SOCIETY NEWS

Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

POSTMINING WORKSHOP IN SEVILLE

The Mineralogical Society of Spain is helping to organize a workshop entitled Postmining Problems from the Exploitation of Polymetallic Sulfides, which will take place in Seville on 17–19 November 2008. The organizing committee (Drs. E. Galán, I. González, A. Romero) has put together a series of lectures by experts from Spain and abroad, including Drs. D.K. Nordstrom (USGS, USA), E. Tornos (IGME, Spain), J.C. Fernández-Caliani (Univ. Huelva, Spain), D. Ramilmair (FIGNR, Germany), J. Sánchez-Españo (IGME, Spain), J.C. Baquero (UPM, Spain), E. Galán (Univ. Seville, Spain), I. González (Univ. Seville, Spain), A. García-Sánchez (CSIC, Spain), J. de la Rosa (Univ. Huelva, Spain), and L. Rodríguez-León (Regional Environmental Prosecutor). The topics of the meeting include environmental and legal issues related to the abandonment and reclamation of polymetallic sulfide mines, with special emphasis on the world-class volcanicogenic massive sulfides of the Iberian Pyrite Belt (IPB). The talks will cover aspects such as the effects of acid mine drainage on surface waters, dealing with heavy-metal contamination in farm and cattle lands, and the impact on human health of windblown particulates originating from mine tailings. These themes will also be examined from the point of view of existing laws and their enforcement.

Two open poster sessions and a field trip to the world-renowned Río Tinto mine will complement the workshop. The workshop fee, including the field trip and coffee-break refreshments, is 300€.

The deadline for abstract submission is September 30, 2008. Further information may be obtained at igonza@us.es and aromero@us.es.

COMPUTER METHODS IN MINERALOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY

Over the last few decades, computer methods have become an essential tool for improving our understanding of mineral behaviour from the macroscopic to the atomistic scale. Computer Methods in Mineralogy and Geochemistry (Drs. M. Prieto and C. Brime, eds.), the fourth book in the SEM Seminar series, explores the latest advances in molecular simulations and macroscopic modelling of geochemical systems. The volume starts with a general introduction to atomistic simulation methods (Martin Dove, University of Cambridge) and includes contributions on molecular simulations of phyllosilicates (Ignacio Sainz-Díaz, CSIC-Granada) and on computer modelling of mineral surfaces and interfaces (Nora H. de Leeuw, University College London). At the macroscopic scale, the contributions focus on the environmental applications of geochemical modelling (Lara Duro, Enviros Spain S.L.) and on reactive transport modelling (Carlos Ayora, CSIC-Barcelona). For more information on the contents of this volume visit www.ehu.es/sem/ or contact Sociedad Española de Mineralogía (npvsem@lg.ehu.es).

SEM AND SEA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING IN ZARAGOZA

Between 17 and 19 September 2008, the Mineralogical Society of Spain (SEM) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) will jointly hold their annual meeting in the city of Zaragoza, just after the international exhibition (Expo Zaragoza 2008) that will take place in the same city between 14 June and 14 September.

The meeting will include two and a half days of technical sessions and a seminar entitled “Instrumental Techniques Applied to Mineralogy and Geochemistry”, which will include talks on electron microscopy (TEM/EELS, SEM-EDS), spectroscopy (XAS, XANES, IR), Raman and isotope geochemistry. Drs. E. Mariani (Univ. Liverpool, UK), F. Nieto (Univ. Granada, Spain), C. Recio (Univ. Salamanca, Spain), K. Billstrom (Natur Historika Riksmuseet, Sweden) and S. Morales (Univ. Granada, Spain) are among the invited lecturers.

After the meeting, a field trip will be held to the low-temperature, hydrothermal, metasomatic ore body of Ojos Negros (Iberian Range, NW Spain). Further information about the meeting and related events will be published at the website http://semsea08.unizar.es/.

MINERALS FROM SPAIN

On the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of SEM in 2005, the University Institute of Geology Isidro Parga Pondal and SEM produced a limited-edition facsimile of the book Los Minerales de España, written in 1910 by Salvador Calderon. The book consists of two volumes, with 416 and 561 pages, respectively. Only a few copies of them are available for purchase from the SEM at 60€ (40€ for SEM members), plus shipping and handling. More information can be obtained from the SEM web page.

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