



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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WELCOME ADDRESS BY BERNARDO CESARE, SIMP PRESIDENT 2014–2015



Dear friends and colleagues,

Let me first express the gratitude of SIMP and my personal recognition to Past President Giuseppe Cruciani, who served the Society with a relentless dedication that will be hard to match.

In Italy, mineralogy and petrology, and scientific research in general, suffer from a “split personality” that varies depending on the point of observation. From the outside, the point of view of most readers of *Elements*, and considering research outcomes and achievements in science, Italian mineralogy in the wide sense is alive and well: the number, impact and citations of papers are high and increasing. The same holds for our involvement in activities at the international level, where numerous Italian colleagues are chairs or members of panels, editorial boards, and organizing committees, or are prize awardees. In recognition of such international relevance, SIMP has been chosen to host the European Mineralogical Conference in 2016.

The situation changes when observed from the inside. It is sad for me to reiterate what my predecessors outlined on these pages two and four years ago: a tragic perspective for Italian research and a sense of impotence among scientists. Not only are we facing a drastic and increasing (if that is possible) cut of funds, we are also, and more importantly, seeing a decrease in human resources. Given our good scientific productivity, low resources imply that Italians carry out very cost-effective research (as outlined in the ANVUR-VQR 2013 reports). However, low resources also bring seriously into question the survival of the geosciences in Italy! The next two years will be fundamental for redesigning Italian Earth sciences, and SIMP will do its best to achieve a better coordination of societies, and to build the common commitment that is key for improving the visibility and importance of the geosciences in public policy and understanding.

I see a few priorities for SIMP, including organizing a lively and vigorous congress in September 2014, jointly with the Italian Geological Society, and reinvigorating a sense of belonging among members, especially the youngest researchers and students. In the meanwhile, we want to increase our efforts with DMG, SEM, and SFMC aimed at improving the status of the *European Journal of Mineralogy* among the major international journals.

That is surely enough for my two-year mandate, and I will do my best to accomplish these goals.

Bernardo Cesare, University of Padova
SIMP President 2014–2015

INTERNATIONAL ECLOGITE CONFERENCE

The 10th International Eclogite Conference (September 2–10, 2013; www.iec2013.unito.it) took place at Courmayeur, Aosta Valley, Italy. It included a three-day meeting, with oral and poster sessions, and pre-, syn-, and post-conference field excursions (see the conference report in the December 2013 issue, page 475). The 10th IEC was organized by the Petrology Research Group at the Department of Earth Sciences of Torino, in cooperation with the corresponding research group at the Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland. The University of Torino, SIMP, the Italian Geological Society, and the Italian Earth Sciences Federation sponsored the conference. The



Participants in the post-conference field trip to the Dora-Maira massif

municipalities of Courmayeur, Fontainemore and Quincinetto and the Po River Park provided valuable help with logistics during the meeting and field excursions.

In the photograph, participants in the post-conference excursion are standing in front of the famous “pyrope outcrop” of Case Ramello at Martiniana Po, where Christian Chopin, in 1984, first reported metamorphic coesite in the pyrope–kyanite–phengite whiteschists of the southern Dora-Maira massif.

SIMP 2013 BIANCHI PRIZE (FOR PETROLOGY) TO EUGENIO NICOTRA



Eugenio Nicotra graduated from the University of Catania (Italy) in 2006 with a thesis on the volcanology of an ancient eruptive centre at Etna. He finished his PhD in petrography and petrology at the University of Catania in 2010, submitting a thesis on the genesis and differentiation processes of some prehistoric Etnean magmas. He won a postdoctoral fellowship in 2010 at Catania to study the geochemical features, ascent

dynamics and eruptive styles of Mt. Etna. Since 2012, he has been a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Calabria (Italy), where he is working on the petrographic and geochemical features of magmatic systems in rift zones, with particular reference to Ethiopia and Iceland. He integrates his investigations of magmatic processes in different volcanic systems (e.g. Etna, Aeolian Islands, Main Ethiopian Rift, Iceland, Kamchatka) with studies on the role played by regional and local tectonics in eruptive behavior. To reach his research objectives, he uses whole-rock analyses (major and trace elements and the isotopic compositions of Sr, Nd, Pb, Hf and O) together with textural and micro-analytical data on crystals and their inclusions. He is the author or coauthor of 12 articles in international journals, plus 31 abstracts and contributions to the proceedings of national and international congresses.

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