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**FIFTY YEARS OF THE FACULTY OF GEOLOGY OF THE WARSAW
UNIVERSITY AND TRADITIONS OF THE MINERALOGICAL
SCIENCES IN WARSAW**

The Faculty of Geology of the Warsaw University, brought into being by the resolution of the Presidium of the Government of the Polish People's Republic from the 18th of August, 1951, after the one year period of preparations, began its activity on the October 1, 1952. Thus, presently passes almost exactly fifty years from the foundation of the faculty, and this anniversary prompted a short reminder of the history of development of the mineralogical sciences in Warsaw. The introduction to the statute of the Faculty of Geology proclaims that „The Geological Faculty of the Warsaw University makes a continuation of the Mineralogical and Geological Departments, formed together with the reactivated University on the November 15, 1915”. However, the development of the geological and mineralogical sciences in the Warsaw academic centre reaches with its roots much deeper in the past. The beginning of these sciences has been made by the activity of Stanisław Staszic in the last decades of the eighteenth century or even earlier, by the mineralogical parts of the programmes of the Jesuits' and Piarist schools on the turn of the seventeenth century.

Mineralogy has been lectured in the Royal Warsaw University since its establishing in 1816. The lectures on mineralogy have been the supplementary ones at the Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Arts jointly with the lectures on botany and zoology. These lectures have been delivered by the pharmacist Jakub Fryderyk Hoffmann, and since 1829 for short time by Marek Antoni Pawłowicz. The activity of the Warsaw University was interrupted in 1831 as the repression of the Russian tsarist government after the overthrow of the Polish November insurrection. After a long period of the lack of any academic school educating naturalists in Warsaw, the Medical and Surgical Academy was established in 1857 with the Department of Mineralogy. This Department submitted the lectures appropriate to the education of pharmacists. A similar Department was active later, in the years from 1862 till 1869 after formation of the General School, educating in mineralogy as well as in petrography, geology and palaeontology the students of the Faculties: Medical and Mathematical-Physical.

In 1869 the General School was changed to the Tsar's Warsaw University with the Russian lecturing language. Although this University was the tool of

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Russification policy of the invader, it should be told, that it educated many outstanding naturalists, who after the regaining of independence an important role in the development of mineralogical sciences in Poland. One should mention the important scientists of that period: L. Zejszner, K. Jurkiewicz who lectured on mineralogy from 1862 till 1879, J. Trejdosiwicz, J. Morozewicz and Z. Weyberg. Among the Russian scientists working that time in the Warsaw University, A. Lagorio, the Head of the Department of Mineralogy from 1880 till 1898 and G. Wulf who took this position for the period 1898-1909, were the most prominent investigators among the Russian workers of the Department.

The Tsar's Warsaw University ceased its activity in 1915, and when Germans invaded Warsaw, the Warsaw University was established with Polish lecturing language and Polish academic authorities. In the reactivated University, at the faculty of Mathematics and Sciences, two departments of geological sciences were formed: the Department of Geology led by Professor Jan Lewiński and the Department of Mineralogy with Professor Stanisław Thugutt as the Department Head. Moreover, Professor Thugutt was the founder and the leader of the Mineralogical Laboratory of the Warsaw Scientific Society, a research unit which had a very good and modern equipment. Professor Thugutt was an outstanding scientist and promoter of science (in 1918/19 he was the Prorector and in 1919/1920 – the Rector of the Warsaw University). He contributed not only in the development of his own field, the mineral chemistry, but also promoted other sections of the mineralogical sciences and petrography. Results of the performed investigations were published in “Archiwum Mineralogiczne”, a journal established and issued by Professor Thugutt in 1925, the first Polish periodical of mineralogical sciences.

After the Professor Thugutt's retirement in 1935, the Department of Mineralogy of the Warsaw University was led by Zygmunt Weyberg and next by Antoni Łaskiewicz. Maria Kołaczowska, Antoni Morawiecki and Tadeusz Penkala worked in this Department; these scientists became professors and played important roles in Polish mineralogy after the World War II.

The Department of Mineralogy was located in a building at Krakowskie Przedmieście St., at the extension of the Kazimierzowski Palace toward Oboźna St., the same, which housed the Mineralogical Cabinet of the Royal Warsaw University in 1817. Due to the efforts of several generations of scientists, excellent specimens of minerals and rocks were gathered there, with the collections of Georg Gottlieb Pusch, Wilhelm Becker, Ignacy Domeyko and a part of the collection of Tytus Chałubiński or the Bolivian mineral specimens of Roman Kozłowski. The collections contained about 60,000 specimens of minerals and rocks, about 20,000 specimens of fossils; moreover the Department of Mineralogy had a large library. All this and the scientific equipment and devices were completely lost in the first days of September, 1939, due to bombing and fire of the Department building, destroying during the Warsaw Insurrection in 1944 and robbery after the Insurrection overthrow.

