



Part of the Rome excursion group listens to the earthquake history of the Colosseum.



Intracongress excursion

The geological history of Colosseum and Forum Romanum was highlighted by Prof. R. Funicello and C. Rosa.

Traces of earthquakes that have partly deformed the arches of Colosseum, volcanic episodes, and fluvial processes in small tributaries to the Tevere are found in this central part of Rome. Important connections between geology, archaeology and pedology were shown by Dr. A. Arnoldus.

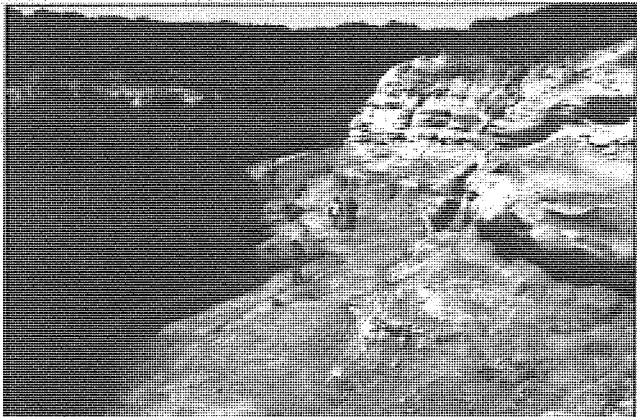
Postcongress excursion 1

The geological, and archaeological heritage excursion along the Tyrrhenian margin of Central Italy was guided by D. De Riota, C. Rosa, F. Zarlenga, and A. Arnoldus. The following places and geosites were visited or seen.

- The central area of the big Latian Volcano, with the spectacular and panoramic viewpoint Tuscolo in a large landscape protection area where much building exploitation takes place.
- Volcanic crater Lake Albano, a very touristic site. The lake has an intense biomass production.
- The classic Solfatarata with the «Grotta del Fauno», with a sulphur quarry planned to be a refuse site



NEWS

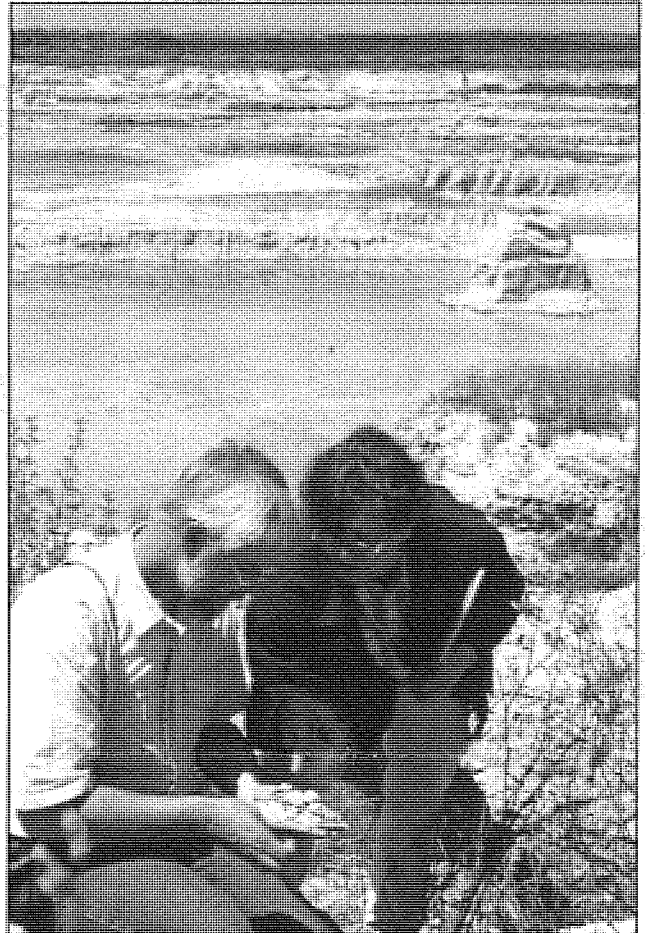


Fluvially eroded valley in Pleistocene littoral marine deposits and Middle Pliocene clay with gypsum at Tor Caldara (WWF oasis).



Part of excursion group informed on geotectonic and volcanic structures at Trevignano by lake Bracciano.

- Pomezia with the Tacconi Quarry exposing Pleistocene tuffs, Pleistocene marine littoral gravels and sands and Pliocene clays. A great many gastropods and bivalves are found. Some of them can be regarded as guests from Northern seas, e.g. *Hyalinea baltica* and *Arctica islandica*.
 - Tor Caldara (WWF oasis) at the coast south of Ostia, one of the very few small unexploited areas along the coast, showed, e.g., Pleistocene littoral marine deposits, Middle Pliocene clay with gypsum, sulphur springs, traces of sulphur mining, recent fluvial and littoral erosion and deposition forms, luxuriant vegetation, rich animal life and vivid tourism, including school excursions. The area is a well-managed nature reserve, thanks to WWF.
- Inland remnants of Ancient Ostia in the Tevere delta,



Bill Wimbledon gets information by Francesco Zarlenga on Northern guests at Tacconi quarry, Pomezia.

