

Epilogue

Twenty years ago Peter SCHMIDT, Freiberg/Saxony (*1939 - † 1999), Lieselotte JONTES, Librarian of Mining University, Leoben and Tillfried CERNAJSEK, Librarian of the Geological Survey of Austria brought up the idea of this serie of Symposia. It was the time tearing down the wall in Berlin, the opening of the borders between the eastern and the western countries in Europe. Although there were contacts between scientists on both sides, those contracts were limited. Only the 10th INHIGEO meeting (1982, E. DUDICH, Budapest) brought a larger group of international geoscientists and historians together; thereby originated at least some of the contacts between east and west.

The 1st “ERBE”-Symposium brought together librarians, archivists, museums professionals, historians and other scientists interested in the *Cultural Heritage* meeting in Freiberg. Following this exchange of experiences, further meetings were held, mostly in two years intervals, as organized symposia (Table 1). The number of participants at the early meetings was enormous with 200 beeing present in Freiberg in 1993. Later the amount, stabilized between 40 and 100 attendees. Besides the information by lectures and posters at the symposia, professional and even private contacts rose between the geo-historians.

1.	1993	Freiberg/Sachsen, Germany
2.	1995	Leoben, Styria, Austria
3.	1997	St. Petersburg, Russia
4.	1998	Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia
5.	2000	Golden, Colorado, USA
6.	2002	Idrija, Slovenia
7.	2003	Leiden, Netherlands
8.	2005	Schwaz, Tyrol, Austria
9.	2007	Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
10.	2009	Freiberg/Sachsen, Germany
11.	2011	Mexico-City, Pachuca, Real del Monte, Mexico
12.	2013	Bozen/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy

Table 1: List of the symposia 1993 - 2013

A national working group similar to the *Society of Berlin-Brandenburger Geologist-Historians ‘Leopold von BUCH’* and others of Austria, named *History of Earth Sciences in Austria* as a part of the *Austrian Geological Society*.

The “Erbe” Symposia are held at historical locations connected with mining schools, mines and metallurgy as well as museums. Sadly the initiator Peter SCHMIDT passed away in 1999, his health had been failing already in 1997, not allowing him to participate at the 3rd Symposium in St Petersburg.

At the 5th “Erbe” Symposium in Golden/Colorado the “*Peter SCHMIDT Award*” was inaugurated. It is given to people, who in memory of Peter SCHMIDT’S work, support the aims of cultural heritage (Table 2). The first individual to get the award was Lieselotte JONTES. At Bozen 2013, it is planned to present this award to a deserving person on 3rd October, 2013, at the reception-evening at the Nature Museum.

For the first “Erbe” Symposium Tillfried CERNAJSEK, a passionate book-plate-collector in addition to his librarianship profession had the idea to adopt a logo for the symposium. Using the original bookplate of the Austrian Imperial Chamber of Finance and Mines (Fig. 1) from the time 1835, we modified it for some of the Symposia (Fig. 2).

2000	Golden, Colorado, USA	Lieselotte JONTES, Austria
2002	Idrija, Slovenia	Tillfried CERNAJSEK, Austria & Christoph HAUSER, Austria
2003	Leiden, Netherlands	Joanne LERUD, USA
2005	Schwaz, Tirol, Austria	Elena KAŠIAROVA, Slovakia & Tatjana DIZDAREVIĆ, Slovenia
2009	Freiberg/Sachsen, Germany	Oskar BURGHARDT, Germany
2013	Bolzano/Bozen, Italy	

Table 2: "Peter SCHMIDT Award" awardees 2000 - 2009

At the 10th symposium in Freiberg in 2009, Kattovice/Poland and Mexico-City/Mexico invited the Symposium to meet in consecutive years in their respective countries. Unfortunately Kattovice 2010 had to be cancelled because of organizational difficulties. Therefore 2011 was the 11th Symposium, where for first the time had the first time the symposium moved after three days from the ancient Palacio de Minería., Antonio M. Anza-library, Mexico-City to the mining settlements Pachuca and Real del Monte (see report: HAUSER & ESCAMILLA-GONZÁLEZ, this volume).

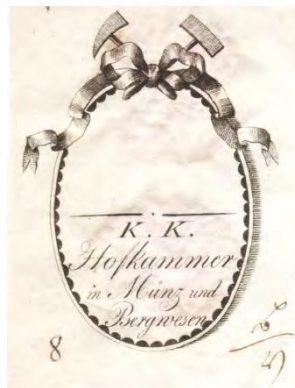


Fig. 1: Bookplate of the Austrian Imperial Chamber of Finance and Mines

The day came to decide the location for the upcoming symposium there was no realistic candidate. The author (Chr. H.) called to Bolzano/Bozen, Nature Museum South Tyrol. Benno BAUMGARTEN did not hesitate and agreed to hold the 12th Erbe at Bolzano/Bozen. Both Erbe Committees – local and international members – agreed to this plan at their joint meeting in Real del Monte. Now here in Bolzano/Bozen we celebrate together 20 years "Erbe" symposia.

For the future meetings in 2015, 2017 and 2019, interested organizers are welcome. Candidates from the Mining Museum, Banská Štiavnica/Slovakia; University Beijing/China and Vernadsky State Geological Museum, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow/Russia are expected to extend invitations eventually. Other countries have expressed their interest at earlier meetings. The tradition of these symposia will continue!

Thanks

To prepare such a meeting and to reach success, many hands are needed. I want to say thanks to all who helped. Especially to the Natural History Museum of Bolzano/Bozen the Dr. ZINGERLE (director), Dipl.-Geol. Benno BAUMGARTEN and Dr. Evelyn KUSTATSCHER (local organizing committee) with their staff. Further thanks to the Geological Survey of Austria, Vienna, for the courtesy to publish the abstracts Dr. Peter SEIFERT (director), Mag. Thomas HOFMANN (library, archive and publishing), Monika BRÜGGEMANN-LEDOLTER (designed the cover of the abstract book) and Daniel BUCHINGER (scans). Many thanks to the authors of the manuscripts and all participants for their attendance and their patience if not all requests could be fulfilled immediately. We are sorry in advance for errors that may occur and inconveniences that might happen. We will try our best to make the handling of the symposium a positive experience. *Glück Auf!*

Christoph HAUSER (Secretary, International Committee "Erbe" Symposium)