After the World War II, as early as in February 1945, the rescued members of the staff began the effort of the reconstruction of the University. In the partly saved home of Professor Jan Samsonowicz at 22 Wilcza St. the University structures connected with geology have been organised again, including the Department of Mineralogy and Petrography with Docent Antoni Łaszkiewicz as its head. The staff of the Department consisted of the tutor, Tadeusz Penkala, M.Sc. and 3 assistants. The first students come – those, who started their study before 1939 and those, who studied illegally during the Nazi occupation. The collections have been restored, the equipment regained, and slowly the scientific investigations revived. In the autumn 1947 the Department obtained the new abode in the building of the Faculty of Chemistry at 1 Pasteura St. Professor Łaszkiewicz was the head of the Department till his imprisonment in 1949; since 1951 this duty took Professor Maria Turnau-Morawska who arrived from Lublin.

In 1951 the government decided to reorganise the geological surveys in the country. It caused the bringing into being of the Central Geological Office and two geological faculties: one designed for the basic research in the Warsaw university and another with the practical, geologic-mining aspects in the University of Mining and Metallurgy in Cracow. New, modern programmes of education have been prepared. Centralisation of the geological education at the academic level caused the conveyance of the scientific staff from the universities in Poznań, Toruń and Lublin to Warsaw, what practically eliminated the education of geologists on the named universities. Such education has been maintained in a limited range in the University of Wrocław. The centralisation of the education of geologists of wide range of specialisations at the Faculty of Geology in the Warsaw University has been maintained till the middle 1970's, when the process of reactivation of the scientific and teaching geological activity in the formerly dissolved units of the other universities started to reactivate and the new geological unit was formed in the Silesian University in Sosnowiec.

In 1952 the Department of Mineralogy and Geochemistry with the head Professor Antoni Polański and the Department of Petrography with the head Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski (both from the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań) have been formed in the Faculty of Geology. In the Department of Petrography two sections existed: the Section of the Crystalline Rocks managed by Professor Kazimierz Smulikowski and the Section of the Sedimentary Rocks, managed by Professor Maria Turnau-Morawska and next, from 1965, by Professor Kazimierz Łydka. In the Department of Mineralogy and Geochemistry there existed the units: Section of Mineralogy, Section of Geochemistry and from 1961 – Section of Mineral Chemistry managed by Professor Tadeusz Penkala; the latter section was responsible by the complete chemical education of the students. The main part of the staff either came from the earlier units of the Warsaw University, or from the Universities of Poznań and Lublin. Prof. K. Smulikowski, Prof. M. Borkowska, Prof. M. Turnau-Morawska, Prof. K. Łydka, Doc. J. Ansilewski, Dr. M. Kozłowska, Prof. A. Nowakowski, Prof. B. Wierchołowski and Dr K. Sztukorska were employed in the Department of Petrography, Prof. A. Polański,

Prof. T. Penkala, Prof. Z. Waleńczak, Dr. F. Szumlas and from 1953 Prof. W Kowalski, from 1955 Prof. K. Szpila and Dr. M. Gadomski* – in the Department of Mineralogy and Geochemistry. Of the persons listed only Prof. W Kowalski works presently in the Faculty of Geology; he will retire at the end of the present year.

The conditions of the functioning of the Departments improved distinctly after they moved from the building of the Faculty of Chemistry to the newly constructed, own abode of the Faculty of Geology at 93 Żwirki i Wigury Av. The construction of this building started in 1954 and individual units of the Faculty moved to this building in the years 1958–1960.

During the reorganisation of the structure of the Warsaw University in 1968 the system of the departments was replaced by institutes with sections as the subordinate units mainly of the teaching importance. Then the presently existing Institute of Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrography was organised (in 1999 the name was changed to “Institute of Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology”) with three Sections: Petrography (currently – Petrology), Mineralogy and Geochemistry. The directors of the Institute were: till 1981 Professor Antoni Polański, till 1986 Professor Antoni Nowakowski, till 2002 Professor Włodzimierz Kowalski; Professor Andrzej Kozłowski is the present director.

In the fifty-years-long activity of the Faculty of Geology 360 persons graduated in the mineralogical sciences as Masters of Sciences – this includes 155 graduates in petrology (petrography) and 205 in mineralogy and geochemistry. They played and play an important role in the development of the mineralogical sciences in the country. The education of the scientific staff was also remarkable: the doctor’s degree was obtained by 40 persons, and this number will probably increase quickly due to the current activity of the doctorate studies, presently with 10 members in the mineralogical sciences. Fifteen persons obtained habilitations; many of them works in the universities, some in the scientific-research institutes, in part abroad. The scientific employees of the former Departments and Institute (now 13 persons) issued about 800 scientific publications and a number of academic textbooks and handbooks, including important items in geochemistry.

**Scientific degrees and titles of some of the employees were obtained later.*