- with harbours, canals, and almost natural river branches.
- Overnight in Trevignano at Lake Bracciano.
- Bracciano Lake in a volcanotectonic depression has much clearer water than that of Albano Lake. The Bracciano region is very scenic, and touristic. The Trevignano volcanic crater is one of the most spectacular places.
- Caldara dia Manziana, a crater-shaped little basin with sulphurous springs and gas emissions from an ephemeral lake. There is a severe lack of explanatory information on this spectacular site.
- Sasso, an imposing rhyolitic dome in a region of volcanoes with rhyolitic-trachydacitic lavas.



President's square

Following up the previous points and lines my thoughts in this issue of ProGEO News are framed within a square.

First I have the pleasure to state that the Second Symposium on the conservation of our Geological Heritage in Rome, the excursions, the social dinners etc. were extremely successful. Our Italian hosts made an impressive job of it. Together with more than two hundred other participants from almost all Europe I would like to confirm: You did it, Italian Friends! Most of all I have the pleasure to thank Francesco Zarlenga and Antonia Arnoldus for your tremendous work. I am also pleased to welcome new members in our Association, many of them Italians.

The symposium had the intention to catalyse and co-ordinate the work with protection of the rich Italian Geoheritage but also to bring ideas and inspiration to protection in other European countries. I use the term Geoheritage. The speeches, discussions and excursions showed that Geological Heritage consists of a great many geological, morphological, archaeological, and pedological components, including landscapes and landscape-forming processes. It was quite obvious that the interaction between Nature and Man is very important in the processes which form habitats and landscapes. Co-operation between various scientific disciplines is thus very important for an improved knowledge of how land is built, landscapes are formed, how nature functions and cultures develop.

Unfortunately the ideas of interaction and co-operation were not applied by all the members of ProGEO. One or two who spent more of their time expressing opinions coun-

teracting ProGEO than listening to the talks during the sessions did not represent ProGEO very well. It is of course a democratic right to express personal ideas, but it is wrong to undermine the work of ProGEO, while pretending to represent it. I expect ProGEO members - and especially members of the executive committee - to follow its democratically agreed rules and ideas.

Among the talks I remember especially the very important lecture by the Honorary President of the symposium, Professor Ippolito, giving very wide and inspiring views on the importance of protecting our Geoheritage, based on good knowledge and bringing positive spin-off effects, e.g. for occupation. Also, the general information by Professor Pratlun on the problems of conserving Geotopes in Italy provided much substance for further thoughts.

I am convinced that our Italian friends got information and ideas on Geoheritage conservation from the good talks of ProGEO representatives.

The ProGEO contacts with UNESCO represented by Dr. Eder were strengthened and thus also our ambitions to point out Geosites that are really representative for the georegions and geotypes. We go on with this work in the Northwest Europe group. We have a constructive connection with the Baltic countries. Let us compete to make the best regional work, forming an «A league». When does West Europe, including France and Belgium, take part? All ProGEO members are welcome to take part in the co-operation.

