

Technical Communication

Twenty years of the International Mine Water Association Journal – the First Issue

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Abstract: Twenty years ago, IMWA's journal was first published. This article commemorates that milestone and provides a brief overview of the issue.

Key words: Mine Water and the Environment; IMWA history; IMWA journal

Introduction

Twenty years ago, in March 1982, the first issue of the "International Journal of Mine Water" was published (Figure 1). Eventually, that journal evolved into the journal that you are currently reading. The first issue was the second milestone in the history of the International Mine Water Association (IMWA), after it was founded 3 years before in Granada, Spain

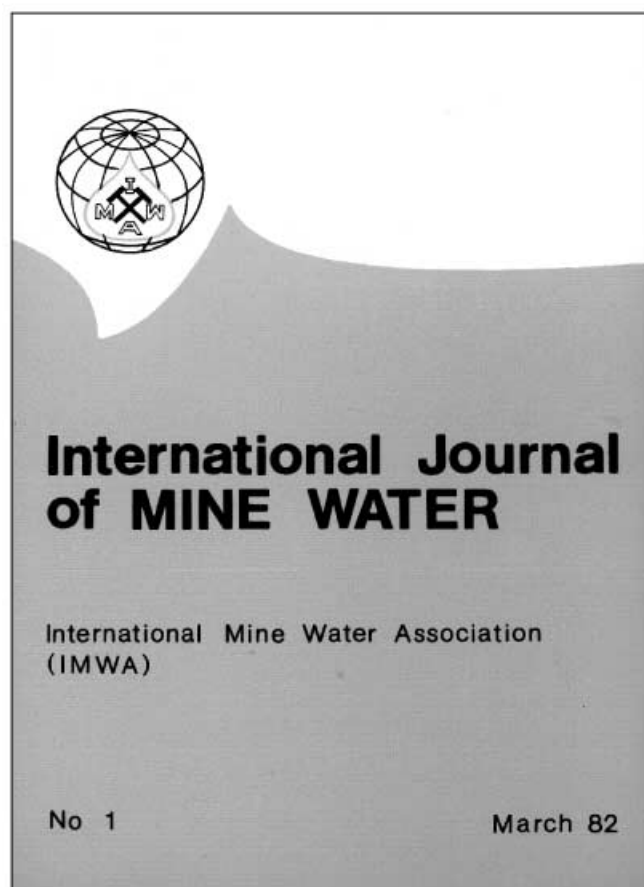


Figure 1. Cover of IMWA's first issue of the International Journal of Mine Water

during the 1st International Mine Drainage Symposium. Since then, 18 volumes with 1-4 issues per year were published, with only the years 1996-1997 missing, due to health problems of the then-Editor-in-Chief.

From March 1982 to April 2000, IMWA published the journal on its own (ISSN 0255-6960), with printing quality varying from issue to issue according to circumstance. In 1991, the journal's title was changed to Mine Water and the Environment, and its circulation began to expand beyond the IMWA membership.

Since December 2000, IMWA has published its journal using the well-known German publishing firm, Springer, Berlin Heidelberg (ISSN 1025-9112), including an electronic version available through the Internet (ISSN 1616-1068).

International Mine Water Association (IMWA)

International Journal of Mine Water

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University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, U.S.A.

Figure 2. International Editorial Board of the first issue of the International Journal of Mine Water

The first issue: March 1982

Raghu Nath Singh and Rafael Fernández-Rubio were the first Joint Editors, Barry N. Whittaker, the Editorial Advisor and the Editorial Board consisted of Charles O. Brawner, Zsolt Kesserű, and Roy F. Williams (Figure 2). Within the 52-page issue, 5 articles were published dealing with underground and surface mining in coal and metal mines. Two articles were dedicated to acid mine drainage, with one already dealing with the microbiological effects of acid mine water formation (Figure 3).

Brawner described methods and case histories of surface water inflow into open pits. His work focused on slope stability and gave an overview of methods to control ground and surface water inflow.

Norton's article recorded a similar problem in Scotland. He focused on the description of mine drainage and pumping methods in open cast mining and described the need for hydrogeological investigations.

Another view of the problem was given by Libicki, who described the negative influences of ground

water drawdown and the environmental effects of surface mining. As an alternative approach, he recommended preventive methods.

Atkins and Pooley provided an interesting article on the role of microorganisms in the formation of acid mine drainage. Furthermore, they outlined the corrosive effects of acid mine drainage on mining equipment.

The Sheibach, Williams, and Genes article presented a case study from the Pitcher Mining District, Oklahoma. Their investigations focused on acid generation within the underground workings and the remediation possibilities for the Superfund site.

Canada, the United Kingdom, Poland, and the United States of America were the countries from which the first eight authors came from. Furthermore, there were already articles from company members, universities, and from colleagues working in mining authorities.

Interestingly enough, those 5 articles marked subjects that Mine Water and the Environment still emphasises. While the printing quality and the appearance of the journal have changed from year to year, these subjects were always of high interest to the mining industry – and, obviously, still are.

Journal's aims

A characteristic of IMWA's journal is a mixture of technical communications and technical articles, serving both practitioners and research scientists. This characteristic could already been seen in this first issue, where descriptions of technical approaches and the results of scientific investigations were published in the same issue.

Raghu Singh and Rafael Fernández-Rubio, with this first issue of the International Journal of Mine Water, started a tradition, which the current Editors, Bob Kleinmann and Colin Booth, still follow. The perspective and insight that the first editors had regarding the need for a mine water journal are the basis of IMWA's continued success. Mine Water and the Environment's tradition is still based on the 1982 objectives of the journal: improved exploitation of mineral deposits consistent with the desirable standards of safety against water hazards; increased protection of the environment against the impact of mine drainage and related activities; improved utilisation of mine waters; and improved technology and economy of mine drainage control operations.

Happy birthday to Mine Water and the Environment, and good luck for the next two decades!

International Mine Water Association	
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MINE WATER	
No.1, March 1982	
<u>Contents</u>	
1. Control of Groundwater in Surface Mining by C. O. Brawner	1
2. Groundwater Problems in Surface Coal Mining in Scotland by P. J. Norton	17
3. Changes in the Groundwater Due to Surface Mining by Jacek Libicki	25
4. The Effects of Bio-mechanisms on Acidic Mine Drainage in Coal Mining by A. S. Atkins and F. D. Pooley	31
5. Controlling Acid Mine Drainage from the Picher Mining District, Oklahoma, United States by R. B. Sheibach, R. E. Williams and B. R. Genes	45

Figure 3. Contents of the first issue of the "International Journal of Mine Water".