doctrine of Creation* (1969), *Steno and the Geological Time* (1971), *Swedish Science in the Eighteenth Century* (1974), *The Discovery of the Ice Age. Studies in the Growth of Modern Geology* (1976) etc.

Dr. T. Frängsmyr, Department of History of Science, Uppsala Universitet, Box 256, S - 751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

Ivan Herčko (approved by the Society of the History of Science and Technology of Czechoslovakia), born in 1943. Graduate of the Faculty of Mining of the Technical High School of Kosice, CSSR (1966); Head of the Department of Geology and Vice-Director of the Mining Museum of Banská Štiavnica. He works in the field of the history of geology. He has published more than 25 papers: biographies, regional history of geology, history of mineralogy and mining, etc. Organizer of a symposium on the History of Geological Sciences in Slovakia (1978).

Ing. I. Herčko, Slovenské Banské Múzeum, 969 00 Banská Štiavnica, CSSR

Giuliano Piccoli (approved by the "Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche" of Italy), born in 1927. Doctor of Geology (1957), Professor of General geology (1967) and Paleontology (1974) at the University of Padova. His special field of research is the Tertiary of NE-Italy as compared with those of the Mediterranean and the Thethys. He has worked in different countries of Africa, America and Asia. He has published a great number of papers on the history and methodology of geology including about 70 biographies for the "Enciclopedia della Scienza e della Tecnica",

Milano 1974 - 1976.

Prof. G. Piccoli, Istituto di Geologia, Via Giotto, 1
351 00 Padova, Italia

C. Gordon Winder (approved by the Geological Society of America), born in 1922. Graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Canada (1949); M.Sc. (1951), Ph.D. (1953); Lecturer (1953) and Professor of Geology (1964) at the University of Western Ontario. His field of research is paleozoic geology, urban geology and the creation - evolution controversy. He is interested in problems of the history of geology (Sir William Logan, the first director of the Geological Survey of Canada; Surveys across the U.S. - Canada Boundary). Author of a great number of papers. He was the first Vice-Chairman of the History of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (1976 - 77) and is now its Chairman.

Prof. C.G. Winder, Department of Geology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, N6A 5 B 7, Canada

National Group on the History of Geology in Czechoslovakia

Apart from those national groups dealing with the history of geological sciences that already exist, a new one was established in Czechoslovakia in 1978. It was founded on June 30, 1978. Members of this national group are: Dr. J. Urban (Kutná Hora) - President; Ing. J. Herčko (Banská Štiavnica), Dr. L. Odehnal (Prague), Dr. J. Jancsy (Banská Štiavnica) - Members. The committee sees its main task in compiling a bibliography of the works on the history of geological sciences in Czechoslovakia from the eighteenth century to the present.

History of Geological Sciences in Sovietunion in
1976 - 1978

Soviet INHIGEO Subcommittee was established in 1971. It consists of 22 persons and most of its members (15), representing the National Republics, are in charge of researches on the history of geological sciences in their regions. The main task put before Soviet historians of geology is to give surveys of the history of geological researches and the development of geological sciences in each of the USSR National Republics. To achieve this goal conferences are organised periodically, articles are written, books are published on different problems of the history of geological sciences and large monographs are prepared.

In the life of Soviet historians of geology two important events took place between 1976 and 1978:

1. The Vth Transcaucasian Conference on the History of Science and Technology was held in Baku in July 1977. It was prepared by Azerbaijan, Armenian and Georgian scholars. Historians of geology from some other Republics and from Moscow also participated in the Conference. Abstracts of the papers read and the book "Proceedings of the Second Transcaucasian Conference on the History of Science", which was held in Baku in 1967, were available at the opening day of the meeting. 21 papers were read in the Section on the History of Geology. There was an excursion to Kobistan where ancient rock-engravings of people and animals have been found recently;
2. The XIth Inter-republican Conference on the History of Science and Technology in the Baltic Region took place in Tallin and Tartu in October 1977. The Conference was timed to the 175th anniversary of Tartu University and was organized by scholars from the three Baltic Republics, mainly from Estonia. Historians of geology from some other Republics and from Moscow also took part in it. Following tradition, abstracts (in two books) were pub-

lished beforehand. 14 reports were given in the Section on the History of Geological Sciences. The book "The Role of Tartu University in the Development of Native Science and in the Training of Scientific-Pedagogical Personnel" and three small booklets "On the Development of Science in the Baltic Region in the Period of Soviet Power", devoted to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania respectively, had been published by the opening day.