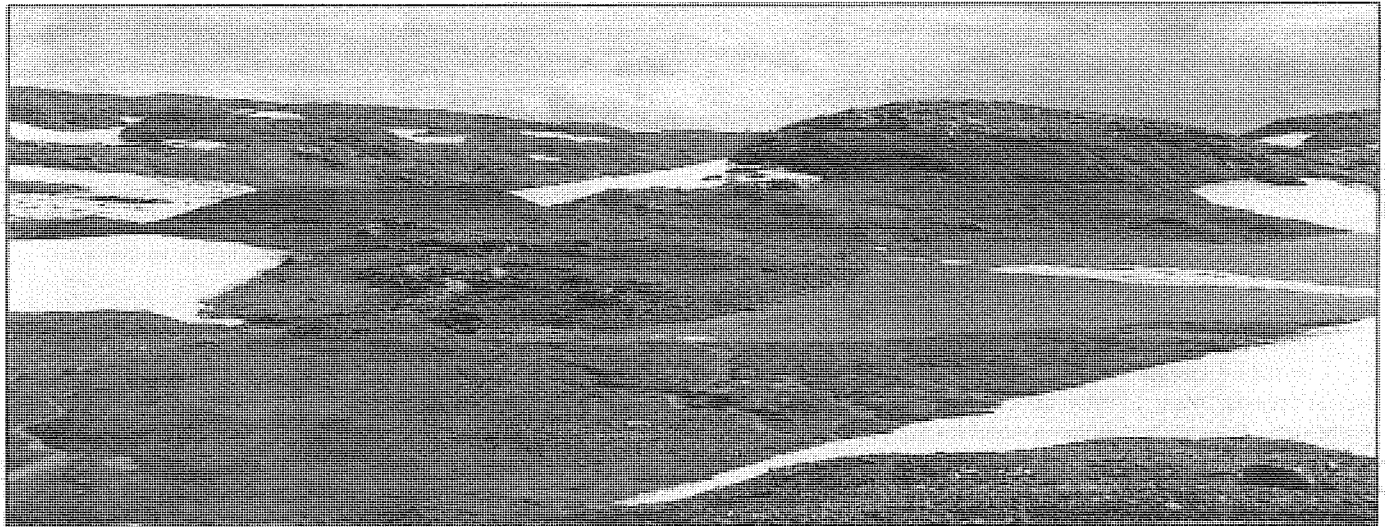
Carl Erik

- The southern rim of Bracciano Lake volcano-tectonic depression.
- The Tevere river plain.
- Tor Marancia, a limited area in the south-eastern part of central Rome, close to Ancient Via Appia. The site is one of the very few remnants of landforms typical of Campagna Romana before the strong urbanisation. The area can be regarded as a laboratory to show the relations between urbanisation processes and their influence on geology, hydrology and landscape. Exposures in the old quarries show tephra that covered valleys developed during glaci-

al periods. The area is severely threatened by building exploitation. The buildings may cause damming of aquifers and drowning of adjacent catacombs.

ProGEO promised to help the defenders of this geosite (or «holosite» with respect to its combined geological, morphological, archaeological, and historical importance, or «holysite» with respect to its theological value) to get it protected. Unfortunately the time is running short, but we try to help our Italian friends, intending to protect this important site.

Carl E. Johansson (text and photos)



Shorelines in a former ice-dammed lake (Omnsbreen - South Norway). A "Little Ice Age geotope". Why is it valuable to us and why should we work for its conservation (Photo: L. Erikstad).



Debate

ProGEO - What sort of Organisation?

It is 5 years since the conference in Digne. Since then we have experienced the Malvern conference as well as meetings in Germany, UK and Finland/Sweden. We have just finished the Rome conference. ProGEO has grown to be an association like other organisations. However, we are young and we still have to struggle with some aching teething troubles. One of our major problems is that our field normally has low priority also within many of our members jobs and activities. Therefore it has been difficult to activate members even in the executive committee. Progress has thus been slower, slower than the volubility to some of us.

We therefore need to look back to find that our high expectations, not our progress really has been the problem here. We do move forward, and in a fairly good speed as well.

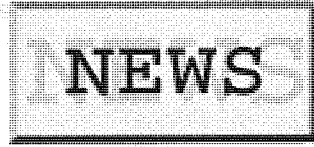
One important necessity is the need of a common

understanding of our aims and the reason for these aims. In Digne we produced the Digne declaration. I feel the time has come to start a debate over this declaration and if it really provides us with a useful expression of reason and aims for ProGEO. One of the reasons that I want to do this now is:

1- I have all the time been somewhat uncomfortable with the text, although I have accepted it as an other way of expression of what we are doing.

2- Obviously others have felt the same way, and when trying to improve translations, this has been met with criticism that the real meaning has been washed out of the text. This criticism implies that what may have been regarded as linguistic and cultural differences in expressions, may in fact be real differences in basic content.

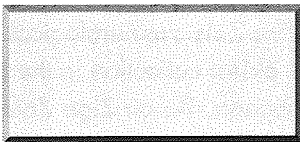
What triggered my need for this debate was an article in a Norwegian weekly magazine about minerals (good enough) and their healing power (well?). It stated: "the Mineral Empire is our best link to Earth". My reaction was that this reminded me of the Digne declaration who states: "La Terre nous porte. Nous sommes liés à la Terre et la Terre est lien entre chacun de nous." (Original text), "Mother Earth support us. We are each



and all linked to her, she is the link between us." (First English translation). "Our planet, the Earth, is the only bond which unites all mankind. We are, each and everyone of us, linked to the Earth, and it is the link between us, and indeed all life." (Second English translation). What is my concern is that we should build up a sound nature conservation organisation and be very careful to base our activities on texts that can be understood as some New Age quasi religious philosophy. Our concern for nature may be manyfolded. Some persons may base their feeling on established religions, some on science, some on the fear for our common future and some on more obscure religious feelings in the borderline between nature religions and over-confidence. That is our personal choice, but ProGEO should not go into that business. We should indeed try to be part of the general and accepted Nature Conservation family and be very careful to exceed this scientific and political limitation.

My conclusion is therefore that *if* the Digne declaration really indicates a message that should be interpreted as some sort of New Age philosophy more than a general French / Latin way to express what we all agree on, ProGEO should be more careful using the declaration as some sort of philosophical basement. If not, it should be fully accepted to form an English (as well as Norwegian, Finnish or whatever) translation more in line with our way of expressing this common agreement.

