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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The New Doris Schachner Medal of the DMG



Friedhelm
von Blanckenburg

Dear members and friends of the DMG,

I am pleased to introduce the new Doris Schachner Medal of the DMG. The medal will replace the Abraham Gottlob Werner Medal in Gold. Our reason for introducing the new naming scheme is that, to date, all of the DMG awards bear a male name, which is probably the case for many other professional societies. The only exception for the DMG is the Beate Mocek Award, which is specifically awarded to early career female scientists.

The DMG Board came to the conclusion that this male-only naming convention is no longer appropriate. Therefore, we proposed to replace the Werner Medal in Gold and to name the new medal after a female mineralogist whose professional life was conducted in a German-speaking country. Following a call for suggestions, the majority of responses named Doris Schachner (née Korn; 30 May 1904–1 April 1988). This proposal was accepted by the DMG General Assembly on the 2 September 2021.

In choosing this name for its most prestigious medal, the DMG actively promotes a female role model. With this step, we hope to encourage young scientists of any gender to embark on the often not straightforward science career path. A modern scientific society, such as the DMG, strives for a future in which its membership reflects the composition of society as a whole.

So, who was Doris Schachner? She was Germany's first female professor of mineralogy. After completing degrees in mathematics and natural sciences in Heidelberg (Germany), Freiburg (Germany), and Innsbruck (Austria), Doris Korn, as she was then, received her doctorate degree in Heidelberg in 1928. Her thesis was entitled "Tectonic and Structural Investigations of Bedrock in the Böllstein Odenwald". In 1929, she became an assistant to Paul Ramdohr at the Technical University of Aachen (Germany) and developed techniques for the structural analysis of ores. In 1933, she obtained her Habilitation (i.e., her advanced full university teaching and research qualification, which is higher than a PhD) in the fields of mineralogy, petrography, and ore mineralogy. In 1941, in the turmoil of the Second World War, she and her husband, Dr Benno Schachner, had to relocate to Brünn (modern Brno, Czech Republic), where she held a teaching position at the Mineralogical Institute. In 1945, she fled back to Aachen from the advancing Russian Red Army with her two-year-old daughter Melitta. There, in 1949, she was appointed full professor of mineralogy, petrography, and ore mineralogy, despite some resistance from the predominantly male faculty. From 1952 until her retirement in 1972, she served as the Director of the Institute of Mineralogy in Aachen.



Doris Schachner. REPRINTED FROM: FRIEDRICH G (2004) ZUM HUNDERTSTEN GEBURTSTAG VON DORIS SCHACHNER. ERINNERUNGEN AN EINE BEMERKENSWERTE PROFESSORIN UND IHR WIRKEN AN DER RWTH AACHEN. WORLD OF METALLURGY ERZMETALL 57: 176-178



Doris Schachner was a pioneer in study of the microstructure of ores. She dedicated herself wholeheartedly to teaching, and she inspired generations of undergraduates, to whom she was a close and always encouraging mentor. The so-called "Doris excursions" (field trips) were of high entertainment value and represented the scientific highlights for many undergraduates in Aachen. She worked hard to raise funds to allow less affluent undergraduates participate in field trips.

In the post-Second World War period, she lobbied for reconciliation with the German neighboring countries by promoting cooperation between the nearby universities of Aachen (Germany), Leuven (Belgium), and Maastricht (Netherlands). In her view, political borders should not prevent people from interacting. She was chairperson of the Senate Committee for the International Office of the RWTH Aachen University and a member of the Senate Commission for Earth

Sciences of the DFG (German Research Foundation). She was also active in the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In 1981, Doris Schachner was awarded an honorary membership of the DMG. In 1984, she became an honorary senator of the RWTH Aachen. The minerals "schachnerite" ($\text{Ag}_{1.1}\text{Hg}_{0.9}$) and "paraschachnerite" (Ag_3Hg_2) are named after her.

Doris Schachner perfectly embodies the spirit of the previous Werner Medal in Gold; namely, "Services towards the Advancement of the Mineralogical Sciences". We are looking forward to awarding the first Doris Schachner Medal at the 100th DMG annual meeting in Köln in September 2022.

Yours,

Friedhelm von Blanckenburg
President of the DMG

DMG ELECTIONS 2021

The ballot for the new DMG council and committee members closed by the end of November 2021. We thank all 445 DMG members who either voted by postal ballot or electronically. The continued active engagement of our DMG members is crucial for the success of our society. The votes were counted on 6 December 2021; the results of the elections are as follows [All locations in Germany unless otherwise noted]:

VICE-PRESIDENT for 2022 and designated **PRESIDENT** for 2023–2024: Horst Marschall (Frankfurt)

SECRETARY (2022–2023): Klaus-Dieter Grevel (Jena)

TREASURER (2022–2023): Gerhard Franz (Berlin)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBER (2022–2023): Claudia Weidenthaler (Mülheim/Ruhr)

STUDENT MEMBER (2022–2023): Leon Waßmund (Halle)

MEMBER (2023–2024): Ralf Dohmen (Bochum)

STUDENT MEMBER (2023–2024): Sheila Tholen (Freiburg)

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY CHIEF EDITOR (2022–2023): Reto Gieré (Philadelphia, USA)

2nd EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF MINERALOGY CHIEF EDITOR (2022–2023): François Holtz (Hannover)

PRESS RELATIONS OFFICER (2022–2023): Birgit Kreher-Hartmann (Jena)