

ACTA MINERALOGICA-PETROGRAPHICA: A PROMISING REVIVAL

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AMP IN THE PAST

The Royal Hungarian Francis Joseph University [Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem], that had been founded in Kolozsvár on 29th May, 1872, was closed down on 8th May, 1919 as a result of the prevailing political situation after World War I. Since Kolozsvár was lost due to the Treaty of Trianon, its university was moved temporarily to the town of Szeged following a 29th May, 1921 decision of the Hungarian Government. Here, on the fundaments laid down in Kolozsvár, the scientific work was revived, and already in 1922 the first journal of natural sciences was published by the Association of the Patrons of the University [Egyetem Barátai Egyesülete] as a section in the series of the Acta Litterarum ac Scientiarum Regiae Universitatis Hungariae Francisco-Josephinae [Scientific Bulletin of the Royal Hungarian Francis Joseph University]. The title of the section was Sectio Scientiarum Naturalium (Fig. 1). The scientific activity and capacity of the newly established Mineralogical and Geological Institute and Collection [Ásvány és Földtani Intézet és Gyűjteménytár] was proved by the fact that one of the three articles published in the first issue was dealing with magmatic petrography. This

periodical was published in two volumes between 1922 and 1927, consisting of three and five parts. The first part of the first volume (1922 Tomus I. Fasc. 1) (Fig. 1) was edited by István Apáthy and Béla Pogány. The following three parts were edited by Béla Pogány, while the last four (between 1924 and 1927) were the work of István Györffy and Rudolf Ortway. The language of the articles was German and Hungarian.

In 1928 still as a part of the former Sectio Scientiarum Naturalium, published in the Acta Litterarum ac Scientiarum Regiae Universitatis Hungariae Francisco-Josephinae, a new section was established under the name of Sectio Chemica, Mineralogica et Physica. Its journal was the Acta Chemica, Mineralogica et Physica. The new journal (Fig. 2) started a new numbering, and consisted of articles whose subject related to chemistry, mineralogy, geology or physics. Between 1928 and 1940 seven volumes were published with sixteen parts. The language of the articles was still German and Hungarian, however, those which were written in German usually contained a summary in Hungarian, as well. Between 1928 and 1934 the journal was edited by Pál Fröhlich, Tibor Széki and petrographist Zsigmond

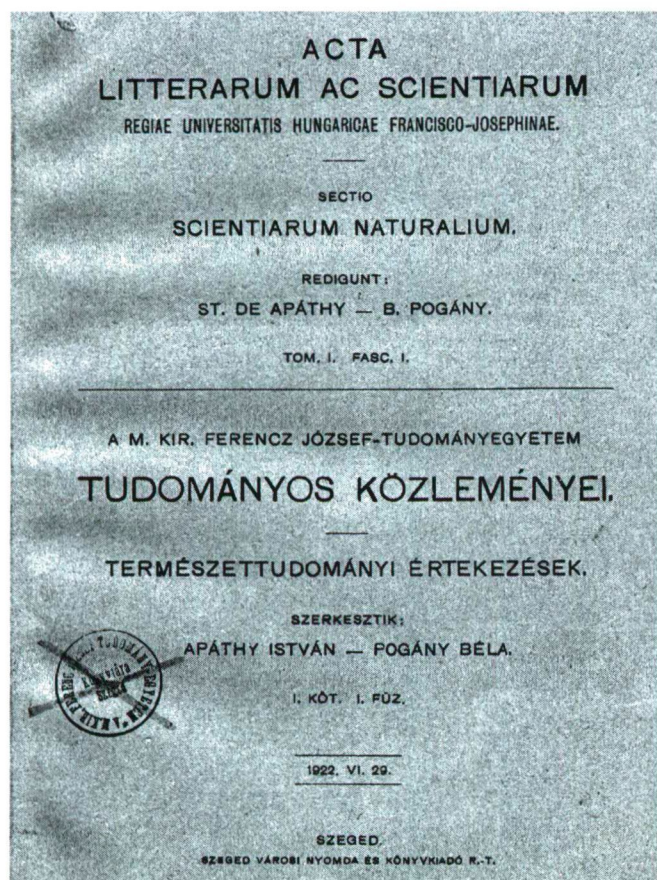


Fig. 1. The cover of the first issue of Acta Litterarum ac Scientiarum, Sectio Scientiarum Naturalium (Vol. I, Part 1, 1922)