Lars Erikstad



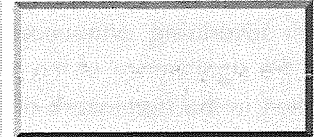
Rome Membership developments

What a special meeting Rome was. Not least, of course, because it was held in such a special place, but also because it gave ProGEO the opportunity to meet Italian colleagues en masse. What a pleasure it was to discuss

issues and methods in conservation, to exchange anecdotes and debate common prescriptions for problems. On a personal level it gave a chance to make what are hoped to be lasting contacts with fellow practitioners in conservation. The meeting showed us foreigners that Italy has done much in conservation, and that the problems and the solutions in Italy are very much the same as in the rest of Europe.

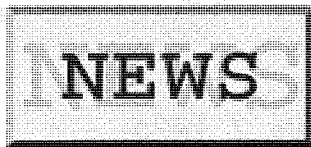
This short note records thanks to Italian colleagues, and it is a chance to welcome those who joined ProGEO at Rome and subsequently. I can record with some joy that sixteen people joined at and after the meeting.

Executive secretary



German Workinggroup on Geotope-Protection

The 1996 meeting of the German Workinggroup on Geotope-Protection took place in Koblenz between the 27th and the 30th, March. Prof. Fischer from the Geographical Institute in cooperation with Heinz Lempertz (municipality of Mayen-Koblenz; also chairman German Volcanological Society) organized the meeting with great enthusiasm. The meeting was attended by more than sixty persons, guests came from England, Austria and the Swiss. Dr. E.-R. Look from the Geological Survey (Hannover) was elected as new chairman of the group. Dr. Niemeyer (Münster) and A. Grube (Hamburg) became substitutes. The proceedings of the Koblenz meeting will be published in the magazine Neues Jahrbuch Geologie Palaeontologie (Monatshefte). The next meeting of the group will be held in Clausthal (Harz mountains, Lower Saxony) during the first week in April 1997. For information on the meeting please contact: Prof. Dr. E.-R. Look, Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Bodenforschung, Stilleweg 2, 30655 Hannover.



News from Greece

During 1995, year of the European Nature Conservation, several activities took place in Greece for the conservation of geological heritage. These activities were organised by the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME).

First of all, a work team was composed for the conservation of geological heritage that informed properly the IGME geologists as well as the total geological community, the public in general, and the authorities, with advertising, announcements and printed material on the significance of the geological heritage conservation in the framework of an integral nature preservation approach. Furthermore, a filling form was distributed for the geological sites that worth preserving.

Further on an organising committee was composed to prepare the "Open Doors in IGME" on 22. November 1995 dedicated to geological-geomorphological heritage conservation. The whole event that took place in six cities of Greece where IGME departments are installed, was very successful and brought to light the significance of the geological heritage conservation to public knowledge in Greece.

Days before, the Greek statutory TV and radio spread the message through Greece with a spot for the geological heritage, we had prepared.

There were also invitations, programs, stickers distributed everywhere announcing the day.

During the day, November 22, speeches upon geoconservation, photo expositions of interesting geological sites, discussions with colleagues from other public organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, school classes and the public took place.

We consider the result as very positive for the geoconservation affair.

Other activities

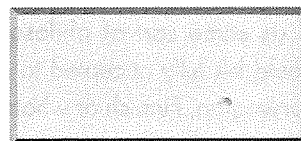
A series of participations, communications, interventions in conferences, workshops, discussions referring to nature or other conservation (cultural, industrial e.t.c.), aiming to give the ideals of geoconservation.

Articles, publications regarding the geoconservation, in various magazines and reviews.

Interventions and remarks on the Nature 2000 National Network.

It is obvious that this is only the beginning. We have a long way to go, there is much work to be done and the whole geological community should participate in the great effort for geoconservation. We are optimistic and took forward to the future of geoconservation.

I. Drandaki



The Zois's mineralogical collection in Ljubljana

The Zois's mineralogical collection from 1826 is the oldest collection in the Natural History Museum in Ljubljana. Baron Ziga Zois was born in Trieste in the year 1747 and died in Ljubljana in 1819. Above all, he educated himself in the field of mining, metallurgy, chemistry and mineralogy. With the thorough knowledge of an expert he was able to take over his father's smelters in Slovenia. He was making plans for tall iron blast furnaces with meant the competition to Sweden and Russian economy.

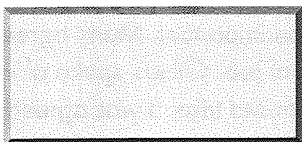
Mr. Zois was a great expert and an enthusiastic col-



lector of minerals, which he also received by many other specialists. His collection, numbering nearly 5000 specimens, was the greatest one then in Central Europe. As Mr. Zois was well known among mineralogists and chemists, two minerals, zoisite and clino-zoisite were named after him.

