THIRD EUROPEAN MANTLE WORKSHOP (EMAW 2018)

The third edition of the European Mantle Workshop (EMAW) was held 26–28 June 2018 in the historical buildings of the University of Pavia (Italy). The meeting consisted of three days of oral/poster presentations and three optional field trips. Oral presentations were held in the magnificent Aula del Disegno; poster sessions took place in the Renaissance-styled Cortile Sforzesco. The EMAW workshop was organized by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (University of Pavia) and the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources of the National Research Council of Italy (IGG-CNR, Pavia), in collaboration with the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP). A total of 131 participants from 22 countries attended and, happily, more than 40% of the attendees were PhD students and young researchers.

The EMAW 2018 workshop comprised 53 oral and 72 poster presentations that featured cutting-edge research on the evolution of the Earth’s mantle. The four main topics were as follows: (1) mineralogical, petrological and geochemical studies of mantle xenoliths, orogenic peridotites and ophiolitic mantle sections; (2) experimental studies on the production, migration and emplacement of mantle melts and fluids; (3) geophysical studies and numerical models of the deep mantle; (4) serpentinization and carbonation of peridotites, and the relationship between microscopic organisms in extreme environments. Keynote talks were given by Françoise Chalot-Prat (University of Lorraine, France), Sandro Conticelli (University of Florence, Italy), Istvan Kovacs (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary), Andreas Stracke (University of Münster, Germany) and Andrea Tommasi (University of Montpellier II, France). The poster sessions were arranged so that there would be ample time for discussion in a relaxed atmosphere, with coffee and small snacks. All participants enjoyed the evening dinner offered by EMAW 2018, which included live music and dancing.

As part of EMAW 2018, three optional field trips had been organized. There were two one-day pre-workshop excursions: first, an illustration of rifting-related structures in the mantle section from the External Ligurian ophiolites (northern Apennines), which was jointly led by Alessandra Montanini (University of Parma, Italy) and Riccardo Tribuzio (University of Pavia, Italy); second, a visit to the dunite to harzburgite melt conduits in the Lanzo Massif South mantle peridotites (western Alps), jointly led by Alessio Sanfilippo (University of Pavia) and Alberto Zanetti (IGG-CNR, Pavia). There was also a two-day post-workshop field trip aimed at visiting the mantle bodies within, and at the base of, the lower continental crust of the Ivrea–Verbano Zone, which was led by Antonio Langone (IGG-CNR, Pavia), Maurizio Mazzucchelli (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Alberto Zanetti (IGG-CNR, Pavia). About half of the EMAW 2018 participants decided to join at least one of the field trips.

The abstract volume and field-trip guides are available at http://emaw2018iggpavia.unipv.it/. Feedback by the EMAW 2018 participants was extremely positive. The fourth edition of the European Mantle Workshop will be held in 2021 in Toulouse (France).

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EGU GALILEO CONFERENCE
The European Geosciences Union’s Galileo Conference “Exploring New Frontiers in Fluid Processes in Subduction Zones” was held 24–29 June 2018 in Leibnitz (Austria). It was co-organized by Carmen Sanchez-Valle (Münster, Germany), Timm John (Berlin, Germany), Nadia Malaspina (Milano Bicocca, Italy), Katharina Vogt (Münster, Germany), Simone Tumiati (Milano, Italy) and Yury Podladchikov (Lausanne, Switzerland). The conference brought together different disciplines and many of the key players in the field of fluid-mediated processes in subduction zones. The four main themes and the keynote speakers were as follows: “Experimental/Theoretical Studies of Fluid Properties – The Fluids Perspective”, with Ronit Kessel (Jerusalem, Israel); “Natural Observations – The Rock Perspective”, with Marco Scambelluri (Genova, Italy); “Thermodynamic Modelling of Fluid-Rock Interactions – The Equilibrium Perspective”, with Dimitri Sverjensky (Johns Hopkins, USA); “Coupling Geochemistry and Geodynamics – The Dynamic Perspective”, with Cian Wilson (Carnegie, USA).

The Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) offered travel grants to three PhD students, giving them the opportunity to participate in this state-of-the-art conference and hear about future perspectives in defining strategies for an efficient integration between experimental and theoretical studies of fluid–rock interactions, field observations and geodynamic models for fluid migration. The interactions between the leading researchers and the participants that arose out of the oral and poster programmes, the breakout discussion groups, and a round table were among the main highlights of the event.

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THE LINCEO AWARD FOR GEOSCIENCES
The Linceo Award for Geosciences (Premio Linceo per le Geoscienze) for 2018 goes to Mauro Prencipe, an associate professor at the University of Torino (Italy). Mauro has contributed to spreading the application of quantum methods to model the chemical and physical properties of minerals under non-ambient conditions. Mauro’s work is essential for anyone who wishes to investigate mineral phases using computational ab initio methods.

The Accademia dei Lincei was founded in 1603 by Federico Cesi and is the oldest scientific academic organization in the world. One of its first members was Galileo Galilei (http://www.lincei.it).

Mauro Prencipe (on the right) with the President of the Accademia dei Lincei, Prof Alberto Quadrio Curzio.

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held 12 July 2018 in Madrid (Spain). The meeting was devoted to recent studies on crystallography, mineralogy, geochemistry and petrology and their applications. It brought together 70 participants from a range of Spanish universities and research institutes, including some industry professionals.

During the meeting, Professor Francisco Velasco (University of the Basque Country) was made an SEM Honorary Member for his outstanding contribution to the field of mineralogy, particularly on the topic of ore deposits. He is admired and respected by students and colleagues alike. The SEM thanks Francisco Velasco for his dedication to the profession and for his inspiring teaching.

The invited speaker at the meeting was Professor Joaquin Proenza (University of Barcelona, Spain). He presented the plenary conference lecture “Mineral Deposits and Energy Transition: A Perspective from Unconventional Rare-Earth Deposits”.

As has become traditional, two awards were given for the best student presentations. This year, Raquel Arasanz Pujol, with Juan Jiménez (SEM President) and Emilia García Romero (organizing committee and SEM Treasurer).

The organizing committee would like to thank all the participants for this fruitful and excellent meeting. We are already looking forward to the 38th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society, which will be held in the beautiful city of Ronda (Málaga, Spain) in 2019.