

Association Announcements

SECOND WILLIAM CHRISTIAN KRUMBEIN MEDALLIST: WALTHER SCHWARZACHER

During the first symposium sponsored by the International Association for Mathematical Geology at a national meeting of the Geological Society of America, Walther Schwarzacher was presented with the Krumbein Medal for 1977 by the Association's President, Daniel F. Merriam. Born in Austria in 1925, Walther Schwarzacher has been Professor of Mathematical Geology at The Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, since 1975, although he has been a member of the academic staff there since 1951. Even if not familiar with all of his impressive list of journal articles, most readers will know Professor Schwarzacher's 392-page monograph, "Sedimentation Models and Quantitative Stratigraphy," published by Elsevier in 1975, as Volume 19 in their "Developments in Sedimentology" Series.

Professor Schwarzacher studied geology, mathematics, and geophysics at the University of Innsbruck where he came under the influence of Professor



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Bruno Sander. This naturally led to early papers on carbonate petrology and the fabric and structures of sedimentary rocks. As a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Cambridge, England, 1949–1951, he was encouraged by Percival Allen to delve more deeply into statistics. This led to fabric studies of sediments and ice, and to quantitative analyses of cyclic sedimentary phenomena. Schwarzacher became particularly interested in the applications of statistical time-series analysis and of general computer methods to sedimentary-rock sequences; much of his recent work is synthesized in his 1975 book mentioned above.

Walther Schwarzacher first met Bill Krumbein in 1959 when the latter was on sabbatical leave in Britain. That meeting led to many subsequent professional contacts between them, contacts which were aided by Professor Schwarzacher having been a Visiting Research Associate at the Kansas Geological Survey (1967–1968) and Visiting Research Professor at the University of Indiana (summer 1970) and the University of Syracuse (winter 1975). Schwarzacher is a member of the Council of the International Association for Mathematical Geology.

E. H. Timothy Whitten
Secretary General
IAMG