Nowadays the Zois' mineralogical collection is to be found in the Natural History Museum of Slovenia. Regretfully it was rearranged some years ago, so that only few specimens are exhibited, yet the majority of them is in depots. The exhibited part of the collection was put into new showcases with new inscriptions. This way the collection has lost a part of its historical significance. The Zois' mineralogical collection is a good example of somewhat awkward protection of natural heritage. Perhaps the collection could be placed among "artificial geotops", because the specimens are not in a natural environment. However, such step of the Museum is not very tragical, as the collection is completely preserved. In Slovenia there was an example of a much wider geological collection, which can not be found any more. The Museum has removed it due to a new organisation of its content. It is even believed that the collection was destroyed. We should consider such problems when protecting the geotops.

Rajko Pavlovec



Tore Marancia, Rome

Those who took part in the Alban Hills excursion after the Rome Symposium were fortunate enough to visit the Tor Marancia site near the Old Appian Way. This is an important volcanic site, with alternating ignimbrites and palaeosols/wash levels. Catacombs ne-

arby follow these units as favoured levels for excavation. The site, quarried since Roman times, now lies in several square kilometres of green open space.

The locality, despite all these many interests and its physical position, is threatened by development. There was surprise and disquiet amongst the party who visited the site at this news. A letter has been written on behalf of ProGEO to the Italian Environment Minister, asking what the status of the site is to be and what possibilities there are for preventing development. It is also urged that such an area of multiple importance should merit conservation.

Executive secretary



ProGEO Council Meeting, June 22nd 1996, Rome - Minutes

The President opened the meeting and welcomed all to this open Council. He prefaced the meeting by saying it had been a busy and successful year. The executive had met twice in the year, once in Copenhagen, and that the committee had functioned well, indeed working and in contact almost on a daily basis.

Members of Working Group 1, founded in Sofia in 1995, introduced themselves (Irene Drandraki, Branca Hlad, Dusan Mijovic, Sokol Klimcarov, Slobodan Knezevic and Dragan Mijovanovic) and were heartily welcomed by the President to the council meeting.

1) Matters arising. Minutes of the 1995 meeting had been published in the Newsletter: the Exec secr. stated that no amendments had been received, so they stood verbatim.



2) Spain 1997 meeting. The Exec. secr. conveyed the apologies of Dr Garcia Cortes, chairman of the Spanish Commission on Geological Heritage, for his inability to attend the Rome council meeting. Dr Garcia Cortes had just become one of the directors of ITGE in Madrid, and a new chairman of the commission had been elected in recent days. Until a few days previously it had been anticipated that Dr G-C would be in Rome to explain plans for Spain in 1997. A substitute for Dr G-C COULD NOT BE FOUND IN TIME. In this situation, the Executive secretary suggested he should visit Madrid, obtain and then disseminate news of the 1997 meeting's detailed arrangements to members as soon as possible.

There was discussion of the format of part of the next annual meeting. It was suggested that a workshop (half day) be held: composed of 5 minute talks, with a following synthesis by a small group, followed by discussion and conclusion. Databases and geotope classification were suggested as the topic for this workshop. Dan G and Lars E to organise; Former said he was disappointed that his letters on classification had produced little response last year (the suggested workshop had not been organised). Steen A. suggested a session on legislation. Education was also suggested.

3) Election procedures. The secretary introduced (and gave out copies) of a guide which had been written to be used by members at elections. This had been the product of much work by the Election Committee. It had already been given to a panel of members for their detailed scrutiny. The secretary undertook to obtain detailed comments from this panel and get the final version to members by six weeks hence. Anyone was invited to comment in addition on the version he had circulated, as this was not the place to go into detail.

Dr Raudsep, one of the panel, raised the matter that the dates for action and deadlines needed to be completely consistent. Patric Jacobs asked why the executive committee nominated a president. The Secretary told P. Jacobs that this was a practice in a number of societies, and, more particularly, it was in accordance with the ar-

ticles, with which all members had agreed after Weymouth and at Mitwitz. Guy Martini asked for a list of the Weymouth founder members.

4) Publications of ProGEO proceedings at Sofia and Sigtuna. Drs Todorov and Karis, respectively, spoke on the difficulties (format changes and other administrative problems) and prospects for these two volumes. Both volumes were anticipated in a few weeks, which was news well received by the council membership.

The Manual: Gerard G spoke of the failure of some, mostly western European, countries to produce their entries for the manual. He suggested a revised deadline of September 2 for completion of text. All those who had written their entries would be given the chance to revise their text in the interim. This was agreed.

Geotrip: The secretary apologised that this had been omitted from the agenda: it should follow the Manual in the list. He had posed the question already to the Executive Committee as to whether Geotrip was practical every year. Gerard G asked also if we were decided that it should continue. There was a rather unstructured discussion on these matters. There was general support for continuing with Geotrip. Bruno S. suggested every other year. The crux of the debate was that the ability to state that events were taking place everywhere in Europe, so as to promote the event in individual countries. Steen A. did not agree with this argument and thought practical ability to enlist support internally in countries was important. Many agreed this was a big organisational job. Others spoke of «piggy backing» already organised trips. It was agreed that the project should continue, and that it should be on alternate years, spanning two weekends in the third week of September. 1997 was a Geotrip year, and then 1999 and so on.

