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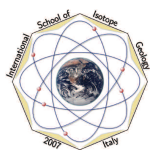
Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

GRUPPO NAZIONALE DI PETROGRAFIA (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PETROLOGISTS)



The Gruppo Nazionale di Petrografia (GNP) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of petrographic and petrologic research and education at all educational levels. GNP members include scientists involved in research and applications in petrography and petrology from Italian universities and from public and private research institutes. PhD students, post-docs, and anyone interested in petrography, petrology and related research fields may join the Association and take an active part in GNP activities. The GNP is affiliated with the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP).

The GNP was founded in 1992 with the purpose of promoting and coordinating research and teaching activities aimed at the advancement of fundamental and applied knowledge in the fields of petrography and petrology. Basic goals of the Association are to stimulate discussion among its members regarding the organization of common national and international research programs and to coordinate teaching activities at the university level. An important activity is the organization of national and international summer schools, attended mainly by young researchers and PhD students, and workshops focused on key topics in igneous and metamorphic petrology. These high-level teaching activities provide a forum for discussing modern trends in petrology and facilitate the establishment of connections among young researchers at the national and international levels. Currently the Association is under the direction of Alessandro Borghi (Torino), Costanza Bonadiman (Ferrara), Rosolino Cirrincione (Cosenza), Sandro Conticelli (Firenze), Maurizio Mazzucchelli (Modena), Vincenzo Morra (Napoli), Diego Perugini (Perugia), and Elisabetta Rampone (Genova). GNP members can access an up-to-date website and a mailing list system where issues related to petrography and petrology, at the national and international levels, are discussed. Additional information about the Association and its activities can be found at www.unipg.it/~diegop/gnp/.



In 2007, the GNP, the Italian Association of Volcanology, and Thermo Scientific jointly organized an international summer school entitled Isotope Geology: Frontiers in Petrogenesis and Magmatology, and Applications to Archaeometry and Environmental Sciences, which was held in Verbania-Pallanza (Italy), 18–22 June 2007. The summer school provided cultural and scientific background on the applications of isotope science to geology, archaeometry, and environmental sciences. Besides the isotopes traditionally used in geosciences (e.g. Sr, Nd, Pb, U/Th), new isotope systems were also addressed. ThermoScientific and GVI experts were on hand to provide technical and scientific background on mass spectrometry equipment.

Diego Perugini, Secretary
Sandro Conticelli, President

PLINIUS, CARAPEZZA, AND GUTTUSO

The Story of the Society's Logo

In the early 1980s the SIMP decided to create a prize for scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences. This idea came from Marcello Carapezza (1925–1987), who was SIMP president in 1982–1983 and a man and geochemist of renaissance humanism. “A world without myths,” he used to say, “is a world without ideals.” He asked the great Italian painter Renato Guttuso (1911–1987)—a close personal friend—to engrave a medal representing a scientist considered a “myth” in the natural sciences. Guttuso designed and manufactured the Plinius Medal, which today is the Society's most important prize. The medal reproduces a left profile of Gaius Plinius Secundus, an historian, philosopher, and scientist known worldwide as Pliny the Elder, not to be confused with his nephew, Pliny the Younger. Plinius was born in Como in 23 AD and died during the famous Vesuvius eruption of 79 AD that overwhelmed Pompei and Ercolano. Plinius had wished to observe and describe this tremendous natural phenomenon from the closest vantage point, and perhaps he inhaled poisonous gases or suffered a heart attack. He was the author of *Naturalis Historia*, a comprehensive treatise in 37 books that encompasses several facets of the natural



Original sketch by Renato Guttuso for the Plinius Medal (COURTESY ARCHIVI GUTTUSO ASSOCIATION)

sciences (geography, zoology, botany, medicine, etc.). A section of *Naturalis Historia* is devoted to the description of minerals, and for that reason Plinius has been regarded, not only in Italy, as one of the fathers of mineralogy. Plinius is the title of the SIMP bulletin, and a sketch of the Plinius Medal is represented in the Society's logo. The Plinius Medal was first awarded in 1983 to Harry Rose. Other winners were Giancarlo Facca (1983), Hugo Strunz (1985), Franco Barberi (1987), Stefano Merlini (1995), Francesco Paolo Sassi (1997), Giovanni Ferraris (1999), Piero Manetti (2001), Luciano Ungaretti (2004, *in memoriam*), and Attilio Boriani (2005).



Renato Guttuso and Marcello Carapezza (COURTESY ARCHIVI GUTTUSO ASSOCIATION)