

Conferences, meetings, events

From the Archives:

NOVEMBER 28–30, 2005, WARSAW

Territorialism and Identity Educational Workshop

Organized by the Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Center for East European Studies, Warsaw University, this workshop aimed to develop a model for dialogue on issues of territorial identity. It brought together Balkans specialists (from Poland and other countries) as well as scholars working in the broadly understood field of neighbourly relations, including Polish-Belarus, Polish-Lithuanian, Polish-German and Polish-Czech relations. The workshop dealt with such issues as territory as a cultural and political value, linguistic markers of territorial identity, ethnic identity in the Balkans, types of consciousnesses in the cultural patterns of the Balkans, and cultural and national identifications in border areas. All the materials from the conference will be published in book form.

DECEMBER 1, 2005, WARSAW
Poland's international economic stature

This jubilee conference marking the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Economics, Polish Academy of Sciences, was held under the patronage of the Academy's President. The conference program included two panel discussions involving specialists from leading economic

centers, both academic and scientific, as well as representatives of economic institutions. The first panel addressed new phenomena in the world economy, the current situation in the EU and the conclusions to be drawn for Poland, while the second discussed issues regarding the Polish economy's capacity to adapt to international challenges. The conference likewise offered an opportunity to highlight the chief aspects of the Institute of Economics' activities, to present its plans for the future, and to honor the Institute's outstanding staff members with Polish state awards.

<http://www.inepan.waw.pl>

Upcoming Events:

APRIL 19–22, 2006, ZAKOPANE

7th Carpathian Tectonic Workshop (GALTEC-06)

This Workshop, organized jointly by the Polish Academy of Sciences, Jagiellonian University, the Galicia Tectonic Group, and the Czech Tectonic Studies Group, will be held together with two other meetings: the 4th Meeting of the Central European Tectonic Studies Group (CETeg), and the 11th Meeting of the Czech Tectonic Studies Group (CTS). Contributions are welcomed on all aspects of structural geology and tectonics. Two scientific sessions will focus on regional tectonics of the PANCARDI (Pannonian-Carpathian-Dinarides) region, including the results of recent geophysical studies. Two field trips are also planned: "Structural development of the Magura Nappe (Outer Carpathians): From Paleogene-Neogene subduction to Neogene-Present Day collapse," and "Late Cretaceous-Neogene evolution of the Polish Carpathians."

http://www.ing.pan.pl/galtec/galtec_06.htm

MAY 14–18, 2006, USTROŃ

24th Informal Meeting on Mass Spectrometry (IMMS)

The Informal Meetings on Mass Spectrometry are relatively small conferences (with about 120 participants) organ-



ized each May in a different European country. The main goal of the IMMSs, one which distinguishes them from other MS conferences, is to give young scientists an opportunity - often for the first time in their life - to present their results at an international forum and to discuss them, in formal or informal fashion, with experienced practitioners in mass spectrometry. This year's meeting, organized by the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, together with the Polish Society for Mass Spectrometry, will take place in Ustroń near Wisła.
<http://ww2.icho.edu.pl/24imms/>

MAY 22–26, 2006, ZNOJNO, CZECH REPUBLIC

17th Czech-Polish seminar: Structural and ferroelectric phase transitions

The 17th Czech-Polish Seminar on Structural and Ferroelectric Phase Transitions is one in a series of regular biennial meetings bringing together Czech and Polish physicists involved in the study of ferroelectrics and phase transitions. Organized by the Dielectrics Department of the Institute of Physics (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic) and the Ferroelectrics Lab of the Institute of Molecular Physics (Polish Academy of Sciences), the seminar is conceived as an international forum for presenting recent results, fostering unimpeded discussion and initiating joint projects. Its scientific program will focus on:

- Structural phase transitions
- Dielectric and microwave properties
- Liquid crystals and polymers
- Characterization of structures
- Non-linear optics
- Inelastic light and neutron scattering
- Ferroelectric thin films
- Domains and domain boundaries
- Piezoelectrics and pyroelectrics
- Applications of ferroelectrics

<http://palata.fzu.cz/cpsem/>



PAN Institute of Economics members received prestigious state awards at the conference, incl. Prof. U. Grzełowska (left) and Prof. J. Kotowicz-Jawor

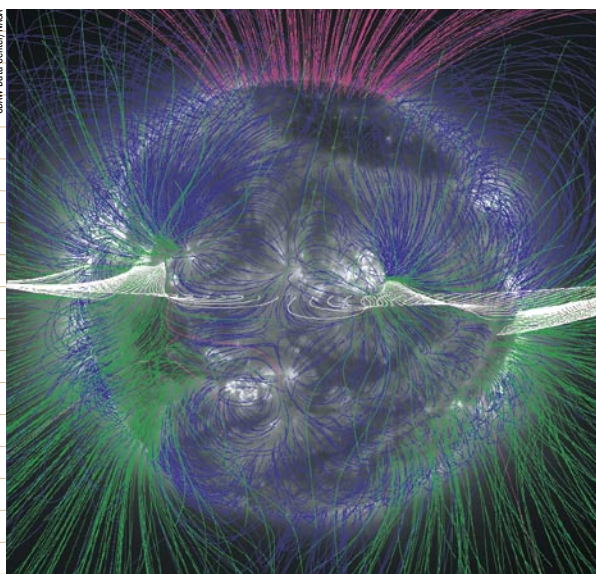
**MAY 26 – JUNE 2, 2006,
KRUTYŃ****International Summer School: Advanced
Phosphorescent Materials Based on
Organic Complexes of Platinum Group
Metals**

This Summer School offers the state-of-the-art training in the form of lectures and tutorials delivered by top experts in the field, addressed to Ph.D. students and young researchers eager to further boost their skills in the field of platinum group advanced materials.