5) Homepage: Lars Karis spoke on this subject. He thought enough had been said on the matter at his presentation to the Rome Symposium. He hoped all would contribute. There was the possibility to have national pages, frequently updateable. There were congratulations



to Dr Karis on the work that had gone into setting up the ProGEO homepage! Congratulations were also conveyed to Lars Erikstad on the ever improving Newsletter.

6) Posters. Lars K had produced a poster, with a spectacular coastal scene and top and bottom margins blank. These could be over-printed locally with any wording, top and bottom, as members wished. Lars would send out 'blanks' to any member wishing to use this facility. The Exec Sec, related that he hoped it would prove possible to produce a joint ProGEO/IUGS poster for similar advertising purposes. The President asked the Secretary to speak on the subject of the new coloured ProGEO leaflet which he had had printed. The secretary said all had seen the new leaflet. Such a document was essential to ProGEO, and needed for any meeting like Rome and for general advertising purposes: he was pleased it had been so well received at the symposium. It could evolve and suggestions for new content were welcomed from the membership.

7) External affairs. The secretary related that it had been decided at the executive committee that an external affairs committee should be set up to handle transactions with external bodies and regional working groups. There was no disagreement with this move.

8) The secretary related that there had been much discussion of Geosites in the Symposium. It was sufficient to say that countries continued to join, that discussions had continued, and that regional working groups in ProGEO had had, and planned further, meetings to define a framework and select sites.

9) Tempus. There was short discussion on various schemes. Irene Drandraki apologised that papers on Tempus which she had wanted to draw to the attention of the council were not available, and so she could not raise issues as anticipated when the item was put on the agenda. Discussion was therefore deferred. The Pan European Biological and Landscape Strategy was briefly discussed: the wording of that document had been significantly revised following inputs from ProGEO to include much more men-

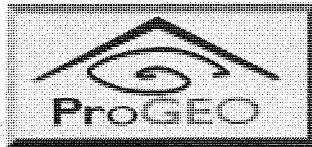
tion of geology and geological landscapes. The president had written to the organisers of the follow-up action plan to ask how this action plan was to be constructed and how ProGEO might be an actor.

10) ProGEO meetings. The president stated that there had been two meetings of the Northern regional group, under the chairmanship of Steen Andersen, one in Stockholm and one in Trondheim. The secretary related that the Balkan group had had a meeting in the course of the Rome Symposium and planned a meeting for the autumn 1996. There had been attempts to arrange a meeting of the Eastern working group in Poland, but there had been difficulties. Prof Alexandrowicz mentioned problems with active participation of Czech and Slovak republics, in trying to organise this gathering. ProGEO would be involved in the International Geological Congress in Beijing.

11) Code for fieldwork: the secretary reported that Mick Stanley had produced a first draft of this document a few days before the meeting. It had been agreed at the Executive committee meeting on 20th that a small group should be asked to examine the usefulness and wording of the document, in particular with a view to its applicability in all countries and systems, and that this group would be asked to feed back comments to Mick for the first redraft.

12) Budget: In the absence of the Treasurer Alf Grube (who had had to leave earlier in the day), Lars Karis, chairman of the finance committee, gave a brief resumé of funding and fund raising. He gave some details of thinking on fundraising from companies, and the strategy being developed by the working party on financing (himself, Alf Grube and Veli Suominen).

13) Any other business: Dusan Mijovic and Sokol Klimcarov spoke on the matter of an hydro-electric scheme and a threatened river gorge in Macedonia, where ProGEO involvement might be beneficial in influencing the authorities. Gerard G supported this view. It was agreed an official letter should be drafted if Sokol thought this was appropriate, and could give data to the secretary as soon as possible.



Steen Andersen asked to speak to relate news of developments in Denmark. In particular of a special panel meeting held in October 1995 in Copenhagen with most interested parties in conservation in Denmark present. He thanked those members of the executive committee who had attended and spoken to the audience and panel. He said he thought this was precisely what ProGEO had been founded for, to help and promote. It had led to new developments and possibilities for geoconservation in his country. The president thanked Dr Andersen.

The Exec. secr. said he would like to take this opportunity at the end of our meeting of thanking Dr Francesco Zarlunga, and his colleagues, for the arrangement of the Rome meeting and all their thoughtfulness and kindness. Also, in particular, he thanked Dr Zarlunga for taking time in October to go to Copenhagen to explain in some detail preparations that had been made for Rome at the Executive committee meeting. The President reiterated the grateful thanks of the association as a whole.

The meeting was closed

Meeting minuted by Executive secretary
in absence of Second secretary.



