



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

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NEWS FROM LONDON



The clock is ticking down to Euroclay 2015, which takes place on 5–10 July 2015, in Edinburgh (Scotland). There will be five associated field trips, including a weeklong pre-conference zeolite trip, a short course and a workshop, as well as four full days of science. This event is jointly organized by the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society and the Clay Minerals Society on behalf of the European Clay Groups Association. Prof. Steve Hillier (of the James Hutton Institute) is responsible for organizing the event.

Clay and fine-particle science has always been pursued across a wide variety of traditional scientific disciplines. The Euroclay 2015 sessions reflect this broad reach and have been aligned with three cross-cutting societal research themes: energy, materials and environment and health.

Clay science has always had close links with energy research (e.g. the discovery and recovery of hydrocarbons) and is more relevant than ever in the drive for enhanced hydrocarbon recovery and in fracking clay-rich shales. Clay science also plays a vital role in the safe containment of nuclear waste.

As far as materials are concerned, clay must qualify as the oldest branch of all materials science. Yet clays define some of the newest material developments and probably rank as the most important and versatile of all of man's industrial minerals because of the wealth of modern uses and applications.

Environment and health are also key areas where clay research contributes to society. Careful, but innovative, management of soils will be key to future food and water security as population pressures increase; we are only beginning to make a modern exploration of the many interactions and uses of clay minerals in relation to health.

The sessions and symposia at Euroclay 2015 have been assembled with these three themes in mind. We are also encouraging scientists in related disciplines to attend because we inevitably all profit from interacting with one another; layered compounds and zeolites can easily form the basis for a discussion. And there is unlimited scope for the general sessions to accommodate the additional breadth and wealth of clay-related topics that define the modern science.

The list of sessions is as follows:

- Bentonites: linking clay science with technology
- Industry perspectives in clay and fine-particle science
- Developments and applications of quantitative analysis to clay-bearing materials, incorporating 'The Reynolds Cup School'
- Asian Clay Minerals Group Research in Progress (II) (part of Euroclay 2015)

- Clay and fine particle-based materials for environmental technologies and clean-up
- Beyond smectite-based nanocomposites
- Bioreactive clay minerals: impacts on environmental and human health
- Structural characterization of lamellar compounds
- The many faces of chlorite
- From microscopic pore structures to transport properties in shales (workshop follow-on session)
- Clay minerals in the oil and gas industry
- Computational chemistry studies of clay minerals – bridging length- and time-scales
- Natural zeolites – environmental, biomedical and industrial applications
- Clays in the Critical Zone: soils, weathering and elemental cycling
- Clay mineral indices in palaeogeothermal studies, hydrocarbon and geothermal prospecting – third Frey-Kübler symposium
- Halloysite: a unique, diverse and widely useful natural nanomaterial

Online registration is still possible at www.euroclay2015.org.

Martin Feely



Martin Feely, a long-standing member of the society, formally retired from his post as professor in the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the National University of Ireland, Galway, in November 2014. Readers of this magazine will be interested to see the cake prepared for his leaving party. You are invited to suggest a caption for this entirely edible (including hammer and hand-lens) geo-cake (kevin@minersoc.org)!

MEMBERSHIP

There are still some membership dues outstanding for 2015. Please pay immediately if you haven't already done so. Go to www.minersoc.org and click on Member Login. Thanks.



Mineralogical Magazine

The November 2014 issue of *Mineralogical Magazine* is a special, online only, open access issue of the journal devoted to papers by researchers in the 'MINSC (Mineral Scale Formation)' and 'CO₂ React' Research and Training Networks. The list of contents is as follows:

