

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the DMG,



Astrid Holzheid

Balloting for the new Council and committee members of the DMG closed at the end of November. I would like to thank all of the 363 DMG members who sent me their postal ballots. The ballots were counted on December 16, 2013, by S. Jung (DMG Council member) and two other DMG members. The results of the elections are as follows, with the number of votes in parentheses:

VICE PRESIDENT for 2014 and designated PRESIDENT for 2015–2016 – François Holtz (299)

SECRETARY (2014–2015) – F. Michael Meyer (294)

TREASURER (2014–2015) – Gerhard Franz (293)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(2014–2015) – Karin Appel (134)

(2015–2016) – Cristina Maria Pinheiro De Campos (104)

EJM CHIEF EDITOR (2014–2015) – Reto Gieré (283)

NEWS EDITOR *Gmt* and *ELEMENTS* (2014–2015) – Klaus-Dieter Grevel (263)

DGK LIAISON OFFICER (2014–2015) – Ulrich Bismayer (264)

VICE DGK LIAISON OFFICER (2014–2015) – Jürgen Schreuer (252)

VICE CHAIRPERSONS 2014 and designated CHAIRPERSONS 2015–2016 for the following sections:

CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, AND CRYSTALLOGRAPHY OF MINERALS – Volker Presser (48)

GEOCHEMISTRY – Stefan Weyer (106)

PETROLOGY AND PETROPHYSICS – Wolfgang Bach (102)

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY – Stefan Stöber (59)

COMMITTEES FOR 2015–2016

ABRAHAM-GOTTLOB-WERNER MEDAL – Hans Keppler, Monika Koch-Müller, Gregor Markl, Klaus Mezger, Carsten Münker, Wolfgang Schmahl (282)

VIKTOR-MORITZ-GOLDSCHMIDT PRIZE – Friedhelm von Blanckenburg (177), Marcus Nowak (172), Andrea Koschinsky-Fritsche (147), Heinz-Günter Stosch (180)

GEORG-AGRICOLA MEDAL – Cornelia Boberski, Herbert Pöllmann, Thomas Holzapfel, Hans-Joachim Kleebe, Klaus Nickel (267)

TEACHING AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS for 2014–2015 – Lutz Hecht, Peter Schmid-Beurmann, Burkhard Schmidt, Roland Stalder (271)

I congratulate the newly elected members of the DMG Council and also thank all resigning Council members for their efforts and commitment to the DMG. I wish you all the best for 2014 and hope to see you at the annual DMG meeting in Jena.

Yours sincerely,

**Astrid Holzheid**, DMG President

## A PRIMARY SCHOOL MEETS MINERALOGY

In the spring of 2013, a lively debate about public relations in mineralogy started in the DMG forum. The main points were: How can we explain to the world that mineralogy is important? How can we attract attention in the public sphere? What is a good public relations strategy for mineralogy? At this point, the Horizontereignis Limited nonprofit company and the Department of Mineralogy at the Free University of Berlin started a project called “The Alchemists and the Philosopher’s Stone,” which was targeted at the Geißenweide primary school in Berlin-Marzahn. What for? The idea was that children have no prejudices against science or others fields. They just do what they like and they just like what they like. If it is possible to demonstrate to these children the absolutely wonderful world of mineralogy, they will tell their parents and friends. Hopefully, in this way we can start to open the minds of these people. And the next time they hear or read about mineralogy, maybe they won’t turn away or turn the page but remember what happened in school.



(1) Visiting the mineral collection of the Department of Mineralogy at the Free University Berlin. (2) Designing a poster with the topic “Minerals in Mobile Phones.” (3) Tinkering with and coloring a paper crystal system.

The three-day project took place in June 2013 with 15 pupils aged 10 to 12 years. We started by visiting the mineral collection of the Free University (Fig. 1). From the moment we left the school, the children started picking up little stones from the street, wanting to identify them. At the FU, we showed the children some selected minerals and taught them how they could identify them themselves. Afterwards we chose fantastic mineral aggregates and let the children do the identifying. No problem for these smart kids! Then, we inspected the same minerals under the microscope. How fascinated the children were about how colorful rocks can be. They detected twins and figured out that they change if you turn the microscope stage, and the colors do too. On our way back to school, the children were now able to identify their street rocks by themselves.

On the second day we learned about the necessity of minerals and thus of mineralogists. The children were absolutely free to read up on websites and books, and to select a special mineral to present. In group work they designed a poster about their respective topic and presented it in front of the class. The selected topics were: gemstones, healing stones, and minerals in mobile phones (Fig. 2). Also on this day, we grew crystals (to have something to show at home) and, as an example of what minerals are used for, we started to produce our own paint pigments out of minerals.



