

Editorial

Launching the Journal of Geosciences

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Geosciences, a geological journal with a brand new layout but a long history. As early as in 1956 was founded *Časopis pro mineralogii a geologii*, which was mostly dedicated to the contributions from former Czechoslovakia as well as the news from the life of the Czechoslovak Society for Mineralogy and Geology (1923), the predecessor of today's Czech Geological Society (CGS). In 1993, the change in name (to Journal of the Czech Geological Society), size/format, typographic design, editorial board (since 1992 chaired by S. Vrána) and publishing policy all clearly aimed at an international audience, in accord with the opening of the whole country after the fall of the iron curtain. Introduced were more rigorous review procedures and exclusive use of English as the modern *lingua franca* for the scientific communication. As an answer to technological advancements, the tables of contents (2001) and finally PDF reprints (2003) were made available online as a part of the CGS web pages.

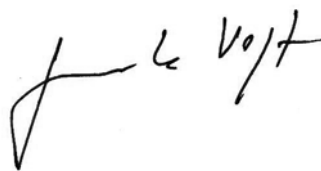
Until 2006, the scope of the Journal has been considerably broader, covering all main fields of geosciences. Since that year on – owing to a gentleman agreement between the Czech Geological Survey and the Czech Geological Society – papers concerned with palaeontology, sedimentology, stratigraphy and related fields appear solely in our partner *Bulletin of Geosciences*. In turn, the *Journal of the Czech Geological Society* has focused on crystalline geology, petrology, mineralogy, geochemistry, and related topics. This brought about a fundamental reconstruction of both editorial boards.

In the beginning of this year, Stanislav Vrána, for long respected and tireless editor-in-chief, has stepped down. At the same time we have decided to undergo several substantial alterations to the format and editorial policy. As mentioned above, the name is modified as it was felt that the original one may have caused an impression that it publishes solely papers connected to the territory of the Czech Republic. This could potentially discourage authors from other countries, eager to publish results of their process-oriented research. As you have probably noted, along come significant changes in the graphical layout, designed to look more modern and to reflect better the new contents. In our quest for improvement of the quality of the published articles, we have appointed an external advisory board.

We look at the changes brought about with this issue as a part of the unavoidable and logical evolution. We strongly believe that a scientific journal, being written, reviewed and edited by the scientists themselves, should be accessible freely to the whole community. Hence we intend the *Journal of Geosciences* (J. Geosci., ISSN 1802-6222) to be a truly Open Access Journal, offering free Internet access and on line publishing of electronic supplementary materials. There should be no page charges and a liberal policy towards the length of the papers, if justified by their scientific merit. We trust that these features make our Journal an attractive platform to publish.

I can only hope that you will like the new format of the Journal as much as we have enjoyed preparing it for you. We in turn will try our best so that this Journal could provide a dignified forum for your contributions. I am both pleased and honoured that this first issue in the new format can be dedicated to Stanislav Vrána, the retiring editor-in-chief as much as my dear colleague and mentor, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

In Prague and Cape Town, July 2007



Vojtěch Janoušek
Editor-in-chief
(on behalf of the Editorial Board)

Acknowledgements I am greatly indebted to all, without whose help this volume could hardly materialize; in particular to the all members of the new editorial board for their support and hard work. Additionally, Mirko Vaněček (with Štěpán Manda) is thanked for his energy and time implementing and polishing the new layout, as well as enlightening discussions about typography and life. I am also grateful to Vojtěch Erban for all the skilful programming and web design. Theo Adamy not only won my admiration for his graphical works, but also generously donated the exclusive cover design. Thanks are due to Vladimír Žáček, the author of the photograph.

Foreword

Celebration of the career contribution of Stanislav Vrána



The first issue of the Journal of Geosciences (formerly Journal of the Czech Geological Society) is dedicated to RNDr. Stanislav Vrána, CSc., a long time editor of this journal, on the occasion of his 70th birthday on 7 May, 2006. Stanislav Vrána is the outstanding scientist on the field of petrology, mineralogy and geology, highly appreciated not only in his mother country but also worldwide.

After having graduated from the Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague (1954–1959) Stanislav was employed by the Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology in Bratislava (1959–1966). In 1965 he defended his doctoral thesis „Alpine metamorphism of granitoids from the Foederáta Series in the central part of the Veporides“. During his lifelong career he was closely related with the Czech Geological Survey, Prague (1966–2002). Initially (1973–1988) he worked as a regional geologist for South Bohemian Moldanubicum. Later he managed the large-scale correlation project related to the deep drilling in Bavaria (KTB, 1991–1995).

