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Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

FROM THE PRESIDENT



When Roberto Compagnoni, a member of the *Elements* Advisory Board, showed me a copy of *Elements*, I was immediately fascinated by the captivating format—an attractive typographic setting; concise, but authoritative, summaries of some of the “hot” topics in Earth sciences; thoughtful reflections on the political and ethical aspects of science, and up-to-date information on the activities of some of the leading scientific societies in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry. Therefore, in January 2006, as soon as I stepped in as the president of the Società Italiana di Mineralogia

e Petrologia (SIMP), I urged the Council of the Society to join this exciting editorial venture. Council supported enthusiastically my suggestion, and at the annual general assembly, members approved it unanimously. We look forward to a fruitful cooperation with all the societies involved.

Piero Lattanzi
SIMP President

A SHORT OUTLINE OF SIMP

The Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia (Italian Mineralogical and Petrological Society) was established in Pavia on December 12, 1940, as the Italian Mineralogical Society. Ugo Panichi was its first president. The Society, which took the present name of Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia (SIMP) in 1970, is devoted to the development of mineral sciences in their broadest sense, including crystallography, systematic mineralogy, mineral deposits, geochemistry, petrology, volcanology, and their applications to material sciences, environmental issues, and cultural heritage. SIMP aims at promoting any kind of activity, research, and organization in the different fields of the mineral sciences. Currently, the Society has about 400 individual members (ordinary and junior) and 50 institutional members, mostly Italian but also from European and non-European countries. The title of honorary member is conferred to eminent

members of the international mineralogical community and includes free SIMP publications.

SIMP, as the official Italian representative of the mineral sciences, has delegates in the main international scientific bodies, such as the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) and the European Mineralogical Union (EMU). SIMP was one of the founders, in 1996, of the Federazione Italiana di Scienze della Terra (FIST – Italian Earth Sciences Federation), a coordinating institution that includes 14 Italian scientific societies active in all branches of the Earth sciences.

SIMP holds a national meeting each year. The first SIMP meeting was held in Pavia, in May 1941. Up to now, 85 meetings have taken place (a short account of the last one is included in these pages). Since 1997, every second year, the meeting has been held in conjunction with the FIST General Forum.

From its foundation, the official journal of the Society has been the *Rendiconti della Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia*. In 1989, the Italian, French, and German mineralogical societies (joined in 2004 by the Spanish society) merged their journals into the bimonthly *European Journal of Mineralogy (EJM)*. Over the years, *EJM* has achieved a remarkable position among journals in its field. With the ceasing of *Rendiconti*, a new national bulletin was started (*Plinius*) and constitutes the Italian supplement to *EJM*. *Plinius* (32 issues published so far) includes documents related to the Society's life, abstracts of SIMP meetings, and the extended abstracts of the PhD dissertations of Italian graduates. It is currently distributed in CD format.

Prizes named after outstanding members of the Society—Ugo Panichi, Angelo Bianchi, Carlo Minguzzi, Johndino Nogara—are awarded to young Italian

researchers in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and mineral deposits, respectively. The Plinius Medal is awarded to distinguished members of the Society for research excellence in the fields of mineralogy and petrology. One scholarship grant to carry out research in foreign countries and two prizes for the best PhD theses are also awarded each year.

The SIMP council consists of a president, a vice president (two-year appointments), a secretary, a treasurer, and six councillors (four-year appointments). In addition, representatives of three informal groups (the National Group of Mineralogy, the National Group of Petrography, and the National Group of Georesources, Environment and Cultural Heritage) are full members of Council.

Further information about SIMP can be found on the Society website: <http://simp.dst.unipi.it/>
E-mail: simp@dst.unipi.it.

SIMP ANNUAL MEETING

Fluminimaggiore, Sardinia – September 27–30, 2006

The 85th meeting of the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia was held at Hotel Antas (Fluminimaggiore, Sardinia) from September 27 to 30, 2006. The location was chosen to emphasize the importance of the island of Sardinia, and specifically of the Sulcis-Iglesiente province, for the Earth sciences. The area hosts one of the best-preserved Cambrian carbonate platforms of the Variscan chain, a great variety of Palaeozoic fossils, and an uncommon wealth of mineral deposits, mainly Pb–Ag–Zn, that made Iglesias one of the great metalliferous provinces of Europe. Nowadays mining activity has ceased, but it has left behind a remarkable cultural, historical, and scientific heritage, which is now protected by UNESCO in the World Heritage List and made accessible to the public by the Parco Geominerario della Sardegna. The Parco was the principal sponsor of our meeting, together with the Fondazione Banco di Sardegna and the Università di Cagliari.

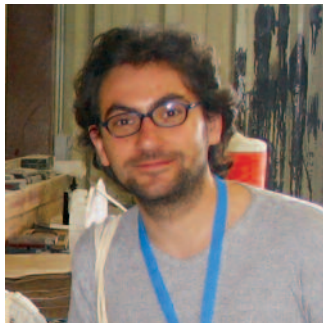
The meeting included a plenary session consisting of five invited lectures devoted to mineral resources and the environment, with specific reference to Sardinia; a mini-symposium of computational mineralogy including four invited lectures; and several parallel sessions covering practically all aspects of mineral sciences—mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, volcanology, ore deposits, and applications to the environment and to cultural heritage. About 150 individuals from all parts of Italy and a few foreigners attended the meeting. The high percentage of young people was particularly refreshing. A total of 46 oral and 74 poster presentations were offered. Abstracts are included in the last issue of *Plinius*.

