



European Mineralogical Union

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XIII INTERNATIONAL GEORAMAN CONFERENCE

The XIII International GeoRaman Conference was held 10–14 June 2018 in the wonderful city of Catania (Italy). The conference was organised by the University of Catania (Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche Geologiche e Ambientali) and the University of Parma (Dipartimento di Scienze Matematiche, Fisiche e Informatiche). The aim of this GeoRaman conference was to provide a scientific forum to present and promote research on the application of Raman spectroscopy to the study of geological materials and processes.



The conference topic was interpreted in a broad sense, including mineralogy, petrology, archaeometry, exobiology, gemmology, forensics and the analysis of biological molecules. The following topics were covered: provenance studies, mineralogy and gemmology, petrology, field and experimental volcanology, geothermobarometry and fluid geochemistry, cultural heritage and archaeology, planetary analysis and space exploration, astrobiology, paleobiology, carbonaceous materials, biomineralisation and the environmental sciences, and forensic applications.

The first GeoRaman conference was held in 1986 in France. Since then, many beautiful cities have played host to this conference: Valladolid (Spain) in 1999; Prague (Czech Republic) in 2002; Hawaii (USA) in 2004; Almunecar (Spain) in 2006; Gent (Belgium) in 2008; Sydney (Australia) in 2010; Nancy (France) in 2012; St. Louis (Missouri, USA) in 2014; and Novosibirsk (Russia) in 2016.

A total of 133 participants attended the XIII GeoRaman Conference, and they came from a large number of countries: Australia, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Nederland, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, UK, USA. The attendees, who had the pleasure of listening to some 70 presentations, were from universities and from public and private organisations. There were three plenary lectures. The first was given by Howell Edwards (Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Bradford, UK), who talked on the applications of Raman spectroscopy in archaeology. The second was given by Rafaella Georgiou (Synchrotron SOLEIL, Université Paris, France), who talked about the problems associated with characterising and identifying the organic carbon compounds used in carbon-based artists' pigments and in paleontological specimens. The third lecture was given by Claudia Conti (Institute for the Conservation and Valorisation of Cultural Heritage, National Research Council of Italy), who discussed how to analyse subsurface molecular components at micrometre scales and how this can be applied to the conservation and materials sciences.



The conference was sponsored by the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia (SIMP), the European Mineralogical Union (EMU), TimeGate, Bruker, Renishaw, WITec, Cavallotto and Jasco. Four grants for young researchers were sponsored by SIMP, two such grants were sponsored by the EMU.

Some of the presentations will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* (which has an impact factor of 2.969).

The XIII GeoRaman Conference received very positive feedback from the attendees. For more information on the XIII International GeoRaman Conference, please visit the web site <https://sites.google.com/view/georaman2018/home>