Much attention has been paid to the preparation and publication of works on different problems of the history of geological sciences. A number of articles and the following important monographs on the history of geological sciences have appeared during the last two years:

1. AivAsian S.M.: The Improvement of Knowledge of Metals, the Mining-Metallurgical Production of Antiquity (in the Example of Armenia) and the Development of the Study of the Earth". Part I. 1977.
2. Outstanding Native Geologists /Ed.-in-chief: A.P. Markovski, V.V. Tikhomirov/ L.: Nauka. Leningrad department, 1978. - 228p. (Contributions to the History of Geological Sciences; Vol. 19)
3. Islamov O.I. On the History of Geological Sciences in Middle Asia. Tashkent: Fan, 1976, 1977, Part I, II.
4. Ravikovich A.I. Charles Lyell. 1792 - 1875. M.: Nauka, 1976. - 200p. (Scientific-biographic series).
5. Romanova M.M. History of Ideas of the Origin of Granites. M.: Nauka, 1977. - 188p.
6. Chomizuri G.P. Development of the Notion "Geosyncline". M.: Nauka, 1976. - 235p. (Contributions to the History of Geological Sciences; Vol. 18).

In recent years geologists have become more and more interested in dealing with methodological problems of their field. In this connection, a number of books has been published dealing with the analysis of methodological problems on the basis of historical data. The following books stand out among others:

1. Vernadski V.I. Reflections of a Naturalist. Book 2.

Scientific Ideas As a Planetary Phenomenon. M.: Nauka, 1977. - 191p.

2. Problems of Methodology in Geological Sciences /Ed.-in-chief A.S. Povarennykh, V.I. Onoprienko/ Kiev: Naukova Dumka, 1977. - 164p.
3. Visotsky B.P. Problems of the History and Methodology of Geological Sciences. M.: Nauka, 1977. - 280p.
4. Krut I.V. Introduction to the General Theory of the Earth. Levels of the Organisation of Geosystems. M.: Mysl, 1978. - 367p.
5. Methodology and History of Geological Sciences /Ed.-in-chief A.I. Ravikovich./ M.: Nauka, 1977. - 179p.
6. Miliutina E.N. Seismic Study of the Upper Earth's Mantle: Evolution of Methodology. 1976.

The growing number of publications on problems of the history and methodology of geological sciences in the Soviet Union is the result of the development of studies in this field. This is made possible through the work planned in various research institutes as well as through the personal initiative of individual scholars.

D.I. Gordeev
Corr. Member INHIGEO

V.V. Tikhomirov
Past President INHIGEO

History of Geology in America in 1977 (USA)

This year was the first full year of operation of the new History of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. Membership within the division is currently 234. At the annual meetings of the Geological Society in Seattle, Washington, in November, a Symposium on the Geology of the Explorers of Western North America was held in addition to a session of general papers on the history of geology. Five papers on the history of geology were presented at the annual meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, four of them at the session of Inquiry into the Formation of Geological Surveys. A session entitled Problems in Geological Dynamics: 1790 - 1945 at the annual meetings of the History of Science Society in Dallas, Texas, drew three papers. A conference marking the bicentenary of Captain James Cook's landing on Vancouver Island, was held at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia in April.

