Andean Metallogeeny: 
New Discoveries, Concepts, and Updates

Editors
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SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS, INC.
We are privileged to dedicate this Special Publication to the memory of our late friends and colleagues, Jorge Injoque and Tomás Vila, both of whom passed away during its preparation. Andean exploration will sorely miss the contributions of these senior and accomplished practitioners.

Jorge Injoque (1953–2003)

Jorge Injoque was murdered in a field camp in southern Peru during a violent robbery in July 2003. Jorge, who gained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Nottingham in England, was one of Peru’s best-known geologists, and he had a varied career working in Peru with the Geological Survey (INGEMMET), Compañía de Minas Buenaventura, Río Tinto Mining and Exploration, and Noranda, as well as working as an independent consultant with several companies in Peru, and with Anaconda Chile and Río Tinto in Chile. He explored widely for base and precious metal deposits, although a long-standing special interest was the volcanogenic massive sulfide, manto-type copper, and iron oxide-copper-gold deposits in the Coastal Cordillera of Chile and Peru, on which he published several papers (e.g., Injoque et al., 1988; Injoque, 1999, 2002).

Tomás Vila (1946–2004)

Tomás Vila died in April 2004 after a hard-fought battle with kidney cancer. Tomás, who conducted graduate studies at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, had a diverse career during which he worked on non-metallic mineral deposits of northern Chile with the Chilean Geological Survey (then the Instituto de Investigaciones Geológicas) and lectured at the Universidad del Norte de Chile before working with the Comisión Chilena de Energía Nuclear, Conoco Chile, and Minera Utah de Chile. He then moved to Anglo American Chile, with whom he was a key player in discovery of the porphyry gold and high-sulfidation epithermal gold-silver deposits of the Maricunga belt. He eventually became Exploration Manager for Anglo American Chile before joining Codelco-Chile. He published a number of well-known articles (e.g., Vila, 1990; Vila and Sillitoe, 1991; Vila et al., 1996), with his last in this volume (Rivera et al., 2004).

REFERENCES


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The Andes of South America, especially Chile and Peru, have undergone intense grassroots and brownfields exploration over the last decade, which has resulted in several new base and precious metal discoveries as well as substantial additions to a number of known deposits and districts. During the course of this activity and as a result of complementary research, a variety of new geologic concepts have evolved. The purpose of this Special Publication is to bring a flavor of these exciting developments in economic geology to explorers and researchers active in the Andes as well as elsewhere. The deposits and areas that are the subjects of the 19 papers in the volume are shown in Figure 1.

The papers in this volume were presented at either the 11th Peruvian Geological Congress held September 2002 in Lima, Peru, or the 10th Chilean Geological Congress held October 2003 in Concepción, Chile, both of which had economic geology sessions sponsored by the Society of Economic Geologists. Many other important papers on Andean ore deposits were also delivered on both occasions, abstracts for which are available in the respective abstracts volumes, and in the case of the Concepción congress, also as a CD-ROM prepared by the Universidad de Concepción.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the authors on their efforts and thank them for approximating our deadlines. Ten of the lead authors are from industry, six from academia, and the other three are consultants. Indeed, of the total of 60 authors, two-thirds are from industry if consultants are included. Certainly, acknowledgment is due to the many mining companies that have given time and facilities for the preparation of a substantial part of the volume as well as for permitting the timely release of new information on their properties. Clearly an example to be encouraged! It should also be recorded that the first authors of nine of the papers and half the total authorship are South American, and more specifically, Andean. In token recognition of this fact as well as the subject matter, all papers have both Spanish and English abstracts, a new departure for the Society.

Compilation of this volume would have been impossible without the unstinting collaboration of the reviewers: Antonio Arribas, Geoff Ballantyne, Bob Brathwaite, Pancho Camus, Bill Chávez, Alan Clark, Lluís Fontboté, Richard Garnett, Fred Graybeal, Lew Gustafson, Jeff Hedenquist, Richard Herrington, Raymond Jannas, David John, Sue Kay, Ross Large, Rich Leveille, René Marocco, Peter Megaw, Cocho Mpodozis, Carlos Münchmeyer, Rainer Newberry, Don Noble, Rubén Padilla, Peter Pitfield, Peter Pollard, John Proffett, Gerry Ray, Jeremy Richards, Eric Seedorff, Stuart Simmons, John Thompson, Tommy Thompson, Spence Titley, Steve Turner, and Noel White. Muchas gracias a todos!

Richard H. Sillitoe, José Perelló, and César E. Vidal