Geoscience Canada

Third International Platinum Symposium

J. H. Crocket

Volume 8, numéro 4, december 1981

URI : https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/geocan8_4con01

Aller au sommaire du numéro

Éditeur(s)

The Geological Association of Canada

ISSN

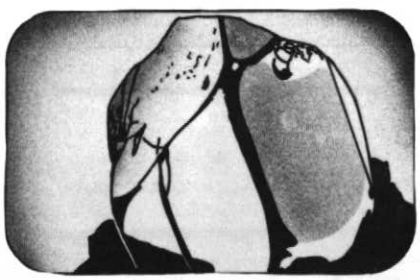
0315-0941 (imprimé)
1911-4850 (numérique)

Découvrir la revue

Citer cet article

Crocket, J. H. (1981). Third International Platinum Symposium. *Geoscience Canada*, *8*(4), 173–173.

Conference Reports



Third International Platinum Symposium

J. H. Crocket
Department of Geology
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4M1

The Third International Platinum Symposium was held at the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, from the 6th to 10th of July, 1981. It was part of the largest geological gathering ever held in South Africa, the biennial congress of the Geological Society of South Africa, Geocongress '81. In addition to the Platinum Symposium, Geocongress '81 included The South African Geodynamics Project, an Open Session and a total of eight pre- and post-Congress field excursions. The Platinum Symposium was sponsored by the Geological Society of South Africa and the Society of Economic Geologists (USA). It attracted seventy-seven contributors from eight countries.

The topics covered by the Platinum Symposium were wide-ranging but several areas were covered in some detail including the geology of several important platinum metal producers (or potential producers) including the Bushveld, Stillwater and Sudbury complexes; the mineralogy of the platinum group minerals; the geochemistry of the platinum group elements and gold in basic and ultrabasic rocks and developments in analytical technology for the determination of platinum group elements in ores and rocks. Although the symposium did not focus on a particular theme several excellent presentations by South African representatives from both the industrial and university sectors demonstrated the very significant advances that have been made toward our understanding of platinum metal concentration in the Bushveld complex. It is clear that since the major updating of knowledge on the Bushveld complex and the Merensky Reef by C.F. Vermaak and colleagues at the Second International Platinum Symposium in Denver, Colorado in 1975, the possible genetic processes responsible for platinum metal concentration in the world's major occurrence are now in far sharper focus.

One often hesitates to designate a particular paper as the outstanding contribution of a conference. In the case of The Third International Platinum Symposium, however, the choice is easy as far as this observer is concerned. It was a paper titled "The J-M Platinum-Palladium Reef of the Stillwater Complex: II. Petrologic Relationships" contributed by D.W. Keith, S.G. Todd and D.J. Schissel of Johns-Manville Corporation and T.N. Irvine of the Geophysical Laboratory, Washington. Neil Irvine read the paper which was a masterful account of his recent researches into double-diffusive convection and its application to the formation of the J-M Reef and layered intrusions in general. In fact, after his initial delivery Dr. Irvine was asked to come back on the following day to elaborate further. Although direct reference to platinum metal genesis as such was a minor component of the paper, the implications of the theory on the origin of ores in layered mafic-ultramafic complexes are profound. Few papers demonstrate so powerfully the need for basic research in metallogeny.

Overall, The Third International Platinum Symposium and its meticulously planned and carefully executed field excursions must stand as a credit to its organizers and as a rewarding learning experience to all its participants. Finally, selected papers from the symposium will be published as a separate issue of Economic Geology and in all probably will prove as much of a landmark as the 1976 issue covering the Second International Platinum Symposium in Denver.

MS received September 11, 1981.