



HAL
open science

**Preface of the Proceedings of the 47th Inhigeo
Symposium edited by Gaston Godard, Philippe
Grandchamp and Pascal Richet**

Pascal Richet

► **To cite this version:**

Pascal Richet. Preface of the Proceedings of the 47th Inhigeo Symposium edited by Gaston Godard, Philippe Grandchamp and Pascal Richet. 2022, pp.3-4. hal-04442354

HAL Id: hal-04442354

<https://hal.science/hal-04442354v1>

Submitted on 6 Feb 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 47TH INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM

EDITED BY

GASTON GODARD, PHILIPPE GRANDCHAMP AND PASCAL RICHEL

LES EYZIES, FRANCE – 15-24 SEPTEMBER 2022

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED BY

CLAUDINE COHEN, FRANÇOISE DREYER,
GASTON GODARD AND PASCAL RICHEL

Preface

These proceedings gather 21 papers written on various topics presented in September 2022 at the 47th symposium of the International Committee on the History of Geological sciences (INHIGEO), which was held at Les Eyzies de Tayac in southwestern France. A glance at these papers, and at the 16 abstracts also submitted by other authors, reveals the wide variety of themes discussed, which is in fact a hallmark of INHIGEO symposiums. The whole set thus provides a vivid illustration of the vitality of History of geology. Thanks are due to all authors for having produced such a concrete outcome of lively presentations and friendly discussions during the symposium and the excursions, and also for their responsiveness and quick reactions during the reviewing process of the Proceedings.

As a matter of fact, the 2022 INHIGEO symposium was initially planned in Russia. In 2020, however, it appeared that an alternative location had to be sought after. The idea then came to Claudine Cohen that France could take the responsibility to organize it, with rehistory and Geology as a special theme. The idea was at once endorsed by COFRHIGEO, the French branch of INHIGEO, which set up a four-member organizing committee for this purpose. It was the pride of place taken by prehistory that led to select as the central site of the symposium the small town of Les Eyzies, which has been dubbed the *Capital of Prehistory* because of the wealth of inhabited shelters and ornamented caves found nearby along the Vézère valley. Owing to its tourist importance, Les Eyzies was in addition making available the nice auditorium of the *Centre international de la Préhistoire* as well as a variety of boarding options for the participants.

It happened that the preparation of the symposium was fraught with uncertainties related to the covid pandemic, the risk of yet another confinement in France, travel restrictions caused by the war in Ukraine, and the ensuing consequences on the planned budget. Luck was on our side, fortunately, as a single participant became positive to covid only near the end of the symposium. A funny view was then offered by the participants when all of them got tested at the same time on the parking lot where the bus was waiting to leave for the post-symposium excursion. Three additional participants tested positive either on the spot or

slightly later on, but two of them could nonetheless continue the excursion in the car of one of the organizers — a useful rescue vehicle!

In the end all initial worries have been alleviated. Despite a situation that was not completely back to normal, 43 participants and 10 accompanying members were present. From a material standpoint, things went smoothly thanks to COFRHIGÉO treasurer Françoise Dreyer who managed to keep within the planned budget — production of the present volume included — despite the great many different sources of expenses related in particular to the excursions. In a masterly way, these excursions were mainly designed by Claudine Cohen for Prehistoric caves and shelters and by Gaston Godard for the sites of geological interest. Here it is not needed to describe the sites visited in any detail. It will thus suffice to list them and let interested readers know that the relevant field trip guides can be downloaded at <https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr/COFRHIGEO>.

In practice, it proved convenient to pick up the participants at the Poitiers TGV railway station on September 15 before making the first visit at the PALEVOPRIM human paleontology laboratory (and collections), which is known, among other things, for the discovery of the 7 million-year old Toumai hominid in Chad. A stop was then made at the former abbey of Nouaillé, near the site of the 1356 Poitiers battle between the French and English, and the night spent in the small town of Saint-Junien. The day after, the second site visited was the former Rochechouart crater, produced 215 million years ago, whose breccias were long considered to be volcanic in origin until François Kraut eventually showed in the late 1960s that these and other strange rocks found locally had been produced by an impacting asteroid. The bottom of the crater could be seen at the Champagne quarry whereas additional information was found at the Pierre Pellas Museum in Rochechouart.

The symposium itself opened on September 16 with a late-afternoon guided tour of the beautiful, recently refurbished National Prehistory Museum. The tour began with a speech of the museum director Nathalie Fourment and was followed by an evening cocktail on the Museum terrace dominating the Vézère river during which

welcome addresses were given by Les Eyties mayor Philippe Lagarde and current COFRHIGEO and former INHIGEO president Philippe Taquet.