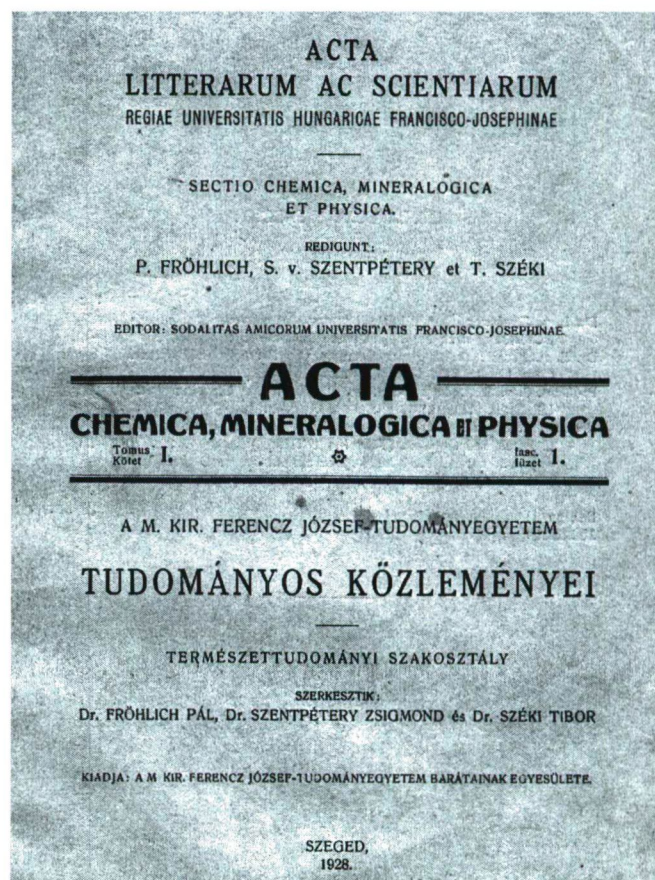


Fig. 2. The cover of Acta Chemica, Mineralogica et Physica (Vol. I, Part 1, 1928)

Szentpétery, who was a private-professor at the Mineralogical and Geological Institute and Collection. In 1935 the form of the journal significantly changed (Fig. 3), besides, a new member, Árpád Kiss was taken into the editorial board, though, in 1936 Tibor Széki quitted. Between 1939 and 1940 only some minor modifications appeared in the form.

World War II. brought changes both in the history of the university and the journal. The Royal Hungarian Francis Joseph University was placed back to Kolozsvár, while in Szeged a new institution, the Royal Hungarian Miklós Horthy University [Magyar Királyi Horthy Miklós Tudományegyetem] was established. In 1940 two new institutes evolved from the former Mineralogical and Geological Institute and Collection. These were the Mineralogical and Petrographical Institute [Ásvány-Kőzettani Intézet], the leader of which was mineralogist Sándor Koch, and the Geological Institute [Geológiai Intézet].

The series of the Acta Litterarum ac Scientiarum Regiae Universitatis Hungariae Francisco-Josephinae discontinued, and it was replaced by a new series, the Acta Universitatis Szegediensis [Bulletin of the University of Szeged]. In 1942 the journal of the Natural Science Section, the Acta Chemica, Mineralogica et Physica was divided into two, the Acta Chemica et Physica and the **Acta Mineralogica-Petrographica**. Between 1942 and 1947 due to the war the AMP was published only once in 1943 (Fig. 3). Concerning the form, there were not any significant changes compared to

the previous volumes, the language remained German and Hungarian. Mineralogist Sándor Koch became the editor-in-chief by this time.

In 1945 the name of the university changed to University of Szeged [Szegedi Tudományegyetem]. Concerning not only the name but the form and the content too, the first really novel volume of the Acta Mineralogica-Petrographica (AMP volume II.) (Fig. 4) was published in 1948. Sándor Koch remained the editor-in-chief, nevertheless, English appeared beside German as a new language of articles. From 1952 the articles written in English were sporadically followed by summaries in Russian. In 1962 the university took up the name of its former student, the famous poet, Attila József. Between 1943 and 1962 fifteen volumes of AMP were published.

