

Retrospect of the 1st International Conference of Agrogeology

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Hungarian Soil Science Society

1909



2009

The 1st International Conference of Agrogeology
was held 14-27 April, 1909 in Budapest

We are celebrating the legacy of Agrogeology
and the 100 years of advances in soil sciences!



Hungarian Academy of Sciences



Geological Institute of Hungary

The organizing institution was the Royal Hungarian Geological Institute

The event was related the 40th anniversary of the foundation Institute.

Lajos Lóczy, the director of the institute sent out the invitations to the national ministries of agriculture and individual experts in mid February.

All communication was by mail in two months.



12 countries were represented in the conference
with 86 participants,
from 34 institutions.

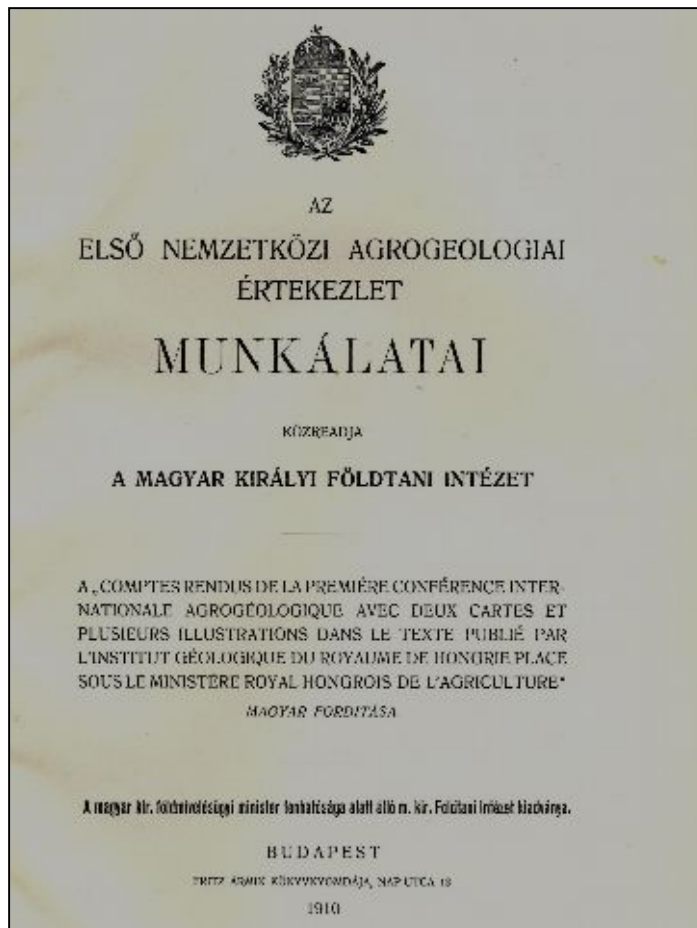
The official language was German, but few
participants presented their works in English



Az első nemzetközi agogeologiai konferencia résztvevői.

1. Dr. Gáspár J. 2. Dr. 'Sigmoid E. 3. Szöts A. 4. Dickey D. 5. Ramann E. 6. Wahnschaffe F. 7. Glinka K. D. 8. Lóczy L. 9. Oebecke K. 10. Gorjanovič-Kramberger K. 11. Björlykke K. O. 12. Bryson P. 13. Dr. Szontagh T. 14. Kossmat F. 15. Koch F. 16. Koehne W. 17. Sandor F. 18. Dr. Déchy M. 19. Murgoci G. M. 20. Cornu F. 21. Mauritz B. 22. Schucht F. 23. Dr. Löw M. 24. Dr. Koch A. 25. Dr. Kalecsinszky S. 26. Inkey B. 27. Horusitzky H. 28. Mieczynsky K. 29. Miklaszewski S. 30. Dr. Széll L. 31. Waagen L. 32. Zöhl A. 33. Dr. László G. 34. Maross I. 35. Dr. Kadic O. 36. Obicsán L. 37. Treitz P. 38. Hálaváts Gy. 39. T. Róth L. 40. Dr. Schafarzik F. 41. Dr. Emszt K. 42. Dr. Vogl V. 43. Timkó I. 44. Dr. Liffa A. 45. Güll V. 46. Dr. Kormos T. 47. Pitter T. 48. Hunek E. 49. Leplac E. 50. Rozlozsnik P. 51. Wessely F.