On the third day, we explained that mineralogy is not only mineralogy. It is also chemistry and physics and mathematics and more. We started with mathematics and brought some paper crafts of different crystal systems. The task was to figure out how to make a 3-D model out of the paper and determine which mineral the distinct model could represent. In parallel, the “chemistry lab” was opened, and the children finished painting their colors from the previous day and gave the crystal paper models a perfect mineral color (Fig. 3).

Finally – the big presentation of the project in front of the school and the parents. On the afternoon of the third day, the children had to present their project as part of the garden party of the school. And they did so with great pride! They explained to everybody everything they had learned about minerals. They showed pictures and posters and made PowerPoint presentations, and they let the parents and other children tinker with a paper crystal system.

What was the result of this project? During the party, a lot of parents came up to us and thanked us for these three days. The children were totally fascinated and went home talking about nothing but minerals. The kids asked us to work at their school forever, and the school invited us to define more projects for the next school year. But the question is always about money. So, one school in Berlin is now infected with mineralogy fever. Let’s see how to feed and spread this fever in the future.

**Cornelia Meyer** (conny@horizontereignis.de)  
CEO of Horizontereignis gUGe

**DMG**  
Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft

**92<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Annual Meeting**

**Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft**

**JENA**  
**21–24 September 2014**

**Minerals at Focal Point**

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**Conference Chair**  
Falko Langenhorst  
Institute of Geosciences • Department of Mineralogy  
Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena



#### Topics

- Petrology, Ore Mineralogy, Geo- and Cosmochemistry
- Applied Mineralogy
- Crystallography, Physics and Chemistry of Minerals

**Abstract Deadline: 30 May 2014**

**Abstract Submission and Registration: [www.dmg2014.de](http://www.dmg2014.de)**

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY – 2014

In July 2012, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the resolution that 2014 would be the International Year of Crystallography, 100 years after the award of the Nobel Prize for the discovery of X-ray diffraction by crystals. The SFMC participates actively as a member of the steering committee for the “International Year of Crystallography in France – AICr2014,” notably in the organisation and promotion of the celebratory events in France. Many events (conferences, exhibitions, crystal-growing competition, and others) are scheduled throughout the year and throughout France. Information about these events and others can be found on the website [www.aicr2014.fr/](http://www.aicr2014.fr/).

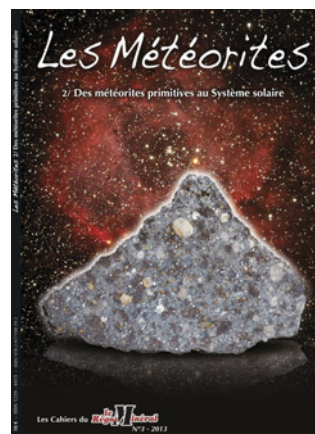
## MATÉRIAUX 2014

Montpellier **24-28 NOVEMBRE**

The “Matériaux 2014” conference will be held in Montpellier in November 2014. The deadline for abstract submission is April 7, 2014. Information is available on the website [www.materiaux2014.net/](http://www.materiaux2014.net/).

## LES MÉTÉORITES 2 / DES MÉTÉORITES PRIMITIVES AU SYSTÈME SOLAIRE

In October 2013, the journal *Le Règne Minéral* ([www.leregnemineral.fr](http://www.leregnemineral.fr)) published its second special issue (100 pages in French) devoted to meteorites and aimed at a wide but scientifically oriented audience. While the first one dealt with differentiated meteorites, this new issue explores the world of chondrites and the small Solar System bodies from which they originate. It contains a general introduction and monographs on two special French meteorites (the Orgueil CI and the latest French fall, Draveil). A whole chapter is devoted to chondrite groups, their possible relationships and significance, and how to identify them.



Individual chondritic components are then explored (chondrules, CAIs, matrix, presolar grains, metal), as well as parent-body transformations. The remaining chapters are devoted to the atmospheric phenomena associated with meteorite falls, to chondrite parent bodies and to the early Solar System. In addition to numerous diagrams and tables, the book is illustrated with ~150 new pictures of meteorites and meteorite sections. The authors of the twenty chapters are meteoritists, physicists and astrophysicists from various public research institutions and universities, mostly in France, but also in the US and Germany. This handsome and well-documented volume should prove a valuable resource for both students and colleagues working in related fields who wish to learn more about chondrites.

## MINTEM 2014

The third school on the theme “Transmission Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy” organized by the SFMC, will be held at the University of Lille on 3–7 November 2014. The number of participants is limited to 12. The school will interest graduate students, post-docs and researchers. For more information and registration, go to the website <http://umet.univ-lille1.fr/Animation/MinTem.php>.