From September 17, the scientific part of the symposium was made up of 39 oral and 5 poster presentations that alternated with a series of visits to the Lascaux International Center of Cave Art, the Lascaux 4 fac simile, Le Moustier shelter (of Mousterian fame), La Ferrassie shelter (where 8 reasonably complete Neanderthal skeletons have been found, out of the 12 found in the Dordogne region and 44 worldwide), Commarque Palaeolithic cave and castle, Cro-Magnon, Laugerie-Basse, Laugerie-Haute, Abri du Poisson and Cap-Blanc shelters and Font de Gaume cave. What made these visits specially informative is that many of them were made under the guidance of the anthropologists who are still excavating them. As for the accompanying members, they were taken care of during the sessions with visits of the well-known village of Domme, Marqueyssac gardens, and Beynac castle, followed by a boat trip on the Dordogne river, and of yet another picturesque village, La Roche Gageac. From a social standpoint, worthy of note were also a dinner in Sarlat, after a late afternoon guided tour of this beautiful city, and the symposium banquet held in Les Eyzies on the evening of September 21st.

The post-symposium excursion began the day after with yet another visit to an ornamented cave, that of Pech Merle, famous for its painted horse, which is located 90 km south-east of Les Eyzies in the Quercy region. Not far away are the *phosphatières* of Cloup d'Aural, one of the many former sites of extraction of phosphates that were actively mined in the 1860s for producing fertilizers and have since then proved valuable from a paleontological standpoint because of the variety of fossils trapped in the phosphates during their formation. After a night spent in Agen, the last day on September 24 was devoted to three Miocene historical stratotypes North of Bordeaux, namely, L'Ariey and Bernachon for Aquitanian, Pont-Pourquey for Burdigalian and Lassime for Serravallian; additional information was then obtained at the Saucats Nature reserve museum. Another site visited at Loubens shows thick Miocene oyster beds, which form a small cliff over the Garonne river at Sainte-Croix-du-Mont. As described by Gaston Godard in

his paper, this site has the additional interest of having triggered reflections on the nature and deposition of fossils that antedate by several decades Steno's *Prodromus*. Followed by a wine testing offered by the owner of the place, this visit was quite appropriate for the last day of the symposium, which ended for good at the Bordeaux TGV station.

Needless to say that such an extensive program could not be worked out by the organizing committee alone. Hence, the organizers warmly thank the numerous people who helped us plan either the symposium in Les Eyzies or the excursions, namely, G. Merceron et O. Chavasseau for the Poitiers PALEVOPRIM laboratory; M. Yserd, for the Rochechouart Nature reserve; Ph. Lagarde, Les Eyzies mayor; N. Fourment, director, and M.-C. Ruault-Marmande, B. Gravina and A. Turq, researchers at the Musée National de la Préhistoire; C. Vigne, director, C. Roudet, his assistant and all staff of the Pôle d'Interprétation de la Préhistoire; G. Pinçon, N. Coye and S. Konik at the Ministry of Culture; M. Martinez, administrator, and C. Tyssandier, his assistant, of the Sites de la vallée de la Vézère, A. Mathieu, A. Maureille, J.-P. Chadelle and E. Bougard for the guided visits of the prehistoric sites; B. Defois, curator of the Pech Merle cave; J.-M. Touron, owner of the Cro-Magnon shelter; P. Texier, Research director at C.N.R.S., S. Maury and A. Raux, prehistorians; I. Petrin, of the Maison Bordes, which hosted the headquarters of the symposium; R. Bondonneau for the guided tour of Sarlat; T. Pélissier et his team for the Cloup d'Aural *phosphatières*; A. de Seze for the Sainte-Croix-du Mont outcrop and the generous wine testing at his property; B. Cahuzac, of the Bordeaux Linnean Society, and M. Locascio and Y. Gilly, of the Saucats-La Brède geological reserve for the Miocene stratotypes, for which they in addition kindly provided us with relevant information for the fieldguides; and A. Léautier, travel agent at Périgord Voyages, for valuable help in planning bus transportation.

Last but not least, these warm thanks must be extended to Philippe Grandchamp for efficiently producing these Proceedings, as he is doing every year for the COFRHIGEO *Travaux* of which the present volume is a special issue.

