



## INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (INHIGEO)

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### INHIGEO QUARTERLY CIRCULAR 2017, Number 2, June

Dear members and friends,

It is a pleasure to greet you again. Welcome to our June 2017 Circular. We are now rapidly approaching our Symposia within the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the History of Science and Technology (25ICHST) – Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 23-29 July, 2017. Two sessions have been accepted by the IUHST for Rio in July 2017 organised by **Figueirôa** and **Klemun/Mattes**.

We look forward to seeing you all in September to our 2017 Annual Conference to be held in **Yerevan (Armenia)** where we will celebrate the **50th anniversary of INHIGEO**. We will have a book launch of our anniversary volume. On this, thanks to the editors, mainly Wolf Mayer and Salome Teresa Mota and Renee M. Clary. The title of the volume is “History of Geoscience: Celebrating 50 years of INHIGEO” and it is published by the Geological Society of London.

Over the next few weeks we should all receive our annual record for 2016 following the ongoing efforts of our hard working editor, Bill Brice. Many thanks to him in advance for his tremendous editorial work!

Our 2017 ballot has now concluded and we have **eleven new members from nine different countries** and one new affiliated association. **Please join me in welcoming them all!** With the annual ballot we also recognise and congratulate one new **INHIGEO honorary senior member: Kennard Baker Bork (USA)**. He served as a secretary general from 2004 to 2008, and continued as a board member until 2016. Please join me in welcoming Kennard Baker Bork as honorary senior member! Welcome to our new ‘**Affiliated Association**’ in **Italy** (History of Geoscience Section – Geological Society of Italy).

Best wishes to all

Marianne Klemun (Secretary General)

## **2017 INHIGEO MEMBERSHIP BALLOT**

A very warm welcome to all our new members! We hope you will enjoy being a part of our community. Congratulations on being nominated and elected by the INHIGEO board members. I am sure that all members are as delighted as I am by your admittance!  
We also congratulate Dr Kennard Baker Bork on being elected honorary senior member!

### **Honorary Senior Member**

**Dr. Kennard Baker BORK** (United States of America)

### **Membership**

(Total of 11 nominations from nine countries)

Australia:

William Birch

Austria:

Friedrich Steininger

Brazil:

Drielli Peyerl

China:

Liang Liu

France:

Nicolas Ginsburger

Pierre Savaton

Japan:

Akira Yamamoto (Mr.)

Russia:

Serge V. Naugolnykh

Slovakia:

Peter Konečný

South Africa:

Dr Sharad Master

Bruce Cairncross

### **‘Affiliated Association’ Application**

Italy: History of Geoscience Section – Geological Society of Italy

Sadly, 2017 witnessed the loss of **Trevor Ford**. He is no longer with us. He died on 22 February this year.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **42nd INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM - YEREVAN, ARMENIA, 12-18 SEPTEMBER 2017**

This conference is being planned as the 50th Anniversary INHIGEO conference. It is organised by the Armenian Institute of Geological Sciences and Armenian National Academy of Sciences. A website is available <http://inhigeo2017.geology.am/>

The next Circular will be distributed soon. The conference will be held at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan, where the first meeting of INHIGEO was held in 1967.

The conference themes will be:

1. 50 years of INHIGEO
2. Development of geological ideas and concepts
3. History of geology in Armenia
4. Ancient knowledge of stone and metals
5. Studies of historic and prehistoric evidences of seismic and volcanic activity
6. General contributions and biographies of famous geologists

1. Registration: please consider that 15 July will be the deadline for early bird registration

Please check conference web site: <http://inhigeo2017.geology.am> or directly

follow the link: <http://www.geology.am/en/order/inhigeo2017>

3. Our organisers kindly advise you to reserve/book a hotel in Yerevan very soon, since September is a high season there. They have negotiated some discounts and extra options with the listed hotels and you may find information about how to reserve a hotel with discount as an INHIGEO-2017 participant.

Please feel free to contact the organisers if you have any questions or inquiries.

Looking forward to seeing you in Yerevan!

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

15 July 2017, closure of early bird registration for symposium, post-conference trips, accompanying participants' early bird on-line registration fee payment

Registration fees for symposium and post-conference trips after 15 July will be 450 US dollars and 300 US dollars for accompanying participants.

Both mid-conference and post-conference field trips are planned to visit geological, historical and archaeological sites, the geological museum and the Armenian Museum of Ancient Manuscripts (Matendaran).

For any questions please contact the Organising Committee by e-mail at [inhigeo2017@geology.am](mailto:inhigeo2017@geology.am) or Khachatur Meliksetian at [km@geology.am](mailto:km@geology.am)

### **INHIGEO SYMPOSIA 2018-2021**

INHIGEO Annual Conferences for this period are scheduled as follows.

- 2018 – 43<sup>rd</sup> INHIGEO Conference, 12-22 November, Mexico City
- 2019 – 44<sup>th</sup> INHIGEO Symposium Como/Varese, Italy
- 2020 – 45<sup>th</sup> INHIGEO Symposium New Delhi, India (in association with the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress) it will be held early in the year as the Congress dates are already scheduled for 2-8 March 2020.
- 2021 – 46<sup>th</sup> INHIGEO Symposium, Poland

## **25<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (25ICHST) – RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL), 23-29 JULY 2017**

The 25<sup>th</sup> ICHST will be held on the Praia Vermelha campus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil in July 2017. The overall conference theme is “Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local”. The conference website is <http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br/>

INHIGEO will hold two symposia at this congress.

