



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Juan Jiménez, SEM President

It is a pleasure and an honour to have been elected President of the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía (SEM). My term started in January 2015, and I take over from Carlos Ayora. The SEM elections themselves were at the last General Assembly, held July 2014 in Granada, at which we also elected a new vice-president, a new treasurer, and five councillors, all of whom will serve a four-year term on the Executive Council. The new council members are as follows: Blanca Bauluz

(University of Zaragoza vice-president); Emilia García Romero (University Complutense Madrid, new treasurer); and councillors José Manuel Astilleros (University Complutense Madrid), María Ángeles Fernández González (University of Oviedo), José Miguel Herrero (University of Basque Country), Pilar Mata (IGME, Madrid), and Albert Soler (University of Barcelona). On behalf of our members, I would like to thank all the outgoing councillors who served the society with such great efficiency and enthusiasm.

SEM was created in 1975 and is now completing its 40th year. Today, the society is in good shape, with a stable number of members at around 280. Moreover, the number of student members is increasing. Our endowments are sufficiently healthy to allow us to continue our travel grant program and awards. But, SEM must remain young and dynamic: we do not want to rest on our laurels. We have begun planning for the future and would like to focus our efforts on three core issues.

(1) Increasing international collaboration between academics, industry, and government and increased collaboration among our own society members. Today, the world faces many challenges, and mineralogy has a significant role to play in meeting those challenges. Research carried out by society members used to have great societal relevance. But, SEM membership and attendance at our conferences is overwhelmingly dominated by academics, though our last seminar at the annual meeting tried to forge links between academia and industry. I hope that we can expand our horizons and that SEM can do more to foster links between our members and the world outside.

(2) Increasing the presence of our members in the journals and events that SEM promotes, especially the *European Journal of Mineralogy (EJM)* and *Elements*. We would like to evaluate our publications, membership programs, and conference participation. We hope to be able to organize, for instance, SEM sessions based on individual *Elements* issues, and I encourage anyone with ideas for this type of session to contact SEM. SEM is one of the owners of the *EJM*, but the Spanish mineralogical community is scarcely represented in its published articles. We want to promote the presence of SEM members in the *EJM* and strongly encourage you to submit your most exciting research to the journal.

(3) Improving our response to the needs of young mineralogists. I look forward to meeting the many students who attend Society meetings and who usually give the very best presentations. I would like to hear from them what SEM can do to improve their careers. Our members are very generous to our society, and we would like to look for ways in which we could provide additional services and benefits to our younger members. Finally, we aim to maintain our promotion of the Enciende awards, which are designed to promote new mineralogical vocations.

The SEM council looks forward to hearing your opinions and wants to help make our society more effective. The Society is financially healthy, and we invite proposals for how some of our funds could be usefully utilised. Please don't be shy about telling us how to make the SEM work better for you.

Juan Jiménez, SEM President



SEM 2015 ANNUAL MEETING IN HUELVA

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society will be held in Huelva (Spain) on June 30–July 3 2015. It will be organised by the University of Huelva and coordinated by José Miguel Nieto.

The program for the SEM 2015 meeting includes the following:

- A one-day workshop seminar entitled “Rare Earth Elements: mineralogy, geochemistry, ore deposits and metallurgy.” This seminar will take place on June 30, and the speakers will include scientists and professionals of international prestige in this field. The aim of the seminar is to present and discuss new perspectives and ideas about REEs, particularly for young scientists.
- Scientific sessions that will take place on July 1–2 and will feature invited scientists to deliver plenary lectures on topics of general interest. Oral and poster presentations in the fields of clays, mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry may be submitted. The main objective is to hold high-quality scientific sessions that become a platform for debate, the exchange of ideas, and the establishment of new scientific collaborations.
- A geological excursion to the Rio Tinto mining district (environmental mining impact and new mining projects) will be held on July 3.

For updated information, go to www.uhu.es/fexp/sem2015/.

MANUEL PRIETO ELECTED NATIONAL CORRESPONDING FELLOW OF THE SPANISH ROYAL ACADEMY OF EXACT, PHYSICAL, AND NATURAL SCIENCES



Manuel Prieto, former member of the executive committee of *Elements*, was recently elected National Corresponding Fellow of the Spanish Royal Academy of Exact, Physical, and Natural Sciences. Manuel Prieto is a professor of crystallography and mineralogy in the Department of Geology, University of Oviedo (Spain). He received his PhD in geology from Complutense University of Madrid (Spain), where he also served as a teaching assistant from 1979 to 1984 and as a lecturer in crystallography and mineralogy from 1984 to 1991. He was dean of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Oviedo from 1997 to 2000. Manuel has been the Earth sciences coordinator for the Spanish Commission for Science and Technology between 2000 and 2006. He served as president of the Spanish Mineralogical Society from 2006 to 2010 and as chief co-editor of the *European Journal of Mineralogy* from 2012 to 2014. His research applies crystal growth concepts and techniques to the study of environmental and geochemical problems. Manuel started as an experimentalist, but his inclination to theory has become progressively more evident. His expertise covers thermodynamics and kinetics of ambient-temperature geochemical processes, crystal growth and crystallography. He is a recognized international authority in the thermodynamics of solid solution–aqueous solution systems.

On February 18, Dr. Prieto received this honour during a scientific session where he gave a lecture entitled “Water-mineral interaction phenomena: from crystal-chemistry to environmental geochemistry.” Dr. Juan Antonio Vera (University of Granada, Spain) gave the citation for this award.