The historical records of the meetings and the excursions are based on the report (in Hungarian and German) compiled by palini Inkey Béla, the secretary of the organizing committee



Forwords

Nem az élő nyelvek sokasága akadályozza meg itt a kölcsönös megértést: hiszen ez a nehézség bármely más tudomány körében is fennforog, de mindenütt legyőzhetőnek bizonyult. Nálunk, a talajismeret körében, a kifejezések és módszerek összeegyeztetésének főakadálya inkább a kiinduló pontok sokaságából származik



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„It is not the number of languages that limits the understanding of each other. Other disciplines have the same situation but seem to overcome the problem. What hampers our common understanding in soil studies, is the great variety of terminologies, methods and approaches”

The purpose of the conference was:

- to discuss the nature and origin of soil
- to overview the soil „zones“ of the countries
- to discuss the different approaches
 - in field / laboratory methods for soil descriptions
 - in soil classification and in soil mapping
- to get to common understanding in methods and language
- to develop a professional association for soil and agrogeology experts

Prior to the ISSS



Year	Meeting	Location	Number of participants	Important outcome
1909	First International Conference of Agrogeology	Budapest	86	Regularly organise agrogeological conferences
1910	Second International Conference of Agrogeology	Stockholm	170	Formation of three Commissions
1922	Third International Conference of Pedology	Prague	50	Formation of five Commissions
1924	Fourth International Conference of Pedology	Rome	463	Formation ISSS

The six technical sessions included

- Nature of soils
- Soil zones of the participating countries
- Field soil description
- Physical laboratory soil investigations
- Chemical laboratory soil investigations
- Mapping approaches of the represented countries

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Highlights:

Glinka presented the first paper on the soil zones and soil types of Europe and the Asian part of Russia. He also presented his soil map (1:16 M) of Russia.

Murgoci presented the soil map (1:2,5 M) of the Kingdom of Romania.

'Sigmund presented the suggested methods to characterize and classify salt-affected soils

Treitz presented a paper on the importance of carbonates in soils

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Highlights:

Ramman did not present a paper but was very active in the discussions

Hilgard could not come but his paper was read and discussed. He did not believe in a global soil classification, but gave suggestions for common investigations for classification and mapping

Atterberg: could not come either and his paper on the analyses of the clay fraction and characterization of clayey soils was presented and discussed

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The 3 professional excursion included

- a half-day excursion to Pesthidegkút
- a half-day excursion to Gödöllő
- a five-day excursion to Hungárián Great Plain

In addition there was a two-day cultural excursion to Lake Balaton

The final, closing session concluded the discussions and recommendations were documented

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The excursions:

Long discussions took place on the genesis and classification of the visited soils. The most active people were Ramman, Glinka, Murgoci, Inkey, Treitz and Lóczy.

They visited „Forest soils”, Chernozems, sandy areas (that were considered deserts) and salt-affected soils.

The question „what is soil ?” was re-occurring topic. Ideas –written on the train between sites- were collected

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What is soil?

The definitions the participants gave were very diverse in length and details but mostly agreed that soil is the upper most in situ weathered layer of Earth.

Ramman did not turn in his definition. On his paper he wrote : „I gave my definition in my book and I have not change my mind”

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The final, closing session concluded the discussions and recommendations were documented

The need and the intention for organization of a scientific association and regular meetings of soil scientists was expressed and documented.

Scientists from 23 countries were recommended as members

A periodical journal on soil studies of the association was also recommended

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The final, closing session concluded the discussions and recommendations were documented

The suggestions to develop and adopt uniform systems for

- methods of laboratory investigations,
- soil classification (monographs for soils types), and
- mapping approaches were documented

The agreed and recommended scale for regional overview maps was 1:200 000.

(For detailed mapping 1:20 000 scale was recommended but only for representative, accessible locations, and interpolation to the other areas was suggested.

For management or farm level purposes 1:10 000 scale was recommended)

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The importance of the 1st International Conference of Agrogeology

- First time expressed that soil science deserves it's own scientific community and terminology / methodology
- Defined valid problems
We are still discussing / solving (?) them
- Gave start for mapping programs, and development of different areas of soil science
- Induced collaboration

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