



## European Association for Geochemistry



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The European Association for Geochemistry (EAG) is delighted to be joining this great new publishing venture, which I hope heralds a renaissance for learned societies in the fields of geochemistry and mineralogy. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate the whole *Elements* editorial team on an outstanding first issue that has established a benchmark of quality for the future. This is going to be a publication that gets opened and read when it arrives! We may be late to the party, but the EAG is in the process of expanding its range of activities, and we hope to be able to make valuable contributions to *Elements* in the future.

Bruce Yardley, EAG President

### EAG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A Few Words about EAG

Founded in 1985 to promote geochemical research and study in Europe, EAG is now recognized as the premiere geochemical organization in Europe encouraging interaction between geochemists and those of associated fields, and promoting research and teaching in the public and private sectors. Visit our website at [www.eag.eu.com](http://www.eag.eu.com)

#### Development of European Web Network Database

Towards the integration of geochemistry in Europe, the EAG is currently building a web directory of active European geochemists and geochemistry groups. We encourage you to list your personal and/or group website in this database. To include yourself and/or your research group in this database, simply send an e-mail to [m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk) Include website address, your name or group name, country, and a SHORT descriptive title. Examples might include:

[www.aschmidt.xyz](http://www.aschmidt.xyz),  
Anne Schmidt, Germany, stable Fe isotopes, or

[www.johnsmith.xyz](http://www.johnsmith.xyz),  
John Smith, England, molecular dynamics modeling, or

[www.unipa.l'enviro.xyz](http://www.unipa.l'enviro.xyz),  
Environmental Geochemistry Centre, France, weathering processes and the water cycle.

### UPCOMING EAG-SPONSORED MEETINGS/SESSIONS

#### European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2005, Vienna, Austria, April 24–29

The EAG is co-sponsoring three sessions at the 2005 EGU General Assembly (<http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/ga/egu05>)

#### SESSION GM4: Climatic and tectonic controls on the Earth's weathering system

Convenor: F. von Blanckenburg;  
co-convenors: K. Burton and S. Gíslason

Weathering and erosion are amongst the primary processes responsible for the evolution of the landscape and affect the cycles of many elements at the Earth's surface; both are influenced by active tectonics or climate change. This session aims to bring together the range of approaches used to study the chemical, physical, and biological processes involved in weathering and erosion, both today and in the past. Contributions will deal with field, experimental, and modeling studies, including work on catchment areas and deltas, soils, hydrology, vegetation, lithology, and topography.

#### SESSION VGP24: Application of novel geochemical techniques to problems of cosmochemistry and early Earth evolution

Convenor: C. Münker;  
co-convenors: S. Weyer and T. Elliott

The understanding of processes active during the first billion years of the solar system and the Earth strongly relies on geochemical criteria because any direct rock record is either absent or very scarce. In the past decade, new techniques such as MC-ICP-MS, high precision TIMS or microanalytical developments have spurred investigations of early solar system materials and old terrestrial rocks. Major breakthroughs include the application of new extinct nuclide series, non traditional stable isotopes, and the search for nucleosynthetic and elemental anomalies in small particles. The aim of this session is to provide an overview of the current state of knowledge with an emphasis on new geochemical techniques and concepts.

#### SESSION VGP12: Geochemical ins and outs of subduction zones

Convenor: C. Chauvel;  
co-convenor: W. Sun

This session aims at evaluating the geochemical budget of subduction zones. Approaches to this budget can be related to the composition of oceanic crust that will be subducted, to the composition and variability of the sedimentary piles, and to the quantification of the subducted material. Geochemical studies centered on the composition of volcanic arcs and of the materials found in back-arc and fore-arc basins are also central keys for the general budget. Confrontation of these different approaches should help our community to decipher the complex processes occurring in one of the key environments of our planet and consequently to better understand its long-term evolution.

#### The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Goldschmidt Conference: A Voyage of Discovery, Moscow, Idaho, USA, May 20–25

The Goldschmidt Conference is the premier annual meeting in geochemistry and mineralogy. The 2005 meeting will cover the full range of geochemistry from cosmochemistry to the origin of life. It will be special because 2005 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geochemical Society. Come celebrate this anniversary in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains! The conference also takes place during the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition—the Corps of Discovery.

#### Seventh International Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface (GES-7), Aix-en-Provence, France, August 23–27

The principal focus of past meetings has been on processes operating at the surface of the Earth rather than on deep crustal geochemical processes. The GES-7 meeting continues that overall theme with some greater emphasis on the multiscale environmental biogeochemistry of the Earth's surface and subsurface ([www.cerege.fr/GES7](http://www.cerege.fr/GES7)). The technical sessions will consist of invited

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oral contributions and posters that complement the themes of the oral presentations. All contributions must be accompanied by a four-page abstract. The abstracts will be reviewed and published in a special issue of *Journal of Geochemical Exploration*, a sister publication of *Chemical Geology*. Abstract submission deadline is April 1, 2005.