In 1963 (volume 16, part 1) a new technical editor, geochemist Gyula Grasselly started his work beside Sándor Koch. The AMP applied the volume-part system again. The co-editor in chief already of two parts in volume 17 and the first part in volume 18 was Gyula Grasselly. From the second part of volume 17 (1968) till 1975 the edition work was carried out by him alone. Meanwhile, in 1967 the name of the Mineralogical and Petrographical Institute was changed to the Institute of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrography [Ásványtani, Geokémiai és Kőzettani Intézet].

In 1976 with the second part of volume 22 a new editorial board was established, the members were Kálmán Balogh and József Mezösi. In 1977 Tibor Szederkényi replaced József Mezösi. In the same year the name of the Institute was

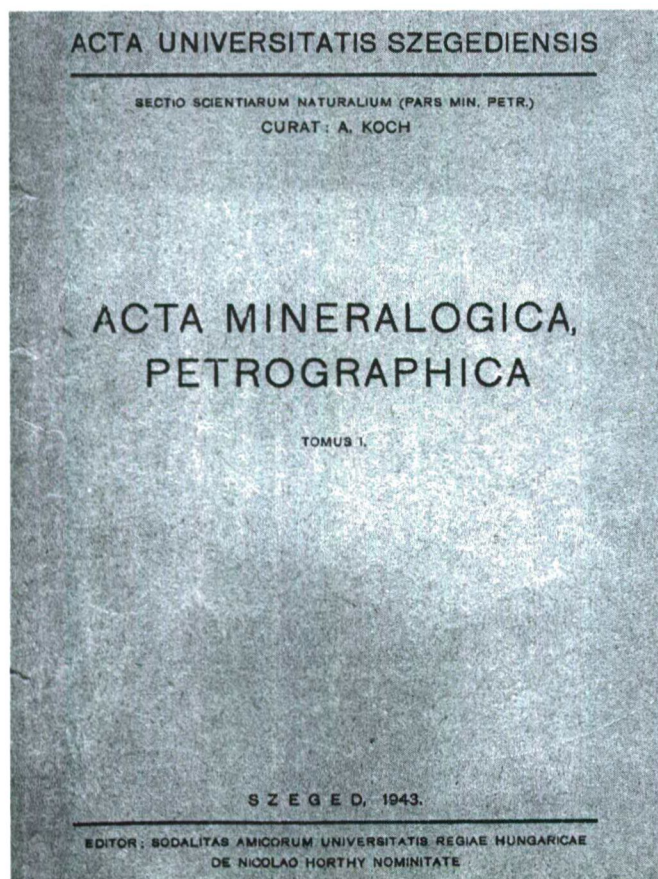


Fig. 3. The 1943 cover of Acta Mineralogica, Petrographica (Vol. I., 1943)