A number of Corresponding Members of both INHIGEO and the U.S. National Committee, have cooperated in a project to reprint 37 classics of geology, all of extreme rarity. The collection includes Robert Hooke's Lectures on Earthquakes, Charles Lyell's Travels in North America, Parkinson's 3-volume Organic Remains, the very rare Transactions of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists containing W. B. and H. D. Roger "On the Physical Structure of the Appalachian Chain" and other papers by James Hall and Lardner Vanuxem; G. K. Gilbert's (Henry Mountains), Buckland, Cuvier and many others. An illustrated descriptive brochure is obtainable from the publishers, Arno Press, 3 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016, U.S.A. C. C. Albritton, the Editor of the project, has suggested that other National Committees attempt to make available in similar fashion, libraries of facsimiles of geologic classics in other languages.

The 1978 nominees to the U.S. National Committee for the History of Geology are Ursula Marvin (Smithsonian Astrophysical

Institute and Harvard), June Fullmer (Ohio State University), Paul Tasch (University of Kansas) and Harold Burstyn (U.S. Geological Survey).

Ten papers are planned for the session on "Canadian-United States Relations: Geological Style" for the 1978 Annual Meetings of the G.S.A. scheduled for Toronto in November. A symposium on "History of Investigations of the Carboniferous" is planned for the IXth International Carboniferous Congress for May 1979.

This has also been the first year of operation of the new Office of the Historian of the U.S. Geological Survey. Beginning March 3, 1979 (Centennial Day), the Survey will observe the 100th Anniversary of its founding with a series of commemorative programs, speakers, symposiums, publications and exhibits. For further information, inquire of C. M. Nelson, Associate Historian, U.S.G.S., 950 National Center, Reston, Virginia 22092, U.S.A.

Besides these organizational developments, the volume of American publication on the history of geology is steadily increased, but even more significant, the quality of work is high reflecting an increased respect for each other's standards by historians and geologists. It must be observed however that this progress is almost entirely due to the efforts of individual scholars, most frequently working apart from their professional employment. History of geology has not yet been established in the United States as an essential part of geological education. Courses and textbooks in both the history of science and in geology include few if any of the results of the studies of the past thirty years. It is therefore particularly gratifying to note that the History of Science Society has nominated George W. White for its George Sarton Lecturer for 1978, the first historian of geology to be so recognized. Dr. White was Vice-President for America of INHIGEO and a principal founder of the U.S. National Committee for the History of Geology. His collected papers on the history of geology have just been reprinted as one of the 37 volumes of the Arno Press Collection.

C. J. Schneer
Vice-President INHIGEO

Victor Eyles

Dr. Victor Eyles, corresponding member of INHIGEO from Great Britain died on March 8, 1978, at the age of 82.

He was a native of Bristol and after service during the First World War he graduated in 1920 in petrology at Bristol University. He had a long and fruitful career with the Geological Survey of Great Britain (1920 - 1955). In the years before the Second World War he worked in Scotland and Northumberland, and made major contributions to the geological mapping and interpretation of the Carboniferous sedimentary and igneous rocks of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire and the ancient crystalline (Moine) schists of the West Highlands. During the Second World War he was seconded to Northern Ireland to investigate the laterite and bauxite deposits known to exist within the Tertiary lavas of Antrim. After the war Victor Eyles was based in the London Office of the Geological Survey, in charge of the field units working in the Midland and South Wales Coalfields.

Dr. Eyles was the leading British historian of geology and one of the world's most eminent workers in this field. His contributions to the history of geology, many carried out jointly with his wife, include studies of the work of Louis Albert Necker, James Hutton, William Smith, Robert Jameson, James Hall, J. Mac Culloch, and Abraham Gottlob Werner. Eyles' interest in the history of his science was stimulated by the fine collection of early geological maps and texts which he and his wife built up over the years. Between 1951 and 1956 he gave courses on the history of geology at University College London, and he lectured at several universities in the USA.

Dr. Eyles was a founder member of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences in Jerevan (U.S.S.R.) in 1967, and the United Kingdom representative on this scientific body between 1967 and 1972. Together with his wife he took part in many international scientific meetings which he enriched by his excellent papers and profound discussion. Victor Eyles was highly esteemed by his colleagues and friends for his

great scientific achievements, his willingness to help and his ability to manage difficult situations. His death is a great loss to the world community of historians of geology.