He spent a comparably long time in southern Africa, both owing to regional mapping and mineralogical–petrological work in Zambia (1967–1972) as well as several shorter expeditions to Zambia and Namibia in the framework of the Czech Republic’s development aid (1999–2003). Moreover he contributed to improving the quality of teaching at the Department of Petrology, Charles University, where he also supervised several postgraduate theses. Last but not least, S. Vrána was a tireless editor of the Journal of the Czech Geological Society (1992–2006), including several abstract volumes spanning from international symposia held in Prague.

Stanislav’s outstanding achievements in the field of igneous and metamorphic petrology are renown. His early works have been connected mainly with the Alpine metamorphic development of the Western Carpathians, especially the Vepor Unit. Due to his long-term engagement in south-eastern Africa, the early 1970’s witnessed an explosion of works concerned mainly with the petrology of igneous and high-grade metamorphic rocks of this region. After his return, S. Vrána concentrated mainly on structural geology, petrology, P-T development, and later also geochemical character and age of high-grade metamorphic rocks from the Moldanubian Zone, Bohemian Massif. His interest was mainly focused onto unusual, geochemically nearly undepleted HP-HT granulites, which form an important and remarkable component of its Gföhl Unit. He has constrained the P-T conditions of their genesis and was the first who has championed the idea that many of them may represent products of high-pressure partial melting of normal crustal lithologies. In the 1990’s the main interest was in the genesis of (U)HP rocks, such as grossular-rich garnetites from western Moravia; he dedicated much time also to the Variscan igneous rocks in southern Bohemia. Quite recently, Stanislav co-authored several papers dealing with the economic geology in Zambia.

His accomplishments in mineralogy are less familiar but still apparently above most of the Czech specialists in mineralogy. He described in cooperation with Czech and foreign mineralogists and crystallographers three new mineral species: drysdallite MoSe_2 , kanonaite $^{\text{VI}}\text{Mn}^{3+\text{V}}\text{AlSiO}_5$ and hejtmanite $\text{Ba}(\text{Mn},\text{Fe}^{2+})_2\text{TiO}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{OH},\text{F})_2$, all collected in Zambia. His crystal-chemical studies of rock-forming minerals such as cobaltoan staurolite, cobaltoan hogböhmite, chevkinite, non-metamict allanite or Al-rich titanite are also valuable. Petrologic specialization of Dr. S. Vrána is apparent also from the papers focused on breakdown processes in rock-forming minerals such as surinamite pseudomorphs after cordierite or chlorite-mica-beryl pseudomorphs after cordierite, and formation of emerald at the Kafubu deposit, Zambia.

The versatility and diligence of Stanislav is best documented by his incredibly rich publishing record, as follows from the following account of Breiterová. Even more than the quality of individual contributions, striking is the broad, truly renaissance array of topics. This is in part reflected by the heterogeneity among the nine papers brought by the current volume, each of them related in some way to the topics/regions affected by Stanislav’s work. They encompass so dissimilar subjects as structural geology and tectonic development of the Moldanubian Zone in the Bohemian Massif (contributions by F. Finger et al., S. Büttner), petrology, geochemistry and genesis of the HP-HT granulites (J. Kotková, V. Janoušek et al.), timing the Alpine development of the Vepor–Gemeric Belt (D. Plašienka et al.), P–T conditions of formation for the magnesite deposits in Gemericum (W. Faryad et al.) as well as mineralogy of selected Variscan pegmatite bodies in the Western Carpathians (P. Uher and P. Žitňan) and Bohemian Massif (P. Černý et al.), together with the description of the new occurrence of kanonaite (M. Novák and R. Škoda).

It is our big pleasure to express our collective respect and appreciation to S. Vrána by his volume. Our wishes of much happiness and good health to our colleague and friend, and big thanks for all the enrichment of our work and lives! On behalf of all your pals and colleagues,

Vojtěch JANOUŠEK and Milan NOVÁK, Guest Editors

Acknowledgements We are grateful to all the authors who contributed to this volume, and to the referees who frequently handled the scientific and linguistic reviews under extremely tight schedule constraints.