Pascal RICHET
On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Contents

Texts

CLAUDINE COHEN	7
Prehistoric archaeology and geology, a historical perspective	
ROMAIN PIGEAUD	9
Palaeolithic uses of natural reliefs and geological formations in South Western French cave art: a few examples	
TIMOTHÉ LHOSTE	21
The “making of” La Denise fossil man (French <i>Massif Central</i>). The history of a persistent scientific forgery	
SILVIA F. DE M. FIGUEIROA	35
Prehistory and archaeology in 19 th century France on the pages of <i>L’Écho du Monde Savant</i>	
RENEE M. CLARY	47
Prejudice on parade: Charles R. Knight’s paintings and contemporary doramas of early hominins	
MARTINA KÖLBL-EBERT	59
Prehistoric archaeology in nazi Germany – the role of Quaternary geologists	
GASTON GODARD	75
From Louis XIII (1620) to the Inhigeo Symposium (2022): Four centuries of Miocene palaeontology and stratigraphy at Sainte-Croix-du-Mont (Aquitaine, France)	
MICHIKO YAJIMA	93
Chibanian, Middle Pleistocene	
VIOLETA PUKELYTĖ & VALENTINAS BALTRŪNAS	97
The significant objects of the Quaternary formations studied by A. K. Giedraitis (1848–1909) and their changes over time	
EUGENIJA RUDNICKAITĖ	109
Investigations of the lithuanian quaternary deposits of duke Antanas Giedraitis in 1878-1895 and his approach to the theories of continental glaciation and polyglacialism	
PATRICIA BOBECK	121
Abbé Paramelle: early excursions and observations in the department of Lot 1818-1827	
WOLF MAYER	127
First geological investigations in Australia and Antarctica by French scientists, naturalists and surgeon on voyages of discovery, between 1792 and 1840	
LEONID R. KOLBANTSEV, IRENA G. MALAKHOVA, SERGE V. NAUGOLNYKH	147
Scientific relations of Alexander P. Karpinsky (1847-1936) with France	
KHALLAF EL GHALBI	159
Characteristics of earthquakes in the Mediterranean Sea and their effects, in Arab-Islamic heritage	
PAOLO SAMMURI & PAOLO MACINI	171
The renaissance of minerals, mining and metallurgy in Tuscany: from Biringuccio’s <i>Pirotechnia</i> (1540) to Cosimo I de’ Medici	
JOHN A. DIEMER	183
Murchison’s assessment of the Donetz coal basin	
YAROSLAV ZECHNER & MARGRET HAMILTON	199
Correspondence between Eduard Suess and Vladimir A. Obruchev: with emphasis on “ <i>The Face of the Earth</i> ”	
MARGRET HAMILTON	211
Eduard Suess’ concept of eustatic sea level movements during his research in the Moldanubicum in Lower Austria: the cross-section Eggenburg-Horn	

JACQUES TOURET & OLAV ALBRT CHRISTOPHERSEN	219
Victor M. Goldschmidt, Vladimir I. Vernadsky and the birth of geochemistry.	
CYRIL DEICHA & IGOR DEICHA	231
History of geology in Liechtenstein	
BERNARD GUY	241
From deep time to physics: the contribution of geology to the interpretation of some fundamental concepts	

Abstracts

JOANNE BOURGEOIS	247
A 1958 snapshot of oceanography: the 83 rd CNRS international colloquium	
PEDRO WAGNER GONÇALVES, HEITOR ASSIS Junior, MARCELO LUIS DE BRINO	249
The history of the Brazilian geological map and iron mining in Minas Gerais State: the contribution of John Casper Branner	
ERNST HAMM	251
Georg Christoph Lichtenberg on geological fantasies	
SALOMON KROONENBERG	253
Friedrich Voltz (1828–1855), discoverer of the Guiana Shield greenstone belt	
MARIE LO CASCIO, YVES GILLY	255
Geological nature reserve of Saucats-La Brède: 40 years of protection and preservation of the Aquitanian and Burdigalian (Lower Miocene) stratotypes	
MARIE LO CASCIO, YVES GILLY	257
Historical stratotypes, Global boundary stratotype sections and points (GSSP) and nature reserves	
MARIA MARGARET LOPES	259
Readings from Brazil on Peter Wilhelm Lund's bone caves in Minas Gerais	
SHARAD MASTER.....	261
French involvement in the geological studies of Southern Africa from the 17 th to 19 th centuries	
JOHANNES MATTES	263
Reasoning about the Earth's underground: visual evidence, imagination, and authenticity in the travel accounts of the naturalist Joseph A. Nagel (1748/49)	
MADDALENA NAPOLITANI	265
Painting the mountains between art and Earth sciences during the second half of the 19 th century: some French case studies	
MARCO PANTALONI, FABIANA CONSOLE	267
Karl Mayer-Eymar and the history of messinian stage	
CLAUDIA PRINCIPE, ANARITA PAOLILLO, SONIA LA FELICE, SIMONE ARRIGHI.....	269
<i>Forma Vesuvii</i>	
STEVE ROWLAND.....	271
The puzzling archaeology of Gypsum Cave, Nevada (U.S.A.) and the question of When Humans First Arrived in North America	
JAMES A. SECORD	273
Writing humans out of the landscape: antiquarians and geologists on the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy	
PHILIPPE TAQUET	275
Les affinités électives de Georges Cuvier	
SUSAN TURNER	277
La chasse aux ossements fossiles: French women in vertebrate palaeontology	