

Colloquium on the History of Geology, organized by the Hungarian Geological Society (the 14th of February, 1977)

Dr. Gábor Csikky

The significance of the mineral raw materials increased considerably during the past few years. This tendency began already soon after World War II. World over economic difficulties and political conflicts were developed due to the basic unbalance between the source areas and consuming areas of raw materials. One of the most significant high-lights of this development was the energy crisis in 1973, provoked by the consecutive Arabian — Israeli wars, leading to a considerable increase of world market prices of mineral raw materials. Especially the countries importing mineral raw materials, thus also Hungary, were hard hit by this development indicating the necessity of developing local resources as a must.

Recognizing the importance of the problem the Hungarian government introduced some necessary measures already in 1973 to secure the exploration and development of local mineral deposits. The results, further tasks and expectations were summarized by the National Geological Colloquium organized by the Central Geological Office in March, 1976.

The Hungarian Geological Society considered also as one of its central tasks to take part in the economic and scientific activities promoting the intensive exploration and development of the natural resources of the country. Special emphasis was laid on discussing the increased exploration of the most important mineral raw materials of the country, i.e.: bauxite, petroleum, natural gas, coal and ores.

In consequence a National Colloquium History of Geology was organized by the Section History of Geology of the Hungarian Geological Society on the 14th of February, 1977 at Budapest, with the title: „History of the Exploration of Mineral Resources in Hungary from the Beginning till 1945.”, and with emphasis upon an interpreting review of the exploratory work carried out before 1945.

The following lectures were delivered:

MRS. SZÉKY, DR. VILMA FUX, co-president of the Hungarian Geological Society: Opening address.

Dr. Leontin FEJÉR: History of hard and soft coal exploration in Hungary till 1945.

Dr. Sándor JASKÓ: History of lignite exploration in Hungary.

Dr. Gábor CSIKY: History of petroleum and natural gas exploration in Hungary from the beginning till 1920.

Dr. László KÖRÖSSY: Some data to the history of petroleum exploration in Hungary between 1920—1945.

Dr. Géza SZUROVY: Development of petroleum exploration methods before World War II.

Dr. IRMA DOBOS: Development of the exploration of ground-water resources in Hungary till 1920.

Dr. Kálmán KORIM: History of the exploration of ground-water resources in Hungary between the two World Wars.

Dr. András RÓNAI: Development of aspects related to the exploration of ground-water resources in Hungary.

Béla VIZY: History of bauxite exploration in Hungary till 1945.

Dr. Pál KERTÉSZ: History of exploration of construction stone materials in Hungary till 1945.

Dr. György VITÁLIS: Exploration for ceramic and cementing materials in Hungary.

The first lecture of planned series: Dr. Zoltán GYULAY: „History of ore exploration in Hungary” could not be delivered, due to the unexpected tragic death of the lecturer on the 9th February.

In the following the abridged summaries of the lectures are given.