

## **Mineralogical Society Senior Travel Bursary Report**

With the financial support of one of the Mineralogical Society's Senior Travel Bursaries, for which I am extremely grateful, I was able to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of The International Mineralogical Association, held in Budapest, Hungary from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. As at all IMA meetings, there was a wide range of themes and many sessions, the particular draw for me being the session entitled "Alkaline rocks/kimberlites/carbonatites" within the "Petrology and geochemistry" theme. The session included the greatest number of presentations, which extended over nearly two full days, together with numerous posters. I presented a paper, on behalf of myself and co-author Ken Bailey, on "The crucial role of lithosphere structure in the generation and release of carbonatites: geological evidence". There has been an extraordinary increase in recent years in research directed at trying to elucidate the genesis of the somewhat enigmatic igneous rocks known as carbonatites, including experimental, petrological and geochemical work. However, in our opinion, certain geological features of occurrences of these rocks have been neglected, which do, we consider, afford significant insights into the petrogenesis of carbonatites.

As at all such meetings discussion with others working on similar problems was invaluable, and we particularly noted the apparently increasing overlap in kimberlite and carbonatite in terms of petrogenesis. I was notably struck by insights afforded by work on kimberlites and, indeed, have completely dropped my former prejudice that kimberlites and carbonatites are not related petrogenetically.

As I had hoped I met a number of petrologists familiar with alkaline rocks in eastern Europe who happily vetted ongoing work of mine in this area and provided new contacts and missed references. After the close of the meeting I participated in a two day field excursion to an area north of Lake Balaton which is peppered with basaltic intrusions and small volcanoes within which mantle xenoliths are abundant. I was fortunate enough to find one mantle xenolith about the size of a football. It seemed appropriate to present this to Professor Szabó, the leader of the field trip, who will add it to the collection of the Geology Department at Eötvös University.

Once again I would like to extend my thanks to The Mineralogical Society for helping me to attend what was scientifically an invaluable meeting, but also one for which the organisers should be congratulated for their exemplary organisation.

Alan Woolley

Natural History Museum, London