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Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

NATIONAL GROUP OF MINERALOGY

The National Group of Mineralogy (GNM – Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia) is an informal body that includes professors and researchers in mineralogy from Italian universities and from public and private research institutes. PhD students and graduates, as well as professors and researchers in related disciplines, are welcome to participate in GNM activities.

GNM was founded in 1991 to promote and coordinate didactic and scientific initiatives for the advancement of basic and applied knowledge in mineralogy. More specifically, the GNM aims are:

- To establish a reference for the mineralogical scientific community in relation to the various national (SIMP) and international (IMA, EMU, etc.) bodies
- To promote and spread mineralogical knowledge at all levels, by organizing schools, congresses, study days, etc.
- To provide information and coordination for members regarding initiatives of interest to mineralogy

In order to pursue these objectives, since 1992 GNM has organized Mineralogy Schools and Study Days, with the active involvement of the entire national mineralogical scientific community. Schools are mainly intended for PhD and undergraduate students, but they are also actively attended by young researchers. They address important issues of cutting-edge scientific interest, are presented by specialists in the sector, and are often complemented by field trips. So far 11 schools, with a typical duration of five days, have been organized.

Study Days are intended for a more varied public and are dedicated to teaching more general issues, including systematics, instrumen-

tal techniques, and applications. So far 17 Study Days have been organized.

Teaching material (as either PowerPoint presentations or text documents) is available at the GNM website (<http://simp.dst.unipi.it/GNM/>) for the more recent schools (Microstructures: Analysis and Applications to Geologic Materials, September 2006; Properties and Applications of Minerals at the Nanoscale, June 2004; Metallic Minerals and Metallurgy between Past and Present, June 2002; Phase Equilibria and Geothermobarometry, September 2001) and study days (The Amorphous State in the Mineral Kingdom, March 2005; Mineralogical Engineering, May 2003; Biominerals, November 2001).

In addition to these official initiatives, the Group has stimulated discussion among its members, promoted the creation of common national and international research programs, and contributed to initiatives for the coordination of teaching of all mineralogical disciplines at the university level.

The Group was born thanks to the efforts of several colleagues. A special mention should be made about the contribution of Curzio Cipriani, former director of the Natural History Museum at the University of Firenze, who has coordinated GNM activities since the beginning and who chaired

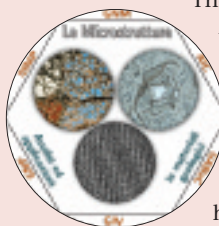
the Group for a decade (1991–2000). GNM has since been chaired by Marcello Mellini, University of Siena (2001–2003), and Giovanna Vezzalini, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (2004–2006). At the last GNM assembly (held during the SIMP national meeting, September 2006), Gabriella Lucchetti (lucchett@dipteris.unige.it) was elected as the new president. She is a full professor of mineralogy at the University of Genova and will chair GNM for the next triennium (2007–2009). She will have the cooperation of board members Luciano Secco (secretary), Paolo Ballirano, Emanuela



Gabriella Lucchetti,
GNM President (2007–2009)

Schingaro, and Mario Tribaudino (councilors). A representative of GNM is entitled to take part in the meetings of the SIMP council.

SIMP SCHOOL – MICROSTRUCTURES: ANALYSIS AND APPLICATIONS TO GEOLOGICAL MATERIALS



The school entitled Microstructures: Analysis and Applications to Geological Materials, organized under the auspices of SIMP by the Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia (GNM), in collaboration with the Gruppo Nazionale di Petrografia (GNP), Gruppo Nazionale Georisorse, Ambiente e Beni Culturali (GaBeC), and Gruppo Informale di Vulcanologia (GIV), was held in the conference centre of Villa Lanzi (Campiglia Marittima, LI), in the heart of the archeomine park of San Silvestro, from 19 to 23 September 2006. The archeomine park is a unique region in Tuscany, where one can find traces of mining and metallurgy dating from Etruscan times to the present. It takes its name from the medieval mining town of San Silvestro, now abandoned.



Students and teachers at the School on Microstructures in Campiglia Marittima

The school brought together, from several Italian universities, 33 PhD students and young researchers interested in the study of microstructures in minerals, rocks, and cultural heritage artefacts. Most classical and modern methods of microstructural analysis were discussed during 16 lectures by experts from universities, research institutes, and industry. Teaching staff included M. Tribaudino (general chairman), F. Heidelberg, M. Rubbo, E. Callegari, P. Armienti, D. Perugini, A. Borghi, L. Pioli, D. Ferro, G.M. Ingo, M. Giamello, M. Benvenuti, C. Viti, F. Cámara, L. Lutterotti, S. Cicalè, and F. Casali.

The school provided an opportunity to discuss state-of-the-art techniques, progress, and key problems in the analysis and modeling of microstructures in geological materials. The lectures given during the school can be downloaded from the SIMP website.