



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

LONDON CALLING

Euroclay 2015, 5–10 July, in Edinburgh (Scotland)

The Euroclay 2015 conference is upon us. We have ~470 delegates as well as ~80 accompanying persons coming to Edinburgh for four days of scientific sessions, a pre-conference workshop, one pre-conference field trip, four mid-conference field trips, a short course, a full programme of social events and a real flavour of Scotland. Watch out for a report in *Elements* later this year.

This is a joint event between the European Clay Groups Association and The Clay Minerals Society, with the UK's Clay Minerals Group (and Prof. Steve Hillier, in particular) being responsible for organizing the event.

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

Clay science has always had close links with **energy** research, the discovery and recovery of hydrocarbons being a prime example. This link is more relevant than ever as we strive to increase recovery and to tap unconventional sources, such as clay-rich shales. And clay-rich shales themselves are the focus of many concepts for the safe containment of nuclear waste.

As far as **materials** are concerned, clay must qualify as the oldest branch of all materials science, yet it continues to define some of the newest of material developments. Clay probably ranks as the most important and versatile of all of man's industrial minerals, with a wealth of modern applications and uses.

Environment and health are also key areas where clay research has much to contribute to society. Careful but innovative management of soils will be key to future food and water security as population pressures increase. With respect to health, we are only beginning to explore the many uses of clay minerals.

Check out the final programme at www.euroclay2015.org/programme. Late registration is still possible but note that we are very close to our maximum of 500.

EMU Notes in Mineralogy, vol. 15

Planetary Mineralogy, edited by Martin Lee, now available.

The contents list is as follows:

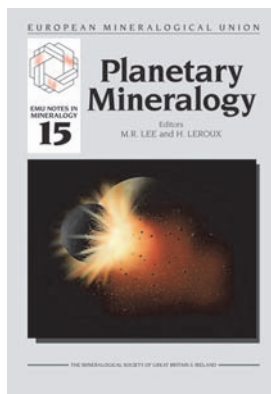
Lunar geology M. Anand, J.J. Barnes and L.J. Hallis

Aqueous alteration in chondritic asteroids and comets from the study of carbonaceous chondrites Josep M. Trigo-Rodriguez

Chondritic meteorites and early solar system solids Ian S. Sanders

Noble gas chemistry of planetary materials Julia A. Cartwright

Isotopic analyses of primitive meteorites Jutta Zipfel



Impact metamorphism in terrestrial and experimental cratering events Alex Deutsch, Michael H. Poelchau and Thomas Kenkmann

Shocked rocks: impacts from the laboratory to the Solar System Mark J. Burchell

Organics in primitive meteorites Laurent Remusat

Micrometeorites Luigi Folco and Carole Cordier

Society Council for 2015

President: F. Wall; General Secretary: K. Goodenough; Treasurer: J. Adams; Publications Manager: P. J. Treloar; Principal Editors, *Mineralogical Magazine*: P. Williams and R. Mitchell; Principal Editor, *Clay Minerals*: G. E. Christidis; Public Relations Officer: A. Kerr

Elements representative: M. E. Hodson; Editor of the Landmark Series: D. J. Vaughan

Ordinary Members of Council: J. Lloyd, M. R. Lee, B. O'Driscoll, C. Corkhill, C. Greenwell, D. Wray (co-opted) M. Tyrer (co-opted) and S. J. Mills (co-opted).

Vacancies for 2016: President and one member of council required for 2016.

Please contact the society (kevin@minersoc.org) if you are willing to serve on Council, on a Special Interest Group Committee, on an editorial board, as a society representative in your local department or in any other way. We are always glad to receive such offers.

Distinguished Lecturers

The Society also welcomes nominations of people willing to serve as a Society Distinguished Lecturer. Each distinguished lecturer is asked to deliver 4–6 talks during the 2015/16 academic year at institutions throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Please suggest the names of candidates to Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org).

Metamorphic Studies Group

There may still be places available to attend a Metamorphic Studies Group field trip to the Shetland Caledonides (Scotland), 17–23 July 2015. See [www.minersoc.org/files/ShetlandFlyer 2015.pdf](http://www.minersoc.org/files/ShetlandFlyer%202015.pdf) for details. Any queries, please contact Anna Bird (a.bird@hull.ac.uk).



