

The following acceptance speech was delivered by Francis Saupé:

I warmly thank you, Dear President, Jan and the Council of SGA for this distinction. I am especially proud to be the first recipient in presence of the family of G. KROLL, because I personally knew him and keep a very vivid and grateful image of him. Thanks to you, Jan for your citation. The combination of the two sponsors of this medal, SGA and KGHM, well represents the spirit of G. KROLL, uniting unseparately teaching, science and industry, one being a leading society in economic geology and the other, one of the diversified world leaders in mining and metallurgy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

this is a welcome opportunity to insist on the crucial role G. KROLL played in the first times of SGA and Mineralium Deposita. C. AMSTUTZ was the first to see the necessity of a trilingual European journal of economic geology and of an international scientific society to support it. Thus, in June 1965, he gathered in Heidelberg a group of 7, besides himself, André BERNARD, Gerardus KROLL, Jean LOMBARD, Albert MAUCHER, Paul RAMDOHR, and Pierre ROUTHIER. They decided to establish a journal and the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits, to set up a Provisional Executive Committee with G. KROLL as the President. The title of the Journal, Mineralium Deposita, an awkward Latin but a great hit, was proposed by P. ROUTHIER and unanimously accepted.

G. KROLL called in the first Committee meeting in November 1965, again in Heidelberg, with an enlarged group. Soon, the Treasurer, J. OTTEMANN had to resign for health reasons and I was asked to jump in. This was quite a challenge for a young scientist to take over this responsibility and to work with these well established scientists, all in age to be his father. As I am the only survivor of this first SGA Committee (some kind of a dinosaur of SGA ...), I share in thought this distinction with them, since we did a cooperative work.

It was a great time working with G. KROLL and under his guidance. Besides his innate sense of diplomacy, he brought from his professional experience as the Chief Geologist and a Director of Billiton Maatschappij a great capacity of management, the ability to coordinate people with different backgrounds and nationalities, to take the right decisions rapidly, to limit discussions in time and to develop a great efficiency. Without him, SGA would not have started as easily and rapidly.

J. GUILBERT also deserves mentioning. During my secretaryship, he spent a sabbatical in Nancy in the 80' and at that time was Vice-President of SEG in charge of International Affairs. Our discussions improved the mutual understanding of both societies, although a simplified admission procedure for members of one society to the other already existed, as well as an „ex officio“ membership in the Council of one society of the President and Secretary of the other. Later as a President (1983–1985), P. EVRARD launched the idea of Biennial meetings to complete the symposia, excursions and workshops SGA already organized each year. For organizational reasons, this was postponed until the 25th anniversary of SGA, when M. PAGEL, then Executive Secretary of SGA, masterly organized the first Biennial meeting of SGA in Nancy in 1991. It was the great exit, many still remember.

Let me close with the last sentence of my farewell letter when I resigned from the position of Secretary in 1988: „Much has been done, more remains to be done“. Over the years, I saw with pleasure the positive evolution of SGA: the Biennial meetings continue with growing exit, the membership tripled, the impact factor more than doubled, there is an increasing implication of non-Europeans in membership and management of the Society, just to quote a few of them.

Again my warm thanks for this distinction and long life to SGA!