M. Guntau

Oskar Islamovich Islamov

Professor O.I. Islamov, corresponding member of INHIGEO and one of the most prominent Soviet historians of geology, died on May 2, 1978.

O.I. Islamov was born in Tashkent on October 7, 1910. In 1932, he graduated in geological engineering at the Middle Asian Institute of Geological Surveys. He worked as a mining geologist until 1936, but was also engaged in geological surveys. He then became a post-graduate student at the All-Union Institute of Geology in Leningrad, at the same time holding the post of a geologist in this Institute.

Right from the beginning of the Second World War O.I. Islamov fought at the front and was seriously wounded in the battle near Leningrad.

He defended his thesis in 1944, receiving the academic degree of a Candidate of geological and mineralogical sciences. He then began to lecture at the Geological Faculty of Tashkent University.

After 1946, he was in charge of the Department of General and Historical Geology.

O.I. Islamov defended his doctoral dissertation in 1961 receiving the degree of a Doctor of geological and mineralogical sciences. He was appointed Professor in 1963.

O.I. Islamov was engaged in various fields of geology, such as petrography, geomorphology, seismology, geotectonics, dynamic and planetary geology, geography, astronomy, methodology of teaching and philosophical problems of geology. He was especially interested in problems concerning the stability of inclination of the earth's axis of rotation in the course of geological time and the permanent shifting of the earth with respect to its axis of rotation.

During the last three decades of his work he paid special attention to questions pertaining to the history of geological knowledge in Middle Asia. His research in this field was of great practical significance. Geologico-archeological investigations were carried out on O.I. Islamov's initiative which were aimed at studying traces of ancient mining production. As a result, several deposits of valuable raw materials were discovered.

At the constituent assembly of INHIGEO in 1967, O.I. Islamov was elected corresponding member of this Committee. He was re-elected twice at the XXIV. and XXV. sessions of the International Geological Congress.

O.I. Islamov published nearly 60 works including a number of books, among them "On the History of Geological Knowledge in Middle Asia", part 1 and 2 (1976 - 77) and the textbook "General Geology" (1971).

V.V. Tikhomirov

Information

- The Centenary of the Geological Survey of the USA. Mrs Ellis L. Yochelson (E 501 U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20 244) wrote us a letter announcing that March 3, 1979 is the centennial of the U.S. Geological Survey. A "History of the Geological Survey", written by Mary Robbit, will be published in that year. A Symposium will be held during the Geological Society of America Meeting in November 1979 on "The geological ideas of G.K. Gilbert". There will be day tours at the various centers of the Survey, which will include some comments on the history.

- 26th International Geological Congress (Paris, 7 - 17 July 1980). The Section S. 19: "History of Geology" of the 26th Congress will be convened by F. Ellenberger and J. Gaudant, assisted by R. Hooykaas acting privately as foreign counselor.

Two Symposia will be held as part of the S. 19 activities (intra-section symposia): this implies that all participants must be listed as members of the 26th I.G. Congress.

Symposium S. 19 2.2.: "History of tectonics up to the 13th International Geological Congress at Brussels 1922". Organisers: F. Ellenberger and Jacques Roger.

Symposium S. 19 2.1.: "The development of Geology up to the death of Cuvier (1832): works in the French language in international exchanges". Organisers: John Dennis (U.S.A.).

a nine day pre-Congress excursion (n 138 A) to be held from the 27th June to the 5th July, entitled "To the origins of French geology", will follow the route Paris-Auvergne-Marseille. Mainly devoted to pre-1850 geological studies, the excursion is nevertheless open to all Congress members (maximum number of participants: 35).

Intervention of INHIGEO: INHIGEO will hold an official session on the occasion of the 26th I.G.C.