Society Bursaries for 2015

The following have been awarded Senior Bursaries for 2015: P. Bots; R. Guildbaud, P. Lancaster and A. Nowacki. The total to be awarded is £1500.

Student Bursaries have been awarded to the following for 2015: D. Backhouse, F. Couperthwaite, L. Hepworth, B. Karykowski, Y. Li, M. Mangler, C. Mann, J. Munnikhuis, A. E. Pickersgill, L. Valetti and M. R. Warke. The total to be awarded is £4850.

Many congratulations to them all – we look forward to receiving reports of their work and to publishing them on the society's website at www.minersoc.org/bursary-report.html



Society Award in Honour of Prof. R. A. Howie: The "Mineralogical Society Best Paper Award"



An award is made annually to "the lead author of the 'best paper' published (in English) in a mineralogical journal (sensu lato) within three years of award of his/her PhD thesis." The award will take the form of a bursary (£1000) to attend an international conference (to be agreed with the society) and present a paper as the "R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture". The money will be paid on receipt of an official confirmation of conference registration.

The "R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture" award is named in honour of Prof. R. A. Howie (1923–2012), a distinguished professor of mineralogy at Kings College London and Royal Holloway University, London. The nomination process is outlined below.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any scientist (including a co-author) but not the nominee him/herself and must be supported by a fellow scientist familiar with the nominee's work.

Nominations must be received by the executive director by **1 September** each year. The society's Awards Committee will consider the nominations and rank them. This ranking will then be passed to the society's council (by mid-October) for a formal decision at the November meeting of that committee. Council will make a decision and inform the winner.

Nominations should consist of a letter of nomination together with at least one letter of support along with a copy of the paper being nominated and a copy of the nominee's CV. The letter(s) should address the criteria outlined below and how any or all of them are met by the paper in question. Each nomination package should be submitted in electronic form (a single pdf file) and sent to the Society's executive director, Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org).

Award criteria

The Awards Committee will take into consideration the following points:

1. Novelty
2. Interdisciplinarity
3. Applicability
4. How science is advanced by the new work

Timing

The nominated paper must have been published in the calendar year before the nomination and within three years of award of the candidate's PhD and will remain on the slate for up to two years.

GNM SCHOOL ON "THE PHYSICS OF MINERALS"

Bressanone (Italy), 2–5 February 2015

In the cold, yet sunny, winter of Bressanone/Brixen, the Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia (GNM) organized a school, held 2–5 February 2015, on The physics of minerals: geological implications and practical applications. The school was organized under the aegis of SIMP and was tailored for MSc and PhD students and for young researchers. All the teaching activities were housed in the Casa della Gioventù, a well-equipped teaching center belonging to the University of Padova. The scientific program lasted four days and included lectures and practical activities with freeware software (equations of state, crystal structure refinements, thermodynamics, and phase diagram calculations). The teaching staff included Gabriella Salviulo (Padova), Marco Pasero (Pisa), Ross J. Angel (Padova), Sergio Speziale (Potsdam), Giovanni B. Andreozzi (Roma), Francesco Princivalle (Trieste), Cristian Biagioni (Pisa), Daniele Antonangeli (Paris), Paola Comodi (Perugia), Donato Belmonte (Genova), Gilberto Artioli (Padova), Alessandro F. Gualtieri (Modena), and Giuseppe Cruciani (Ferrara).



Group photo of GNM school participants



Giulia Guidobaldi

Veronica D'Ippolito

The school was attended by 39 students who had the opportunity to display their research in a dedicated poster session. Two students were awarded a special mention for their poster presentations during a convivial dinner on the last evening of the school: Giulia Guidobaldi (PhD, Perugia) and Veronica D'Ippolito (PhD, Roma). Participants filled out (anonymously) a short questionnaire at the end, the results of which revealed their appreciation for the range of topics covered and for the smooth organization of the school. PDFs of the lessons are available for general download at www.socminpet.it/GNM/bressanone2015.htm.