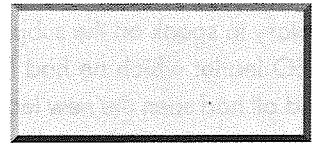
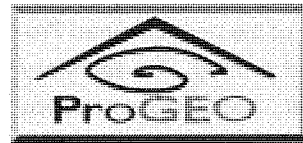
Geotopes of Lithuania - national Data Base

The project of compilation of a Data Base "Geotopes of Lithuania" has been initiated and started at Geological Survey of Lithuania in 1996. It is planned to digitise and put into data base not only information on officially established geological monuments (161) or geological reserves (20), but involve all areas with protected geomorphological and landscape features. Besides that, it is intended to digitise information on all other scientifically important sites as stratotypes and parastratotypes, bigger outcrops etc.

The DB and GIS tools will enable to store and supply information on geotopes important for geoconservation, territorial planning, geo-tourism and education in shape of special maps and reviews.

Field work for inventory of part of geotopes is planned to carry out during 1996.

J. Satkunas & V. Mikulenas



New Election Procedure

The Elections Committee, of our past and current Presidents, with the help of the Exec. Secretary have compiled simpler guidance notes for elections. These will be used for the first time in 1997. The notes, distributed in Rome, are based firmly on the 1993 Association Articles. They introduce one novel item, however: a secret ballot for executive committee elections. The elections of the four general assembly members and of the president at the General Assembly remain a vote by show of hands, following the intentions of the articles and the intended open nature of this particular meeting.

The Election Committee is still considering the guide. Several members have been asked to participate in this detailed process (Drs Raudsep, Todorov, Satkunas and Mijovic) and in making the procedures clear and fair. If any member has particular views on the guide and procedure,s please let the secretary know, so that these may be put to the panel. You may find it useful to consult the articles before suggestions are made. Many thanks.

Executive secretary



A Guide to ProGEO Election procedures (draft)

This guide sets out to explain simply the procedures for the election of ProGEO's President, General Members of Council and its Executive Committee, based on ProGEO's 1993 Articles.

A) Election of President

The election of the President is by open ballot at the General Assembly. The Secretary convenes a meeting of bona fide registered members on day one of the assembly for this purpose.

Procedure 1) As a member you have the right to elect the President, if you have paid your subscription up to date.

Your subscriptions must be paid to the Treasurer by the last day of January preceding the general assembly. If your country has unavoidable exchange or banking problems, you must agree an alternative mechanism for payment with the treasurer by this date and no later. (If subscriptions have been waived for your country by the agreement of the Council, no payment is required and you may vote)

2) The Treasurer will inform the Secretary of the names of registered members on 1st February.

(If you are not registered by the last day of January, you may not vote in that year's elections: late payment after January may occur, but this will not allow you a vote.)

3) The Executive Committee will nominate a candidate for President, and circulate this nomination to registered members by 1st February in an election year.

4) You as a ProGEO member may propose alternative persons. If you want to nominate someone as a candidate, you must ask him/her to write you a letter agreeing to be nominated, and send this letter of agreement and your nomination to reach the Executive Secretary by no later than 1st March.

5) An invitation to vote will be posted to all registered members by the end of March.

You will be sent: i) a list of proposed candidates (and their nominator) ii) a voting paper, and iii) a coloured registered members card

If these do not arrive by the end of March, inform the secretary.

6) Postal votes are to be returned inside two envelopes. The inner envelope («President's election» envelope) is to be left unmarked. It should be sealed with your vote inside. The outer envelope should bear your name and address.

Your vote should reach the Executive Secretary no later than 7 days before the General Assembly.

7) At the General Assembly: a registered member votes by showing their coloured voting card. The secretary of the election committee will then read out postal vote results, and declare a result.

B) Election of General Members of Council

General members (GMs) are elected by the whole ProGEO membership. All registered members of ProGEO may vote in the election. Only one general member may be elected from a country. They serve between general assemblies (i.e. for up to four years). GMs are equivalent to twenty percent of the Council (at present there are 4 GMs).

The election of General Members takes place, by open ballot, at the General Assembly.

Procedures 1) As a registered ProGEO member you may nominate yourself or another to be a General Member of Council

2) Send nominations to reach the Executive Secretary by the last day of January, preceding the general assembly. If no new nominations are received, the President will consult council members to elicit nominations.

3) As a member you may vote for general members at the General Assembly, or by postal vote if you cannot attend. Voting at the GA is by a show of coloured member's registration cards.

4) At the end of March in an election year the Executive Secretary will send you:

i) a list of candidates, and ii) a postal voting form, for use only if you cannot attend the GA iii) a coloured members card



5) Send your postal votes to reach the Executive Secretary by 7 days before the General Assembly at the latest.

6) Postal votes will be scrutinised by the election committee, and totals will be read out after the show of cards. The result will be declared by the President.

C) Election of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (excluding the President) is elected by the Council. There are 2 years between elections in which to consider possible candidates.

