



Association Internationale pour l'étude des Argiles

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The Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles (International Association for the Study of Clays) (AIPEA) was founded in order to promote international cooperation in clay research and technology. First officially organized and codified in 1966, one of the association's main objectives is to organize meetings, most importantly the quadrennial International Clay Conference (ICC). The most recent ICC (the 16th) was held in Granada (Spain) in 2017 and was organized by a committee headed by Alberto Lopez Galindo; the 17th ICC is planned for Istanbul (Turkey) in 2021 and is being organized by a committee headed by Asuman Türkmenoglu, Selahattin Kadir and Paul Schroeder. Other AIPEA activities include the following: publishing volumes on clay research, education and technology; publishing an annual newsletter that informs members, and relevant others, of activities concerned with clay research; co-operating with other relevant organizations who have an interest in clay research and technology; organizing an educational series; recommending clay mineral nomenclature; and organizing field excursions and visits to centres of clay research and technology.

AIPEA just published its 50th annual newsletter, and the full document is available for viewing or download at <http://www.aipea.org>. The newsletter contains a 2018 report from President Reiner Dohrmann, updates from regional and national clay mineral associations, information on recent and upcoming conferences and workshops, award winners, listserves, council affairs, a membership form, and more.

Also available on the AIPEA website is information related to two relevant publications in the AIPEA Education Series:

- *Magnesian Clays: Characterization, Origin and Applications*, edited by Manuel Pozo and Emilio Galán, ISBN: 978-88-7522-093-6, ISSN: 2283-687X)
- *Interstratified Clay Minerals: Origin, Characterization and Geochemical Significance*, edited by Saverio Fiore, Javier Cuadros and F. Javier Huertas (ISBN: 978-88-7522-046-4; ISSN: 2283-687X)

Both of these volumes are available at very low cost by accessing information on the webpage <http://www.aipea.org/publications.html>.

AIPEA wishes to announce a major upcoming clay conference, as well as a forthcoming workshop:

- **EUROCLAY 2019 (Paris, France)** The European Clay Groups Association, who will partner with the 56th annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society and the 6th Mediterranean Clay Meeting, will host an international conference on clay science and technology. It will be held 1–5 July 2019 at the Congress Center of the Pierre et Marie Curie University (part of the Sorbonne University Group) in Paris (France). The conference will be organized around four main themes: crystallography, mineralogy and modeling; environment and geological processes; resources, energy and storage; and functionalized clays and archeology. For more information, visit <https://euroclay2019.sciencesconf.org/>.

Students – this is for you! Awards will be presented for the best student poster and best oral presentations (winners and runners-up) at Euroclay 2019. Final results and cash prizes will be announced at the end of the conference, as well as recognized in *Elements*. The following specifications apply: (1) only oral and poster presentations with a student as the first author and as the presenting author will be considered; (2) all students presenting at Euroclay will be eligible; (3) a first and second prize will be given for each category, both oral and poster; (4) all student oral and poster presentations will be evaluated by members of AIPEA Council and their designates attending the conference. See <http://www.aipea.org/studfund.html>.

- The German–Austrian–Swiss Clay Group will host a workshop (**8th International DTG Workshop**) entitled Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Clays and Clay Minerals. The workshop will take place 18–22 February 2019 at the University of Greifswald (Germany). The workshop will focus on the needs of graduate students in the field of clay science and is also open to scientists and those working in industry who are interested in clay science. For more information, visit https://www.dttg.ethz.ch/home_en.html.

In closing, AIPEA seeks to commemorate the careers of three acclaimed clay mineralogists: Chris Breen (professor at Sheffield Hallam University, UK), José Antonio Rausell-Colom (professor at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain) and Jean-Louis Robert (Director of Research at the CNRS, France), each of whom recently passed away. We mourn their deaths, and we seek to take this opportunity to celebrate their contributions to clay science.

Professor **Chris Breen** earned widespread recognition for his nearly 40 years of pioneering research on clay–organic complexes. From his early work on clay catalysts and the adsorption of pollutants and polycation–clay complexes, Professor Breen followed a path that led him to novel research on the development, characterization and application of clay-based polymer nanocomposites. This latter avenue of work led to biomedical applications resulting in patents with colleagues at the Medical Education & Research Institute (MERI) and the Biomedical Research Centre (both UK). He was also active in and recognized by the international research community, serving as a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc), an associate editor of *Clay Minerals* for 20 years (1996–2016), chair of the Clay Minerals Group of the MinSoc (2004–2007), and President of AIPEA (2009–2013). All in the international clay community will miss his research contributions, collegiality and captivating presentation style.

During his long and productive career as a research professor at CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain), **Dr. José Antonio Rausell-Colom** gained praise and recognition as an authority in the field of the physical chemistry of clays. He published important work on the relationships between the structure, composition and intercalation of 2:1 clays, including studies of vermiculites and chlorites. Dr. Rausell-Colom is a former president and honorary member of the SEA (Sociedad Española de Arcillas, the Spanish clay society), and he served on the Nomenclature Committee for AIPEA from 1975 to 1985. Dr. Rausell-Colom also served with distinction as NATO scientific commission director, and he was honored in his home country of Spain with the Encomienda de la Orden del Mérito Civil. He was a colleague and mentor to many and will be missed greatly.

Dr. Jean-Louis Robert gained international recognition for his expertise in the structural and spectroscopic characterization of micas (and amphiboles). Dr. Robert spent his distinguished career as a researcher at the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France), where he rose to the rank of Director of Research. He also held a post at the IMPMC (Institut de Minéralogie, de Physique des Matériaux et de Cosmochimie, Sorbonne, Paris, France) where he pursued new areas of research on mineral synthesis and on the hydration of clay minerals in relation to their structural properties. Prof. Robert served as President of the GFA (Groupe Française des Argiles) from 2011 to 2015, chaired the ECGA (European Clay Groups Association) beginning in 2015, and was chair of the EUROCLAY 2019 organizing committee (see notice above). His enthusiasm for science and his devotion to his students and research colleagues was widely recognized in the international clay community. His passing leaves a void not easily filled.

Peter Ryan, AIPEA General Secretary
Reiner Dohrmann, AIPEA President