Organized as a second event in a series of training initiatives by the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, in association with the FP6 Integrated Project "OLLA," the school is conceived as a high-level and highly intensive scientific event focusing on platinum group metal cationic complexes for high-tech applications. The scope of the event will cover: the fundamentals of photochemistry and spectroscopy, the photophysics of platinum group metal ions, energy transfer processes, multi-nuclear complexes, sensitizers for solar energy conversion, synthetic aspects, OLED and photovoltaic applications, and sensing devices, including surface-modified nanoclusters and metallomesogens. <http://olla.ichf.edu.pl/>

JUNE 19–24, 2006, BELSK
**12th IAGA Workshop on Geomagnetic
Observatory Instruments, Data
Acquisition and Processing**

The topics of the Workshop, organized by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) and the PAN Institute of Geophysics, will include problems associated with observations of the natural geomagnetic field at geomagnetic observatories. The most important aim of the meeting is the exchange of information and experience relating to the methodology of such observations. The Workshop will be composed of two parts: Scientific Sessions and Measurement Sessions, to be held at the Central Geomagnetic Observatory in Belsk near Warsaw. The Workshop



COWI Data Center/NASA

will also include lectures and training sessions related, in particular, to the INTERMAGNET project. <http://iaga2006.igf.edu.pl>

Letters to Academia:

Dear Academia,

Your article about Rudolf Weigl, my teacher and family friend, inadvertently omits important aspects of his noble deeds, which bear shining testimony to Weigl as a man and as a Polish patriot.

Your article describes Weigl's patriotic behavior during the German occupation, yet it completely neglects his deeds during the cruel Soviet occupation of 1939-1941. Professor Weigl then did everything possible to protect his Institute's staff from the inhumane, systematic arrests and cruel deportations of thousands of Lwów residents to Soviet gulags in the Russian north and the Kazakhstani steppes. It was thanks to Weigl's influence and the aid of my father, Stefan Szybalski, that a number of Poles deported to Siberia were released and allowed to return to Lwów. They included Stefania Skwarczyńska (then an assistant professor at Jan Kazimierz University, subsequently a postwar professor of literary history at Łódź University and a Polish Academy of Sciences member), who had been deported to Kazakhstan as the wife of a prewar Polish Army colonel and a German Oflag prisoner-of-war dur-

ing wartime. Thanks to the help of Jan Kazimierz University Professor Juliusz Kleiner and Rudolf Weigl, she returned to Lwów together with her mother-in-law and three children (one of her daughters, Maria Olszewska, is now a professor at Łódź University and is likewise a member of the Academy).

I also believe that the title of the article, "A Polish Schindler" has

an original sound, yet in fact does not do Weigl justice. Unlike Schindler, Weigl's aims were always noble and were rooted in a combination of his desire to do good for all of mankind (his vaccine) with his good deeds for the Lwów research community and rescuing the Lwów intelligentsia.

Many more information about Prof. Rudolf Weigl can be found on S. Kosiedowski's website at: <http://www.lwow.home.pl/rudolf-weigl-uk.html>

Sincerely, Waclaw Szybalski,

Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Emeritus of Oncology, University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison 53706, USA, Szybalski@oncology.wisc.edu



Rudolf Weigl, tyfus vaccine discoverer

A Polish "Schindler"JOSEF WOLFFENBACH
New member of Science

Rudolf Weigl (1883-1956) was a Polish scientist who became a hero in history. He graduated from the natural sciences faculty of Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów in 1907 and earned his doctor of science degree (habilitation) there in 1911. In 1916 and 1918 he devoted himself to working in epidemic typhus, which had killed millions of people over the centuries. He knew how to get the bacterium in question out of the blood and the first effective vaccination against typhus, which he applied in China and discovered prior to WWII. His first applied work here and membership in many scientific institutions, was especially mentioned for the Nobel Prize, and his typhus research facilities became a center for many scientists.

Weigl's achievements were first summarized by Charles Nicolle, Director of the French Institute, who had received a Nobel Prize for discovering that epidemic typhus was in-

fect caused by lice. "Weigl discovered a magnificent vaccine against epidemic typhus (L. t. t.) which he used to save thousands of people's lives. He is a great discoverer of the greatest value as an exceptional mind, a philosopher, a hero, and a patriot of science."

Pioneering research

Epidemic typhus is caused by a bacterium of the species *Coxiella burnetii*. These bacteria living in the abdominal cavity of the human body lice. The first attempt to develop a vaccine was the research of the late Weigl discovered a method for performing the practical laboratory diagnosis of the disease and the method to cultivate the bacteria. Using his methodology and his pioneering research, he had himself vaccinated, he succeeded in isolating a vaccine.

Producing the vaccine required a complex procedure. The first stage involved boiling the lice. Usually insects were placed within special traps, covered on the sides with glass. These traps were set "hatched" in the light