After the meeting, five field trips illustrated a part of the rich geological, mineralogical, and cultural treasures of the island. The meeting, and especially the field trips, were blessed by typical end-of-September, sunny Sardinian weather, so that many participants took the opportunity to combine a stimulating scientific experience with relaxing at the beach or swimming in the sea.

SIMP PRIZES FOR 2006

Panichi Prize (for mineralogy)
Minguzzi Prize (for geochemistry)

Every year SIMP awards prizes to outstanding young researchers in various SIMP branches (mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and ore deposits). The *ex aequo* winners of the 2006 Panichi Prize (for mineralogy) are G. Diego Gatta (Milano) and Gianluca Iezzi (Chieti). The winner of the 2006 Minguzzi Prize (for geochemistry) is Luigi Folco (Siena).



G. Diego Gatta received his Laurea degree in geological sciences from the University of Perugia, Italy, in December 1998, and his PhD degree in mineralogy from the University of Florence, Italy, in March 2002. He was a postdoctoral research associate at the Bayerisches Geoinstitut–University of Bayreuth, Germany, between 2002 and 2005. Currently, Dr Gatta is a senior research scientist/assistant professor in the Earth Sciences Department, University of Milan, Italy. His main research interest is the study of the crystal structure and crystal chemistry of minerals



Gianluca Iezzi is a lecturer/assistant professor of applied mineralogy and petrography in the Earth Science Department of the University of Chieti, Italy. He received his Laurea degree at this same university in 1997, when he presented a dissertation on the petrology of the pre-caldera volcanic products at Campi Flegrei and Ischia, Naples (Italy). For his PhD he shifted his scientific interests to mineralogy. He began his thesis in 1999 at the

by single-crystal and powder-diffraction methods using conventional and non-conventional sources (synchrotron and neutrons) under ambient and non-ambient conditions. Dr Gatta is author or co-author of more than 30 peer-reviewed papers on the elastic and thermo-elastic behaviour of natural silicates, on the pressure- and temperature-induced structural evolution of minerals, and on the crystal chemistry of natural and synthetic materials of technological interest. He collaborates with colleagues in Italy and abroad on the same subjects. He is an associate editor of *American Mineralogist* and *Mineralogical Magazine*.

He received an award from the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) for the best PhD thesis in 2002, and he was awarded the Prize of the Italian Association of Crystallography (AIC) as the best young researcher in 2004 for the excellence and novelty of his research activities.

ISTO-CNRS in Orleans (France) and in December 2001 he defended its PhD thesis entitled “Crystal chemistry of Li-bearing amphibole, an experimental approach”. In 2002 he conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Chieti, followed by more post-doctoral work at the Bayerisches Geoinstitut of Bayreuth (Germany). The scientific interests of Dr Iezzi include the crystal chemistry of chain silicates and garnets and their phase transitions as a function of T and P , as well as the dynamics of lava flows. Currently, he is responsible for two scientific projects, one devoted to the determination of the crystallization parameters of silicate melts and another focused on the crystal chemistry of synthetic feldspathoids. He has co-authored more than 25 international publications.



Luigi Folco completed an honors degree in Earth sciences at the University of Siena (Italy) in 1991 and a PhD in planetary sciences at the Open University (UK) in 1997. He is the curator of the meteorite collection at the Museo Nazionale dell’Antartide in Siena and a lecturer in mineral resources at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Siena. He was Chercheur Associé CNRS and Professeur Invité CNRS at the Centre Européen de Recherche et d’Enseignement des Géosciences de l’Environnement, Université d’Aix-Marseille III (France) in 2005 and 2006,

respectively. His research activity focuses mainly on the mineralogy and geochemistry of primitive and differentiated meteorites, with the aim of defining the original structure of their parent asteroids and the processes of igneous differentiation. Luigi Folco has led several meteorite search expeditions to Antarctica as part of the Italian Programma Nazionale delle Ricerche in Antartide (PNRA), and has conducted interdisciplinary studies aimed at understanding the meteorite concentration mechanism in Antarctica and its relationship to the glacial history of the Antarctic ice sheet. Luigi Folco is an associate editor for the *Meteoritical Bulletin* of the Meteoritical Society, a member of the Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society, and the Italian delegate to the Astromineralogy Working Group of the International Mineralogical Association. The 7006 Folco asteroid was named after him by the International Astronomical Union.

Geoitalia 2007 Geoscience and Society in Italy in the International Year of Planet Earth, 2008



The Sixth Italian Forum of Earth Sciences, “Geoitalia 2007,” will be held in Rimini on September 12–14, 2007. Pre-congress workshops and short courses will also be held between September 7 and 11.

The International Year of Planet Earth – proclaimed for 2008 by the UN General Assembly in late December 2005 – was initiated jointly by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The scientific program of the Sixth Italian Forum of Earth Sciences focuses on several of the major research themes of the International Year of Planet Earth. The Scientific Program Committee, in which SIMP takes part, has called for proposals from a wide community of geoscientists. This has led to the development of a comprehensive program consisting of two plenary lectures, 66 thematic sessions, 15 disciplinary sessions, 4 round tables, 12 pre-congress workshops, and 3 short courses. All fields of Earth sciences will be covered, including several currently important topics in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry. More than 1000 participants are expected to attend the meeting.

Deadline for advance registration: May 14, 2007

For more info:
<http://www.geoitalia.org>