Furthermore, the Symposium S. 2.1. will be organised in collaboration with the INHIGEO. It will also be sponsored by the (French National) Committee of History and Philosophy of

Science. Therefore, although officially part of Section S. 19 of the I.G.C., the above named Symposium will also have an additionnal and pluridisciplinary statute.

To late replies to the first I.G.C. circular: More than 100 persons have already indicated their interest in attending Section S. 19; 41 have proposed a paper; 22 of which concerns Symposium S. 2.1.; at least 26 wish to join excursion 138 A.

Important: It is recalled that the Second Circular will be sent only to persons having filled and returned the Preliminary Questionnaire in the First Circular.

Any additional informations pertaining both to section S. 19 of the I.G.C. and the Symposium S. 2.1 (or the excursion) can be obtained by writing directly to Prof. F. Ellenberger - Laboratoire de GEOLOGIE STRUCTURALE & APPLIQUEE Université Paris-Sud - Batiment 504. F-91405 ORSAY. (France).

- Possibility of rooms, during the XXVth I.G.C. (Paris, July 1980)

Rooms without charges (but with no service) may be obtained by members or corresponding members of INHIGEO. Priority will be given to members coming from countries with difficulties of exchange, or retired, or recommended students. Distance from Paris: 12 Km, metro every 7th minute. Please ask Prof.Dr. André Cailleux, 9 Avenue de la Trémouille, 94100 St-Maur, Val-de-Marne, France.

- XVIth International Congress of the History of Science. The XVIth International Congress of the History of Science (IOHS) will be held in Bucharest, Romania, between August 26 and September 3, 1981. The general topic of the Congress is: "Science and Technology, Humanism and Progress". Members of the International Committee of the Congress are St. Balan (Romania), R. Hahn (U.S.A.), A.R. Hall (Great Britain), A.I. Hassan (Syria), S.R. Mikulinski (U.S.S.R.) and R. Taton (France).

At this Congress, one Section will deal with the history of earth sciences. You are requested to offer papers corresponding to the general topic of the Congress.

Inquiries and any other correspondence should be sent to:
Professor Stefan Balan, Academy of Sciences of Romania, Calea
Victoriei 125, 71 102 Bucuresti, Romania

Annotations

- Two Studies on the Theory of Climate and Uniformity J.B. Waterhouse: "What's the time, Mr Wolf?"
Inaugural lecture delivered at the University of Queensland
15 Aug. 1975; Univ. of Queensland Press, St. Lucia Queensland
1977, 33 pp.
D. Ospovat: "Lyell's Theory of Climate". In: Journal Hist.
Biol. 10 (1977), pp. 317 - 339.
On the basis of palaeomagnetic and, in particular, palaeontological research (e.g. his own work on brachiopods of the Permian period) Prof. Waterhouse arrives at the conclusion that changes in fossil life were abrupt and that uniformitarianism should be buried. At least one extreme climatic catastrophe occurred in the past. Diagrams and some funny cartoons in colours illuminate the text, which has been written in a lively, sometimes humorous, style.
In a penetrating article Dr. Ospovat analyses the causes and the character of Lyell's theory of a great geological cycle. He considers it as a response to data on climatic change, a response conditioned by two of Lyell's fundamental beliefs: that in environmental determinism and that in the uniqueness of man. We might add that these were precisely the beliefs that were foremost in the minds of his opponents.
R.H.
- J.C. Greene and J.G. Burke: "The Science of Minerals in the Age of Jefferson". Transact. of the Americ. Philosphy., Vol. 68, part 4, 113 pp. Philadelphia 1978
The authors give a description of the beginning and development of mineralogy during the first decades after the foundation of the USA (1780 - 1822), also including its relationship to the mineralogical knowledge in Europe at that time. Among others, the authors present the achievements of the mineralogists in the first American centres of scientific

research (Philadelphia and New York), appreciate Parker Cleaveland's and Benjamin Silliman's contribution to the foundation of American mineralogy and deal with Yale's role in the training of chemists, mineralogists and geologists. The monograph provides a good survey of the beginnings of mineralogical science in the United States.

