Prof. Attilio C. Boriani

IUGS Secretary General

Born in 1936 in Milano, Italy, Attilio Boriani attended primary and secondary school in the same city. He started his Geological studies at the Università degli Studi di Milano in 1955, obtained his "Laurea" in Geological Sciences in 1960 with a thesis in metamorphic petrology, and received his "Libera Docenza" in Petrology in Rome in 1970. He obtained the Chair of Petrology at the Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences of the Università degli Studi di Milano in January 1976.

He has been running an intensive and continuous research activity in metamorphic areas within the programs developed by the Institute of Mineralogy and Petrology and later by the Department of Earth Sciences, first as Assistant Professor, Full Professor and Director (of the Institute from 1980 to 1982 and of the Department from 1988 to 1991), and also as an associate member of the Center for the Stratigraphic and Petrological Studies of the Central Alps of the Italian National Research Council. His individual research gave relevant contributions to the understanding of the geological evolution of the Southern Alps. As a research leader he also successfully guided students and collaborators in extra-Alpine areas such as Indonesia and the Republic of Benin in W. Africa.

He has been "invited speaker" and "convener" at many scientific conferences and editor of several volumes of proceedings of national and international symposia. He is member of the editorial board of various national and international scientific journals. A. Boriani has published approximately one hundred scientific papers and Geological Maps. Most of them deal with the metamorphic and plutonic rocks of the Southern Alps, but also the Austroalpine and Penninic units, the Indonesian Arc and the Panafrican Event in West Africa. He is now Director of the mapping of the Sheet Sondrio 1:50,000 of the Italian National Geological Map.

Although most of his scientific production has been dedicated to the reconstruction of the geo-petrological evolution of a specific area, his real target has been the reconstruction of all the processes leading to the origin and differentiation of the Continental Crust, from the formation of an accretion terrane, in its peculiar sedimentary environment with or without a juvenile mantle contribution, through orogenic metamorphism, post-orogenic extension, mafic underplating, origin granitic magma and contextual differentiation of the lower crust.

In the last ten years, the scientific interests of Attilio Boriani have been broadening to include the petrophysical characters. For this purpose he has established a petrophysical lab in Milano, and has encouraged his students to undertake an interdisciplinary study of the nature, origin, igneous and metamorphic evolution of the continental crust through the geological history, including the changes in its elastic behavior and rheology.

A. Boriani started his teaching career in 1964 with a course in Applied Petrography. Since 1976, he has been teaching Petrology to the students in Geology. Every other year since 1984, Boriani has collaborated with G. Ferrara to organize the International School of Geochronology and Isotope Geochemistry for PhD students.

Beside research and teaching, he has been actively operating in the field of research management both at national and international

level. He has been member and President of several committees of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) for international cooperation in the field of Earth Sciences. He is now member of the CNR Commission for International Relations. He has been member of the Italian National Committee for Geological Sciences, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Participating Countries of the International Lithosphere Program, President of the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia, Vice-President of the European Mineralogical Union. He has been one of the founders of the European Journal of Mineralogy and member of its Managing Committee. He is Corresponding Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and of the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino. He has been member of the Commission for Scientific Research of the Università degli Studi di Milano. He has been Vice-President of the International Union of Geological Sciences from 1992 to 1996. In 1996, he was elected Secretary General of the IUGS, and re-elected in August 2000.

In January 2001, A. Boriani was appointed President of the 32nd International Geological Congress that will be held in Florence (Italy) in August 2004. Therefore, he has recently resigned from the position of IUGS Secretary General, but he will remain in charge until his replacement is found.

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