

# EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial: History of Geology in the USSR and Eastern Europe <b>Mott T. Greene</b> .....	135
Suggestions for Contributors to Earth Sciences History .....	136
Georgiy Nikolaevich Frederiks (1889–1938), Paleontologist, Stratigrapher, Tectonicist — Biography and Bibliography <b>John A. Talent, N. W. Archbold, and Victor Z. Machlin</b> .....	137
The Geologists at Prague: August 1968. History of the International Union of Geological Sciences <b>Cecil J. Schneer</b> .....	172
Studies of the History of Geology in the Soviet Union in the Second Half of the 20th Century <b>Vladimir V. Tikhomirov†</b> .....	202
Vladimir Vladimirovich Tikhomirov (1915-1994) <b>Yu. Ya. Soloviev</b> .....	207
<b>Book Reviews</b> Edited by <b>Gretchen Luepke</b> .....	209
<b>Interesting Publications</b> Edited by <b>Gerald M. Friedman</b> .....	219
Announcements .....	224
Annual Index .....	225

**GEORGIY NIKOLAEVICH FREDERIKS (1889-1938),  
PALEONTOLOGIST, STRATIGRAPHER,  
TECTONICIST-BIOGRAPHY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**ABSTRACT**

In a brief career, 1911- early 1930s, Georgiy Nikolaevich Frederiks swiftly became a leading authority on the paleontology and stratigraphy of the Late Paleozoic of the USSR. Tireless in field and laboratory, he contributed importantly to unraveling the structure of the Urals, and established an international reputation as a paleontologist and stratigrapher, notably for his numerous contributions on Late Paleozoic stratigraphy and paleontology, especially brachiopods. One of the most impressive Soviet paleontologist-geologists of the inter-war era, Frederiks, like so many of the intelligentsia in the USSR, was believed by many to have perished in one of Stalin's 'corrective labor camps'. He was in fact shot, like legions of others, on the charge of conspiring to kill the leaders of the USSR and for personally planning to kill Stalin. His career and fate exemplify what befell the cream of the intelligentsia in the USSR during the Stalin epoch.

**THE GEOLOGISTS AT PRAGUE: AUGUST 1968.  
HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

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**ABSTRACT**

In August, 1968 nearly 3000 geologists from 91 countries gathered in Prague for the XXIIIrd International Geological Congress. Geology was in a state of major transformation and the Congress was the opportunity for the nascent International Union of Geological Sciences to involve the world geological community. But a brutal invasion of Czechoslovakia by its Communist allies frustrated all plans. Over 500 papers, more than 50 field trips, dozens of colloquia, meetings of affiliated societies etc. were canceled. Thousands of geologists who might have disseminated a uniquely global science to the classrooms and boardrooms of 91 countries's, were scattered by the winds of war. In rump sessions within the dying Congress and immediately after, a handful of West bloc geologists, committed agents of the new developments, struggled to pick up the pieces. The IUGS had to wait four years for another plenary session with the world geological community.

**STUDIES OF THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY IN THE  
SOVIET UNION IN THE SECOND  
HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

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**ABSTRACT**

The earth scientists of Russia have long been interested in the history of geological knowledge. V. I. Vemadsky (1863-1945) and V. A. Obruchev (1861-1956) saw the necessity and actively supported research into the history of science in Russia. During the 1930-1940s M. S. Shatsky (1895-1960) published analyses of the ideas of Charles Darwin (1809-1882), R.I. Murchinson (1792-1871). and A. D. Archangelsky (1879-1940). He followed these with a series of papers devoted to the history of the evolution of theoretical and applied geology.

In the early 1950s several works investigating actualistic and uniformitarian methods were published in the USSR. From the 1960s through the 1980s, the new fields of paleogeography and lithology evolved and a new branch of geology resulted from the prospecting and exploration of radioactive materials. In 1967, an International Committee

on the History of Geological Knowledge was proposed by Soviet geologists and established at the 23rd International Geological Congress at Yerevan. It is presently known as "INHIGEO," a Commission of the International Union of Geological Sciences. INHIGEO now has 126 members from 35 countries. From 1967 to 1992, INHIGEO sponsored seventeen international symposia. One or two were held at each of the International Geological Congresses, which regularly convene every fourth year, and additional symposia have been held at frequent intervals.

The complex process of the evolution of the natural sciences in Russia may be subdivided into separate periods. Since the late 1960s, geophysics has grown in importance and several major fields of geophysics have emerged. In addition, a general theory of the Earth has taken shape, geoecological studies have begun, and a theoretical history of geology and other earth sciences has evolved.

The last quarter of this century has witnessed the publication of two multi-volume series: "Geological knowledge in the USSR," comprising 52 books and "Sketches on the history of geological knowledge," with 28 issues. These works outline the history of geological knowledge in the USSR from about 1965 to 1990.