The themes of the symposia are:

1. Environmental impact of waste management
2. Water cycle and resources: geochemical tracers and contaminants
3. Biogeochemical processes in soils and ecosystems: from molecular to landscape scale
4. Weathering: processes, rates and ages
5. Coastal biogeochemistry: from land to continental slope
6. Global element cycles and climate change through Earth history

### Update on the European Research Council

The creation of a new European Research Council (ERC) is reported to be gaining support in Brussels. All but two of the European Union members officially supported the creation of the ERC during a November 2004 meeting and have requested the European Commission to draft a formal proposal. The ERC is to be a new funding agency that would support basic research in all areas of science based solely on scientific quality; this agency would be similar to the National Science Foundation in the United States. The ERC would be created as part of the Seventh Framework Program and would start in 2007. The estimated ERC budget for the seventh framework (2007–2010) is rumored to be approximately 2 billion Euros.

### Opening of the new Earth Sciences Institute, Toulouse, France

In June 2004, the Laboratoire des Mécanismes et Transferts en Géologie (LMTG) abandoned its old laboratories in the center of



Toulouse to move into a new state-of-the-art research and teaching facility near the main campus in Rangueil. The laboratory is composed of 72 researchers and academic staff, 40 administrative and technical staff, 36 students, and 6 postdoctoral fellows. The LMTG is devoted to studying the interactions between water and the solid Earth, from the mantle to the biosphere. The particular strength of the LMTG is that it can master the whole range of scientific concepts as well as most of the analytical and experimental methods needed to make a significant contribution to this challenging scientific problem. Members of the permanent staff of the LMTG include its director, Bernard Dupré, Jacques Schott, and Eric Oelkers (website: [www.lmtg.obs-mip.fr](http://www.lmtg.obs-mip.fr)).

New Earth Sciences Institute, opened in the summer of 2004, Toulouse, France.

Cosmochemistry. The Head of School is Professor Richard Pattrick. The Director of Research is Professor David Vaughan.

### European Weathering Systems Science (WSS) Initiative

European scientists, with support from the Worldwide Universities Network, convened a round table discussion in London on October 14, 2004, creating a scientific framework for a joint European–US research program in Weathering Systems Science (WSS). This London meeting established a commitment between European and US researchers to pursue a jointly directed program between the EC and NSF to build an international WSS Consortium contributing to the delivery of EU research on the sustainable management of soils (EU Soil Directive, now being drafted) and sustainable management of water (EU Water Directive, now being implemented). At present the European and international communities are addressing many of the outlined weathering and soil issues, but in a fragmented manner. The European WSS Initiative proposes to advance, in a holistic way, our knowledge of the life cycle of the entire soil system by using an integrated multidisciplinary approach. Contact K.V. Ragnarsdottir at [vala.ragnarsdottir@bris.ac.uk](mailto:vala.ragnarsdottir@bris.ac.uk)

### Creation of new School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences in Manchester

The recent merging of the University of Manchester with UMIST in October 2004 has led to the formation of a new School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (website: [www.seaes.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.seaes.manchester.ac.uk)). Largely comprising staff from the former Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Manchester and the Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Group in the Physics Department at UMIST, the new school has research strengths in atmospheric physics and chemistry, physics and chemistry of minerals and fluids, geochemistry including environmental geochemistry, petroleum geology and basin studies, isotope geochemistry, geomicrobiology, structural geology, and experimental rock deformation. Facilities include those of the Williamson Research Centre for Molecular Environmental Science and of the Centre for Isotope Geochemistry and

Please send any potential items for inclusion in future EUROPEAN GEOCHEMICAL NEWS BRIEFS to either Eric Oelkers ([oelkers@lmtg.obs-mip.fr](mailto:oelkers@lmtg.obs-mip.fr)) or Mark Hodson ([m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk)).

## SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE GEOCHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE (GES-7)

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE



AUGUST 23-27, 2005

web-site: <http://www.cerge.fr/GES7/ges7second.htm>

The GES organization is a working group of the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry (IAGCC). Past meetings of the working group have been held in Granada, Spain (1986), Aix-en-Provence, France (1990), University Park, Pennsylvania, USA (1993), Ilkley, England (1996), Reykjavik, Iceland (1999) and Honolulu, Hawaii (2002).

The principal focus of the past meetings dealt with processes operating at the surface of the Earth. The GES-7 meeting continues that overall theme with some greater emphasis on the multiscale environmental biogeochemistry of the Earth's surface. The major venues of presentation at the technical sessions are invited oral contributions and posters that complement the themes of the oral presentations.



### Aix-en-Provence: a living history book

Aix-en-Provence is located in the Southeast of France, near the Mediterranean Sea. Aix-en-Provence is a town of sun, water and fountains, a town of art and culture with a rich patrimony. From the octagonal Oppidum of Entremont to the new Sésias-Vinobas Quarter, with the City of Counts and the many mansions of the Mazarin Quarter, Aix-en-Provence is a living history book. <http://www.aixenprovence tourism.com>

### Important dates

1st December 2004: Call for Abstract  
13th January 2005: Opening of early registration  
1st April 2005: Abstract deadline  
May 2005: Deadline for early registration  
August 23-27, 2005: GES-7 in Aix-en-Provence, France

### Correspondence

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