The election takes place at a closed business meeting of the Council, convened by the Executive Secretary, every second year.

Council consists of:

i) founder members: i.e. those European Working Group on Earth-Science Conservation members invited to the Weymouth 1992 meeting who contributed to ProGEO's articles, drafted by Dr G.P. Black ii) national representatives, elected by a country (if such has been elected) iii) general members (elected by the General Assembly)

If you are one of these and have paid your subscriptions up to date by the last day of January, you have the right to vote in the election of the Executive Committee.

(If you are not registered by that date, you may not vote in that year's elections: late payment after the end of January may occur, but this will not allow you a vote.)

Procedures 1) The Executive Committee, under the guidance of the President, has the job of making nominations for re-election of current officers, and of making nominations for new candidates for election. You can contribute to this process by passing your suggestions for candidates to the President or Secretary at any time through the year.

Executive Committee nominations will be posted to you by the end of February preceding the Council Meeting.

2) You may nominate an alternative candidate for a specified post on the Executive Committee.

3) Before making a nomination, you must ask your potential candidate to write you a letter explicitly agreeing to be nominated, and send this letter of agreement and your no-

mination to the secretary, with a seconder's letter. A nomination must reach the election committee no later than the last day of March.

4) Two weeks later, the Executive Secretary will send each Council member:

i) a finalised list of candidates (with names of proposers and seconders), ii) a voting paper, and iii) a coloured member's card

If these do not arrive by the end of March, inform the secretary.

5) You may still vote by post (or fax, if you choose), even if you are unable to attend the Council meeting.

6) Postal Votes

i) Return your completed postal vote form inside two envelopes. The inner envelope («Executive election» envelope) is to be left unmarked and should be sealed (see 6i). The outer envelope should bear your name and address (see 6ii).

ii) Do not mark the inner envelope or put your name on it, or the voting paper, because this is a secret ballot. iii) But, make sure you put your name on the outer envelope in which it is posted, so that the fact that you have voted is recorded. You may only vote once: either by post or in person.

Your postal vote should reach the Executive Secretary no later than 7 days before the General Assembly. Fax votes will also be accepted, by the same date.

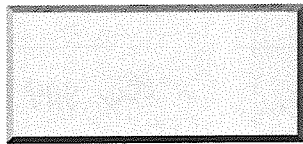
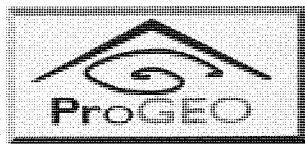
7) Postal votes (inner envelope) will be opened under the scrutiny of the Election Committee, President and past Presidents, before voting at the Council meeting.

9) All ballot papers will have printed on them only the names of candidates, and the job they wish to fill.

10) Voting in person at the council meeting:

i) You vote by marking a cross against a candidate's name, and place your paper in the box. ii) Do not put your name on the paper. iii) When you vote, you must show your coloured voter's card.

11) The President will declare the result.



ProGEO Annual meeting 1997

As you know, next year's annual business meeting was to be held in Spain, following the invitation to ProGEO of the Spanish Commission on Geological Heritage. However, in recent days in communications with our Spanish contacts certain difficulties have become apparent. Our Spanish colleagues feel there is some lack of certainty about guaranteeing arrangements for the meeting. This is of course a great disappointment, not least because the meeting offered greater possibilities for working and collaborating with Spanish colleagues.

In these circumstances, the Executive Committee has decided that speedy decisions are needed: a quick decision that Spain is possible or the rapid selection of a new venue, so that new organisers can plan a meeting in time for next May. No better news has come from Spain in recent days. Estonian colleagues have been considering ways of inviting ProGEO to their country, and the matter was discussed at Sigtuna last year. At that time there was no prospect of a meeting in the Baltic until at least 1999, because of prior arrangements.

Every cloud has a silver lining, and a new opportunity has presented itself. Dr Rein Raudsep on behalf of Estonian colleagues has offered to host the 1997 meeting. This option has been put to the Executive Committee and agreed.

Therefore, next year's meeting (late May 1997) will be held in Estonia!

We have to thank Dr Raudsep and his compatriots for coming to our rescue, and offering to host ProGEO 1997 at short notice. All the Executive Committee contactable in the last week have voted unanimously for the change of plans. We have the greatest confidence in

our Estonian friends, and the Executive Committee vows its support in helping in any way possible with the arrangements! On behalf of all the membership I would like to convey the heartfelt thanks of the whole association to Dr Raudsep and his colleagues.

Executive secretary

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Change of address:

As from 10th 1996
Eesti Geoloogiakeskus
(Geological Survey of
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on.

My address, phone and fax
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Estonia

Phone Numbers: (372) 2
593 964, (372) 6 579
661 (secretary)
Fax number: (372) 6 579
664

Rein Raudsep

Deadline for contributions to next issue of
ProGEO NEWS:

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