1. ““Black Gold”: History, Exploration & Exploitation of Oil and Gas in National and International Contexts”. Convenors are Silvia F. de M Figueirôa, Brian Frehner, Drielli Peyerl and Gregory Good.
2. "Multiple Spaces: Mapping Communication via Letters between Naturalists and Geologists". Convenors are Marianne Klemun and Johannes Mattes.

### **S29 “BLACK GOLD”: HISTORY, EXPLORATION & EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS**

#### Abstract:

The goal of this symposium is to gather researchers to discuss different scientific and technological aspects of the history of the oil and gas industry.

The search for oil began in the nineteenth century with the first drills made in Azerbaijan and in the United States. This intense search for a substance that would be one of the most important energy sources, was, many times, based on skill as well as luck, resulting in knowledge and in the development of prospecting and exploration technologies. The increasing demand for oil generated greater expertise in geological science, in other areas such as micropaleontology, stratigraphy or sedimentology and informed other disciplines such as geophysics and geochemistry. These contributions made possible not only the discovery of new oil fields but also new applications and methods of exploration. Unquestionably, beyond the exclusively scientific and technological aspects, an industry that grew to such size impacted with the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and diplomatic aspects of history. This session aims to discuss such transformations in different scales, from local to global, and to expand the field of knowledge by among colleagues from different countries, areas and with different approaches.

Keywords: Oil and Gas–History–Exploration–Exploitation–Geosciences.

Participants: • Claudine Cohen • Marianne Klemun • William R. Brice • Natascha Otoy • Maria Margaret Lopes • Gregory Good • Brian Frehner • Drielli Peyerl • Silvia Fernanda de Mendonça Figueirôa • Julia Chinellato Tulimoski de Oliveira

### **S28 “MULTIPLE SPACES: MAPPING COMMUNICATION VIA LETTERS BETWEEN NATURALISTS AND GEOLOGISTS”**

#### Abstract:

Hardly any medium is as functional for the communication between naturalists than the exchange of letters. Since early modern times it allowed for complex interactions between various producers of knowledge. Serving as a form of spatial mobility, correspondence accelerated exchange by establishing cultures of understanding and linking concepts of different contexts. For decades, historical research has examined these networks, subsuming them under the term “network society”. Especially, systemic processes such as the transfer and aggregation of knowledge became visible through the study of relationships in these networks. Contrary to the assumption of recent research that social systems generally suppress the relevance of space between the intersections of learned networks, our session addresses the spatial aspects of these

relationships, so far simply defined as a “vacuum” between (sub)centres of scientific research. According to Bourdieu’s concept of the social acquisition of space, these layers are determined by practices that map the correspondents’ fictional topography. Only through the distribution of meaning primarily undefined spaces become real and physically objectified. In this context, it is assumed that the real and fictional topographical aspects of letter-based communication consist of different dimensions.

1) Firstly, communication always takes place in specific geographical settings. In particular during travels, the naturalists or geologists were used to appropriate these areas and related them to each other through correspondence. Analysing these settings, spatial structures of activities, which map the dominance of specific places, become visible. 2) Furthermore, spatial settings can also be established through social practices related to a real topography. It makes quite a difference which fields of knowledge develop a network of communication. Contacts between scholarly institutions, which channelled social space and established self-related spatial references between countries and even continents, are another interesting aspect. 3) In addition, letter-based communication is also used to reflect the spatial multi-dimensionality of its medium. For example, letters between two scholars can negotiate the dimensions of closeness and distance in their personal interaction. 4) Finally, the spatial references of correspondences are overlaid by symbolic connoted dimensions that are related to the exchanged epistemic objects, artefacts and topographically determined pools of knowledge. For instance, language barriers can also be understood in a symbolic-spatial sense.

All in all, our session addresses topographical aspects that cannot be clearly defined in regional, national, global or physical-geographical terms. In particular, it is necessary to analyse the complex dimensions of overlying spatial settings or semantic references.

Keywords: communication–letters–natural history–interaction–topography of places.

Participants: •Toshihiro Yamada • Marina Loskutova •Francesco Luzzini •Johannes Mattes • Kurt Schmutzer • Katalin Straner • Ezio Vaccari • Ivan Hoste Vanderpelen •

### **“ABRAHAM GOTTLOB WERNER (1749-1817) AND THE EARTH SCIENCES” - A CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, 29 JUNE – 1 JULY 2017, FREIBERG, GERMANY**

This symposium focuses on the geosciences from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth century and the impact of Abraham Gottlob Werner’s research and teaching. The following issues are being addressed:

1. Werner’s charisma (analysis of his personality and its outward impact)
2. Europe-wide network and its influence on the progress of earth sciences
3. Transfer of knowledge (history of cartography, history of collections, impact of geoscientific insights on other fields such as fine arts; foundation of mining academies following the Freiberg model)
4. Werner’s students and their impact on earth sciences
5. Teaching in the early years of the Mining Academy (Freiberg)

For further information please contact:

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