M.G.

- "100 Jahre Glazialtheorie im Gebiet der skandinavischen Vereisungen" (100 Years Glacial Theory in the Region of Scandinavian Glaciation). Schriftenreihe für Geologische Wissenschaften, Heft 9, 368 Seiten, 77 Abb., 20 Tab., 8 Tafeln, Akademie-Verlag, Berlin 1978.
This volume contains the papers read at the meeting which was organized by the GDR Geological Society on the occasion of the centenary of Otto Torell's lecture on glacial theory in Berlin on November 3, 1875. It was the aim of this meeting to appreciate the work of Otto Torell and that of other scientists of the 19th century who were engaged in research on problems concerning the Ice Age, to give a survey of the research history and subject matter of glacial theory and to discuss research work in this field during the following years. Among others, this volume includes historically-oriented papers by F. Herneck (Berlin), T. Frängsmyr and L.-K. Königsson (Uppsala), E.V. Sancer (Moscow), D.D. Krasov (Leningrad) and O. Wagenbreth (Weimar).
M.G.
- P.J. McCartney: "Henry De la Beche: observations on an observer", Ed. by D.A. Basset, 77 pp., 58 pict., National Museum of Wales, Cardiff 1977.
The book appreciates De la Beche (1796 - 1855) as a leading geologist of his time and in particular as the founder of the "Geological Survey of Great Britain". The biography of this scholar is accompanied by a number of well-selected drawings and sketches made by De la Beche. The book is of great interest to all those dealing with the history of geology. Due to De la Beche's remarkable humorous drawings it may, however, also find a large number of readers among those who are no profes-

sionals in this field.

M.G.

- R. Porter: "The Making of Geology. Earth Science in Britain. 1660 - 1815". Cambridge University Press 1977.

The author presents the outstanding British tradition in the field of geological knowledge and describes the essential achievements made on this matter, in particular at the turn of the 18th century. This development is analyzed in close connection with social and philosophical changes, and the author also inquires into the different social groups contributing to the formation of geology as a science. He unfolds the causes which brought about the changes that made geology become a science: the growing number of differently oriented researchers, scientific observations of geological details, the growing number of publications of maps and monographs, the compilation of collections, the work done by scientific, etc. R. Porter's ideas are based on understanding science as an intellectual, social and cultural enterprise in society. M.G.

- F. Ellenberger: "A l'aube de la géologie moderne: Henri Gautier (1660 - 1737)". Extrait de Histoire et Nature, h^{os} 7 (1975) et 9 - 10 (1976/77), 58 pp. and 147 pp.

The two articles on Gautier comprised in this volume appreciate him as a precursor of J. Hutton and a pioneer of modern geology. He combined ideas about gradual and reversible processes in nature with the concept of uniqueness of various geological events. On this basis, he explained mountain building as a result of erosion processes and sedimentary cycles. He contributed to the foundation of actualism in France. Gautier's ideas are introduced by numerous selected quotations from his original works which are commented on by the author. The publications also contain data on Gautier's life in order to provide a better understanding of his ideas.

M.G.

- H. Prescher: "Goethes Sammlungen zur Mineralogie, Geologie und Paläontologie, Katalog." (Goethe's Collections on Mineralogy, Geology, and Paleontology, Catalogue.) 716 S., 16 Abb.,

Akademie-Verlag Berlin 1978.

This book contains the catalogue of Goethe's geological collections. These collections, which comprise nearly 18,000 single pieces (9059 numbers) that were put into disorder during the Second World War, have been available in their original form in Weimar since 1971. The newly arranged material which is based on old catalogues shows Goethe's relations to scholars working in the field of geology and amateurs interested in collecting minerals, rocks and fossils. The collection is an excellent source for those interested in investigating the history of science at the time when Goethe lived. Handling of the catalogue is facilitated by an extensive index (including a geographical index) and an index of names.

M. G.