

## NEW HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND

PAUL RAMDOHR\*

In 1983, in recognition of his distinguished merits for the world mineralogy and his contribution to the development of scientific cooperation in the field of mineralogical sciences between West Germany and Poland, the Mineralogical Society of Poland conferred its honorary membership on Professor Paul Ramdohr.

Paul Ramdohr was born in Überlingen, Germany, on 1 January 1890. He began his studies at the University of Heidelberg. During World War I he served in the army. After the war he completed his studies in Göttingen, where he received his Ph. D. degree in 1919. In the same year he began working as assistant at Darmstadt University. In 1921 he was appointed assistant professor at the Technical University of Clausthal. In 1926 he was appointed to a professorship at the Technical University in Aachen, then in Berlin and in 1950 at Heidelberg University. He retired in 1960.

Professor Paul Ramdohr receives the Diploma of Honorary Membership of the Mineralogical Society of Poland from Professor Waclaw Ryka, Vice-President of the Society (By courtesy of Wienheimer Nachrichten)



Professor Paul Ramdohr is a Fellow of six Academies of Sciences: German (3), Finnish, Austrian and Yugoslavian. He is an honorary member of the Geological Societies of the USA, England, Finland and Sweden, and of the Mineralogical Societies of France and Poland. He is holder of several decorations, both German and foreign, for his scientific achievements.

In the years 1936—1978 Professor Ramdohr made 32 scientific travels to nearly all major mineralized regions in the world. He participated in a great number of

\* Paul Ramdohr passed away on March 8, 1985.



international congresses and conferences, and was invited as an expert in the geology of ore deposits to all the continents.

Professor Ramdohr is reputed as the leading ore mineralogist, known among his colleagues as the "Erzvater". Several dozen years of microscopic studies in reflected light permitted him to gain vast experience in this field. The determinations of ore minerals made by Professor Ramdohr with this method alone, were confirmed by other investigators using specialist methods. The observed subtle optical features of these minerals were all he needed to make complete and accurate identification. The illustrious scholar himself and his mineral collection comprising several dozen thousand specimens from nearly all major ore deposits have always attracted ore petrographers from all over the world. The descriptions of ores from his collection became the source material for his excellent textbook on ore minerals and their intergrowths (*Die Erzminerale und ihre Verwachsungen*). This work, constantly supplemented and enlarged, had several editions in Germany (1950, 1955, 1960, 1975) and was translated into Russian (1962) and English (1969, 1980). The last German edition had 1270 pages, 1046 references, and 637 photographs. Today it is inconceivable that any ore mineralogist could go without this "Bible" of microscopic studies in reflected light.

Another field of research of Paul Ramdohr is extraterrestrial matter—its mineralogical composition and genesis. He is a joint organizer and active participant of such research at the Max-Planck Institute. The investigations are carried out on samples derived from meteorites, and on the materials brought by the crews of the Apollo missions from the Moon. He is the co-author of the description of two new minerals from the moon samples: armalcolite and tranquillityite.

Professor Ramdohr is the author or co-author of 278 publications (till 1982), comprising dissertations on 16 new minerals. The majority of his works deal with mineralogy, but a large number of them are also concerned with the geology of mineral deposits.

During his long career, Professor Paul Ramdohr lectured at several universities. He was a brilliant teacher, was constantly enriched the subject matter of his lectures and classes (sic!) with updated information derived from his own research and from publications of other investigators. His vast research and didactic experience, the knowledge of current specialistic literature, as well as his great erudition, made his lectures a treat which attracted not only his students and colleagues but also foreign visitors.

All the knowledge he has gained is reflected in Professor Ramdohr's university textbooks. Besides the mentioned book "*Die Erzminerale und ihre Verwachsungen*", he is the co-author of several other textbooks: "*Klockmann's Lehrbuch der Mineralogie*", written with H. Strunz (16 editions); "*Lehrbuch der Erzmikroskopie*" (1931, 1934) and "*Erzmikroskopische Bestimmungstabellen*" (1931), written with H. Schneiderhöhn; "*Kristallographie*" (1958 and one edition in Mexico — 1965), written with W. Bruhns; "*Bildkartei der Erzmikroskopie*" (1966) written with A. Maucher and G. Rehwald.

In 1980, during the celebration of his 90th birthday, his age did not prevent him from joining in the discussion on the papers delivered on this occasion.

Marian BANÁŠ