



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

GEOANALYSIS 2022 – FREIBERG, GERMANY

The IAG's calendar is structured around a three-year cycle, the heart of which is the triennial Geoanalysis conference series. However, the 11th such meeting initially planned for 2021 was postponed because of the pandemic. The organizing committee at Helmholtz Institute Freiberg and TU Bergakademie Freiberg overcame an enormous number of logistical hurdles to make it possible to hold the conference as a hybrid event that took place on 6–12 August 2022 in Freiberg, a small town in the Saxony region of Germany known for its rich mining history.

With 137 delegates from 25 countries attending in person and 29 conference participants online, Geoanalysis 2022 was a forum for the exchange of knowledge in areas such as instrumentation, reference materials, automated analytical methods, and imaging with elements and isotopes. Parallel sessions were avoided, with three-quarters of the contributions presented in oral format. The program was complemented by short presentations by exhibitors and poster pitches.

A tradition of the Geoanalysis conference is the mid-week field excursion. However, this year the excursion took place at the end of the event and was divided into two thematic focus groups. One group explored the Ion Beam Center at the HZDR in Dresden-Rossendorf, while the second group visited historical treasures in the city of Dresden. Both groups rejoined to visit the Stolpen Castle (Burg Stolpen), known worldwide as the type locality of the rock “basalt” according to the first historical note by Agricola (1546), and the Bastei with one of Saxony's largest medieval rock castles, Neurathen.

A post-conference excursion visited the mining districts and current exploration areas in the Erzgebirge, well known for its Sn, Ag, Pb, Zn, and U deposits. The participants also had the opportunity to take part in a variety of pre- and post-conference workshops and short courses focused on SIMS analysis, field portable analytical instruments, automated mineralogy, commercial geoanalysis, and analytical geochemistry quality assurance.

The philosophy of the Geoanalysis conference series is to provide an intimate gathering of ca. 200 delegates with an all-inclusive program of scientific and cultural activities, with accommodation situated close to the conference center so that opportunities for networking are maximized. Geoanalysis 2022 was exemplary in meeting all of these characteristics with a non-stop supply of refreshments to assist in making new friends. We all eagerly look forward to the next triennial gathering of the IAG which is scheduled for 15–19 September 2024 in Wuhan, China (see <http://geoanalysis2024.aconf.org/> for further details).



Jacinta Enzweiler (IAG President) with Axel Renno (Chair of the conference organising committee) and Manuela Wagner.



Delegates at Geoanalysis 2022.

DOUG MILES

It is with great sadness that we report that Doug Miles lost his long battle with motor neurone disease on 18 October 2022. As its first President and probably the only person who has attended every Geoanalysis conference since the first one in 1990, Doug was passionate about the International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) ever since its official formation in 1997. He was overjoyed at all the progress and developments made by the IAG over the past 35 years, and I'm sure his dying wish would have been to thank everyone for all their contributions in making the IAG the successful organisation it is today. His personal recollections of the early days of the IAG can be found at <http://www.geoanalyst.org/home/iag-history/>.



All of you will have your own memories of Doug. Those of you who were at Geoanalysis 2018 in Sydney will remember his moving speech to the IAG General Meeting where he said his formal farewell. Yes, it's difficult to believe that was four years ago—and yet he was involved right to the end. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, he followed the Geoanalysis 2022 conference online very closely and several of us received running commentaries of his perception of the conference and words of encouragement.

In the words of our current President, Jacinta Enzweiler, “Doug was fundamental to the IAG's formation and growth, and to getting to where we are now. Good leaders promote consensus and Doug was gifted at keeping the group together and extracting the best from each one, always with great discretion. He was admirably human in prioritising social harmony, which he promoted by dedicating time to finding ideal places where everybody could relax, feel welcome, and have a delicious meal and wine.”

A more detailed obituary is being prepared for publication in *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*.

Jenny Cook, IAG Secretary