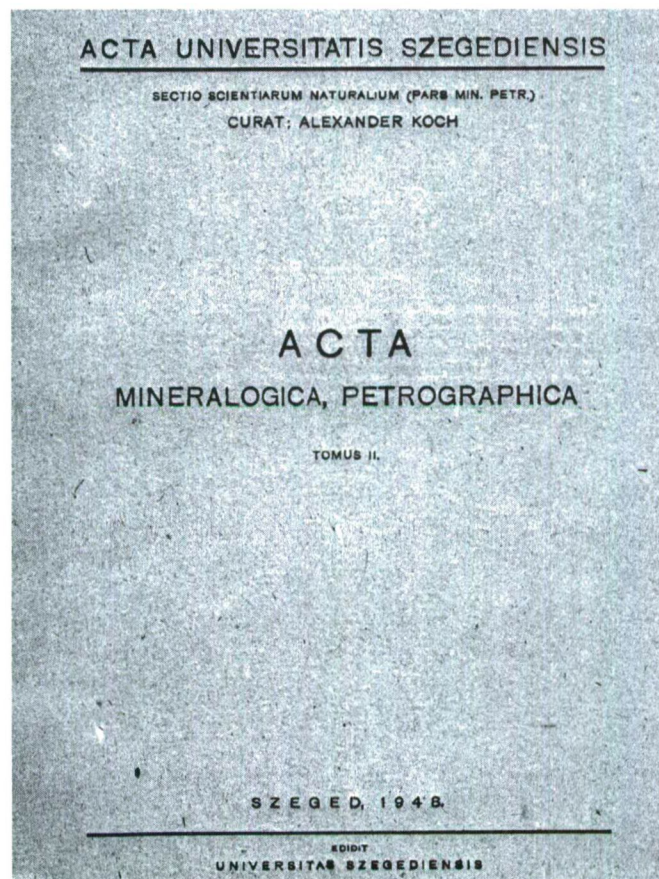


Fig. 4. Acta Mineralogica, Petrographica in 1948 (Vol. II., 1948)

changed to Department, i.e. Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrography [Áványtani, Geokémiai és Kőzettani Tanszék]. Since 1976 English has been the only language of AMP.

Between 1979 and 1986 the editor-in-chief was still academician Gyula Grasselly. The editorial board was formed by Tibor Szederkényi and Béla Molnár.

Between 1963 and 1986 usually each volume consisted of two parts.

In 1987 Tibor Szederkényi became the new editor-in-chief of the AMP. A new editorial board was established as well with Imre Kubovics, Frigyes Egerer, Gyula Szöör, Béla Kleb, later Pál Gyarmati. This team edited the AMP between 1987 and 2000.

AMP IN THE FUTURE

By the unification of the institutions functioning in the town the University of Szeged [Szegedi Tudományegyetem] has been reborn in 2000. Between 1948 and 2000 the costs of the edition of the AMP was mostly covered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences. After 2000 the subsidy ceased, since the university was unwilling to support the Acta Universitatis Szegediensis, hence, the further existence of several periodicals, including the AMP, has become doubtful. The question arose: Will the publication of the nearly 80 year old AMP come to an end? In this critical situation the leadership of the Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology, felt that something has to be done. The only Hungarian periodical of clear mineralogical and petrographical image must not die! Finally, the Department has taken on the edition of the AMP, and decided to finance

the publication and the distribution as well. Of course, the decision means a huge financial burden, since the AMP has been and will be distributed mainly for free, or in exchange for other periodicals. The editor-in-chief and the new associate editor will do a voluntary work for the journal, while the Department will do its best to firmly meet the expenses of the publication and the distribution. Besides, the leadership of the Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology decided to reform the journal and to create a modern and up-to-date periodical. As a first step the establishment of a new editorial board was suggested, because the former one has been unchanged since 1987. The editor in chief remained Dr. Tibor Szederkényi, though, he is going to be helped by a new associate editor, Dr. Elemér Pál-Molnár. The 2001 volume was more or less edited in the former way by the old board. The members of the new editorial board in the transitional 2001 volume were Hungarian experts, however, the board of the 2002 volume is planned to involve significant representatives of the field from the whole Carpathian Basin (Rumanian, Ukrainian, Slovakian, Czech, Austrian, Slovenian, Croatian and Serbian experts).

The AMP endeavours to publish those novel scientific results that are mainly related to researches carried out in Hungary and in the Alpine-Carpathian-Dinaric region. Of course, the editorial board does accept papers dealing with other regions as well, let them be compiled either by Hungarian or foreign authors.

The new editorial board of the AMP and the Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology would like to thank the editorial board operating between 1987 and 2000 for their great work.

The Editorial Board between 1987 and 2000

Prof. Tibor Szederkényi
University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

petrology, environmental geology, fissile material exploration

Prof. Imre Kubovics
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

petrology, geochemistry, vulcanology cosmopetrology, cosmogeochemistry

Dr. György Buda
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

petrology, mineralogy

Dr. Frigyes Egerer
University of Miskolc, Miskolc, Hungary

mineralogy, petrology, petrophysics

Dr. Pál Gyarmati
University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

geology

Dr. Szöör Gyula
University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

geochemistry

Dr. Béla Kleb
Technical University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary

environmental geology, engineering geology