

## CHRONICLE

Symposium on West Antarctic Geology  
Salamanca, Spain, June 1992

As a part of celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Discovery of the American continent by Christopher Columbus, the IIIrd Congress of Spanish Geologists and the VIIIth Congress of Latinoamerican Geologists met together in Salamanca, Spain. They jointly sponsored a Symposium on West Antarctic Geology organized by Professor Jerónimo López-Martínez from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, held at the ancient University of Salamanca on 25–26 June 1992. A volume of invited lectures and shorter presentations was published already prior to the meeting, under the title *Geología de la Antártida Occidental* (J. López-Martínez, ed., III Congr. Geol. Esp. & VIII Congr. Latinoamer. Geol., Salamanca, España, Simpos. 3, 1992: 358 pp.), covering a wide spectrum of Earth sciences: Metamorphism and magmatism (5 papers); Pre-Cenozoic stratigraphy (3 papers); Tectonics (4 papers); Marine geology and geophysics (8 papers); Cenozoic glacial history and geomorphology (7 papers); Glaciology and Hydrology (3 papers). It was supplemented by an Annex – The Topographic Map of Hurd Paninsula, Livingston Island, to a 1:25,000 scale.

The Symposium was a very good opportunity to review the state of geological research in the wide surroundings of Bransfield Strait, the South Shetland Islands and northern Antarctic Peninsula. The venue in the magnificent old city of Salamanca with its beautiful churches, houses, plazas and streets, and hospitable people, could not be better chosen for that occasion. The Symposium demonstrated an important role the Spanish and Latinoamerican Earth-scientists are playing in the international research in West Antarctica, with 26 out of 30 papers presented by them during the symposium.

The four invited lectures presented during the Symposium were: F. Hervé (Chile), *Present knowledge about the metamorphism and plutonism in the Antarctic Peninsula north of 65 degrees S and the South Shetland Archipelago: Review and problems* (in Spanish); M. R. A. Thomson (UK), *Stratigraphy and age of the pre-Cenozoic stratified rocks of the South Shetland Islands: Review*; R. A. J. Trouw and L. A. P. Gamboa, *Geotranssect Drake Passage – Weddell Sea. A discussion of the main tectonic features* (in Portuguese); and K. Birkenmajer, *Cenozoic glacial history of the South Shetland Islands and northern Antarctic Peninsula*.

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