

International Association of Geoanalysts

http://geoanalyst.org

GEOANALYSIS 2022 NOW SET FOR 6-12 AUGUST

The 11th International Conference on the Analysis of Geological and Environmental Materials (i.e., Geoanalysis 2022) that was to be held in Freiberg (Germany) has been postponed from 2021 to 2022. Thus, Geoanalysis 2022 will now be held 6–12 August 2022, but still in Freiberg. The updated programme, timeline, excursions, and other relevant details can be found at the new website geoanalysis2022.de.



Post-conference excursion to the Erzgebirge basalts in Germany.

25 YEARS OF GEOPT PROFICIENCY TESTING

The IAG's proficiency testing programme for silicate rocks, known as GeoPT (Geoanalysts' proficiency test) has its origins in a field trip linked to a post-conference workshop on the development of geological reference materials as part of Geoanalysis 1994, which was held in the Lake District (UK). During a visit to the disused Threlkeld Quarry, 18 kg of microgranite of Upper Ordovician/Lower Silurian age (486 ± 6 Ma) was collected and processed at the Open University (UK). This became the G94 test material for the first round of the first GeoPT and for which 49 laboratories contributed data in 1995.

Twenty-five years on and 48 rounds later, with nearly 60 test materials distributed to over 110 participating laboratories worldwide, Geo*PT* has far exceeded our wildest expectations. This calls for a celebration! To this end, we intend to publish a special thematic issue of our journal *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* during 2021. This issue will contain research papers directly related to the Geo*PT* scheme, including new insights into laboratory or technique performance, the use of Geo*PT* data in the characterisation of reference materials, and papers demonstrating the application of Geo*PT* data assessment methods.

More details about Geo*PT* can be found at www.geoanalyst.org/geopt and in the full-page advert in this issue of *Elements*.

REFERENCE MATERIALS – NEW RESOURCES

New Isotope Reference Materials for Li, B, O, and Cl

The IAG supports an ongoing programme for the characterisation and distribution of high-quality materials that can help calibrate isotope ratio determinations based on in situ analytical methods. This includes work described in two recent publications, one on the characterisation of a set of tourmalines for δ^7 Li, δ^{11} B and δ^{18} O (Wiedenbeck et al. 2021, https://doi.org/10.1111/ggr.12362), and a second concerned with δ^{37} Cl determinations in apatite (Wudarska et al. 2021). The characterised



Geoanalysis 1994 field trip

reference materials can be obtained through IAGeo Limited, which is the commercial arm of the IAG. For more information, see iageo.com/ products.

Aqua Regia Data for SdAR Series of Contaminated Sediments

The unique series of sediment-based reference materials with low (SdAR-L2), medium (SdAR-M2), or high (SdAR-H1) concentrations of trace elements were designed so that all the reference materials have detectable concentrations of the elements of interest. The SdAR reference materials are intended to calibrate field portable X-ray fluorescence instruments, as well as reference materials in laboratory analysis. Their preparation and characterisation via the Geo*PT* proficiency testing programme is described in a recent article by Wilson et al. (https://doi.org/10.1111/ggr.12300).

We are pleased to announce that reference values based on **aqua regia selective extraction procedures** are now available, in addition to total elemental compositions. These will be particularly useful for laboratories seeking reference materials for aqua regia extractions undertaken at temperatures in the range 90 °C to 110 °C, which reflect procedures commonly used by the commercial laboratories that service the mining and geochemical exploration industries and as used in environmental monitoring. More information is available at http:// iageo.com/sdar-reference-materials/.

G-Chron PT scheme and U–Pb Geochronology Reference Materials

We often get asked about suitable reference materials for U–Pb age determinations. To assist geoanalysts looking for such information, we have compiled a list of reference materials commonly used in geochronology, together with the primary citation that should be consulted for further details. This can be found by clicking on the relevant link on our Resources page http://www.geoanalyst.org/resources. There are separate tables for zircon, titanite, and apatite listed in order of age.

Following the success of Round 1 of our G-Chron U–Pb proficiency testing scheme in 2019, Round 2 will begin in August 2021. An Archean zircon will be distributed to participating labs in late summer 2021. All geochronologists interested in evaluating their U–Pb analytical routines are asked to visit http://www.geoanalyst.org/g-chron/ for additional details and the latest news.

IAG YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2022

The IAG makes an annual award to a geoanalytical scientist in the early stages of their career. Nominations for the 2022 Award are due 31 October 2021. For further information on how to apply for the 2022 award, please see the advert in this issue or consult our website at http:// www.geoanalyst.org/young-scientist-award.