



Introduction to US4: History, culture, art and religion in the geosciences

Paul Glover

Université Laval, Département de géologie et de génie géologique, Canada (paglover@ggl.ulaval.ca)

The Annual General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (and EGS before it) has always provided a platform for the reporting and debate of high quality geoscience in a very focussed manner. The breadth of its sections and sessions allows most geoscientists to present their work to like-minded colleagues or interdisciplinarily. However, many geoscientists have even wider interests: interests in history, art, politics and economics. Many have diverse abilities in music, painting, sculpture, and practice them as amateurs or to a high standard.

Today we fill the gap, by providing a session with the broadest of scopes: History, culture, art and religion in the geosciences

I hope that the session will appeal to all those geoscientists who wish to practice their science in the context of the wider culture. According to William Blake

"To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour."

Only, in our case it is more like an hour and a half, and I hope it does not seem like an eternity!