OBITUARY: JEAN-LOUIS ROBERT (1948–2017)

The Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie (SFMC) sadly lost Jean-Louis Robert, one of its long-time and active members. He passed away 17 July 2017 in Orléans (France). Jean-Louis presented his thesis (Thèse d’Etat) at Orsay University (France) in 1981 on the crystal-chemistry of micas and amphiboles. He was a recognized expert on the structural and spectroscopic properties of micas, clays and amphiboles. He also inherited the Orléans tradition of experimental mineralogy and developed new synthesis methods for clays and micas. Author of more than 100 articles, he was also a co-author on Milan Rieder’s classic article “Nomenclature of the Micas”. Jean-Louis animated many sessions and meetings in national and international meetings.

Jean-Louis spent his career within France’s national scientific research organization, the CNRS, mostly at the Centre de Recherche sur la Synthèse et la Chimie des Minéraux, now the Institut des Sciences de la Terre d’Orléans (ISTO). He investigated the substitution processes and the extent of solid solutions in natural and synthetic micas and amphiboles through detailed structural and spectroscopic studies. Through numerous collaborations, he was well recognized by the international mineralogical community. In 2006, he joined the Institut de Minéralogie, de Physique des Matériaux et de Cosmochimie (IMPMC) in Paris, where he was a dynamic member of the Earth science team. There, he continued to develop his activity on micas and amphiboles and introduced new experimental approaches to mineral synthesis. Recently, Jean-Louis turned to research areas, the structural control of clay hydration. He was a member of several professional societies, including the SFMC and the Groupe Français des Argiles (GFA), which he chaired from 2011 to 2015. He was also President of the ECGA (European Clay Groups Association) for the period 2015–2019 and Chair of the organizing committee of EUROCLAY 2019. He was well-known for his enthusiasm for science and society and for his devotion to our community. He was a passionate aficionado of clays, clay science and experimental mineralogy, and he always had a door open to help students and researchers.

Clay science has lost a great and active scientist, society member, friend, and colleague. Jean-Louis Robert will be fondly remembered for many years.

Etienne Balan, Georges Calas, Laurence Galoisy, and Maguy Jaber

AWARD PRESENTATION

William Rapin, co-winner of the 2017 Haüy–Lacroix Prize (awarded for the best PhD thesis in mineralogy), received his medal from Bertrand Devouard, SFMC President, in Paris on 5 October 2017. On this occasion Rapin presented his PhD work on the hydration of Mars surface using the data collected by the Curiosity rover.