

Announcements

GEOCONGRESS '86 AN INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE CONGRESS, JOHANNESBURG 7th to 11th July, 1986

This congress will commemorate the centenary of the discovery, in 1886, of the world's largest gold-field in the Witwatersrand basin. The accent will thus fall primarily on placer-hosted gold so that the main theme will be:

PRECAMBRIAN GOLD/URANIUM DEPOSITS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CONGLOMERATIC PLACERS OF THE WITWATERSRAND TYPE

A scene-setting keynote review address on the geological and historical aspects of the Witwatersrand gold-field, will be followed by analogous keynote reviews of similar ancient placer deposits in the world; such as the Elliot Lake/Blind River deposits of Canada, the Medicine Bow deposits of Wyoming, the Jacobina of Brazil and, historically the oldest of them all, the Tarkwa gold-field of Ghana. A further review of the great placer/hydrothermal controversy, in the first half of this century, regarding the origin of the Witwatersrand gold, will also be presented.

Other papers will cover the sedimentology and geology of these ancient conglomeratic placers, their geochemistry and the geochemical exploration techniques utilised in their discovery (and for other gold deposits generally), the minerals physics and minerals economy of gold, a historical review of fire-assay methods of gold determination used on the Witwatersrand, the latest methods of gold determination employed in this field and many other topics.

Other aspects covered by the Congress are:

- * Evolution of greenstone belts and gold mineralisation in the Archaean.
- * The sedimentology and sediment-hosted mineral deposits of Transvaal-aged basins.
- * Results of the first phase of the current National Geoscience Programme entitled 'The Evolution of Earth-Resource System'. These will include results of research on mineralisation in granite-greenstone terranes, in the Namaqualand Metamorphic Complex, in the Transvaal basin and in the Bushveld Complex. It will also investigate the tectonic framework of these deposits and new techniques which may lead to new discoveries. Coal deposits will be afforded full coverage.
- * Open sessions devoted to the latest research results or findings on any topic not related to the above themes.

For further particulars contact:

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FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATI

The fifth international symposium on Water-rock Interactions, Reykjavik, Iceland from 8th to 17th August, 1986. The topics are Experimental Studies, Ore Genesis, Geothermal Systems, Diagenesis and Hydrothermal Alteration, Nuclear Waste Disposal, Acid Rain etc.

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