- Christine V. Putnis, Encarnación Ruiz-Agudo and Jörn Hövelmann: Coupled fluctuations in element release during dolomite dissolution
- F. di Lorenzo, R. M. Rodríguez-Galán and M. Prieto: Kinetics of the solvent-mediated transformation of hydromagnesite into magnesite at different temperatures
- Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco, Beatriz Vallina, Jesus A. Blanco and Liane G. Benning: The role of REE³⁺ in the crystallization of lanthanites
- D. B. Meier, E. Gunnlaugsson, I. Gunnarsson, B. Jamtveit, C. L. Peacock and L. G. Benning: Microstructural and chemical variation in silica-rich precipitates at the Hellisheiði geothermal power plant
- Beatriz Vallina, Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco, Jesus A. Blanco and Liane G. Benning: The effect of heating on the morphology of crystalline neodymium hydroxycarbonate, NdCO₃OH
- Prathap Moola, Berger Sigfússon and Andri Stefánsson: Pore-volume alteration measurements to evaluate scale formation during solid–fluid interactions
- U.-N. Berninger, G. Jordan, J. Schott and E. H. Oelkers: The experimental determination of hydromagnesite precipitation rates at 22.5–75 °C
- Fernando Berro, Matteo Lelli, Ilaria Minardi and Giorgio Virgili: A procedure for eliminating sulfide interference on silica colorimetric analysis
- Cristina Ruiz-Agudo, Christine V. Putnis and Andrew Putnis: The effect of a copolymer inhibitor on baryte precipitation
- Thomas Rinder and Eric H. Oelkers: On the colorimetric measurement of aqueous Si in the presence of organic ligands and common pH buffering agents
- M. Prieto: Nucleation and supersaturation in porous media (revisited)
- Tamara Diedrich, Jacques Schott and Eric H. Oelkers: An experimental study of tremolite dissolution rates as a function of pH and temperature: Implications for tremolite toxicity and its use in carbon storage
- Taher Rabizadeh, Caroline L. Peacock and Liane G. Benning: Carboxylic acids: effective inhibitors for calcium sulfate precipitation?
- Jan Prikryl and Andri Stefánsson: CO₂ mineralization by olivine at hydrothermal conditions
- J. Olsson, S. L. S. Stipp and S. R. Gislason: Element scavenging by recently formed travertine deposits in the alkaline springs from the Oman Semail Ophiolite
- Deirdre E. Clark, Marjolein F. A. Vogels, Marcel van der Perk, Philip N. Owens and Ellen L. Petticrew: Effects of a small-scale, abandoned gold mine on the geochemistry of fine stream-bed and floodplain sediments in the Horsefly River watershed, British Columbia, Canada
- B. Y. Zhen-Wu, K. Dideriksen, D. A. Belova, P. J. Raahauge and S. L. S. Stipp: A comparison of standard thermodynamic properties and solubility data for baryte, Ba²⁺(aq) and SO₄²⁻(aq)

Kevin Murphy
Executive Director
Mineralogical Society



It was a busy 2014 for SIMP. Our society was involved in several activities that had as their aim the better promotion and awareness of mineralogy and petrology both in Italy and abroad.

Many grants and awards given out during 2014. SIMP awarded 18 grants to selected members to participate in Italian and international meetings; two prizes of equal merit were awarded for the best scientific paper by a young researcher (to Matteo Ardit and Cristian Biagioni); three grants were awarded for the recipients to study abroad (to Sara Callegaro, Silvia Gentili and Vincenza Guarino); four prizes of equal merit were awarded for the best PhD theses in mineralogy and petrology (to Veronica D'Ippolito, Elisa Gasparini, Davide Novella and Luca Ziberna).

On the social network side, SIMP Facebook profile is gaining more and more “likes,” and this indicates how important it is to grab the attention of the younger generation of researchers using social media.

SIMP joined with the Italian Geological Society to sponsor the 3rd series of distinguished lectures: these focused on planetary deposition environments (Gian Gabriele Ori) and on quasicrystals found in meteorites (Luca Bindi). The two lecturers travelled throughout Italy during 2014 and will continue giving their lectures during the first half of 2015.

The Cultural Heritage School was organised by the Georesources, Environment and Cultural Heritages informal group and was held in Catania (1–4 July 2014), and the School on Geological and Practical Application on Mineral Physics (Bressanone, 2–5 February 2015) was organised by the National Mineralogy informal group. Our society has also sponsored many Italian and international meetings over the last year, such as the *Giornate Mineralogiche di Tavagnasco* and the Himalaya–Karakorum–Tibet workshop.

We celebrated the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr2014) by supporting several events organized by SIMP members: the exhibition “*Cristalli!*” started in Padova and then travelled across Italy; “*Cristalli ai raggi-X*” was held in Modena; “*Vedere l'invisibile*” was held in Perugia; the 1st European Crystallography School was held in Pavia; and there was the Accademia dei Lincei workshop, “IYCr2014 Challenges in Crystallography.”

SIMP has also sponsored Diamond School held in Bressanone (http://www.indimedeia.eu/diamond_school_2015.htm), and will support the 8th European Conference on Mineralogy and Spectroscopy in Rome (www.ecms2015.eu).

We congratulate several SIMP fellows who were elected to the IMA: Marco Pasero (councilor); Federico Pezzotta (chairman of the Commission on Museums); Paola Comodi (secretary of the Commission on Physics of Minerals); and Giovanni Pratesi, Mauro Prencipe, and Francesco Di Benedetto as SIMP representatives on IMA commissions.

The last year will be remembered most of all for the successful meeting (held 10–12 September in Milan; <http://www.geoscienze2014.it/>) that was jointly organized by SIMP and the Italian Geological Society (SGI) and that was featured in the previous issue of *Elements*.

Building on the above success, SIMP has organised a new joint meeting – entitled “The Dynamic Planet: Developments and Perspectives 100 Years After Wegener” – that will feature collaborations with SGI, with the Italian Society of Geochemistry, and with the Italian Association of Volcanology. The meeting will be held September 2–4, 2015, in Florence. There will be a two day pre-congress workshop (August 31st–September 1st) and a one-day post-congress workshop; short courses will accompany the meeting. Full information will be soon available on the SIMP website (www.socminpet.it).