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Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

RESTYLING OF MACLA



Cover page of the 8th issue of MACLA magazine. The photograph shows aragonite crystals from the Ciutadella Natural Sciences Museum (Barcelona, Spain).

In May, members of the Mineralogical Society of Spain received the eighth issue of the magazine *MACLA*. In that issue, *MACLA* showed off its cover-to-cover restyling, in accordance with the will of SEM to progressively modernize its vehicles of reference and communication. *MACLA* took over from the *Boletín de la Sociedad Española de Mineralogía*, which was published without interruption from 1974 until 2004, when the SEM joined the editorial consortium of the *European Journal of Mineralogy*. Published twice a year, *MACLA* offers Society members general information and on-demand articles covering characterization techniques, environmental issues, the history of science, and popularization of mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry. *MACLA* also publishes the abstracts of the annual meeting of the SEM, as well as monographic issues devoted to topics of interest for the broad mineralogical community.

THE FUTURE OF MINERALOGY IN SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN SPACE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Since the publication in June 1999 of the Bologna Declaration (a pledge by 29 states to reform the structures of their higher-education systems in a convergent way), a number of legislative actions have been undertaken in the various countries of the European Union. At present, Spain is immersed in the complex process of a comprehensive redefinition of curricula associated with the graduate studies programs. In this respect, while it is widely accepted that mineralogy and related sciences belong in the core of all geology degrees, their participation in collateral areas (materials science, engineering, chemistry, biology, environmental science, etc.) is not so clear and a matter of discussion. Even in the case of geology degrees, the extent and topics covered by mineralogy and mineralogy-related courses are the subjects of considerable debate. The analysis of this and other important problems that the mineralogical community of Spain faces in the 21st century was the objective of a one-day seminar that took place on June 11, at the Faculty of Geology of the Complutense University of Madrid. The conclusions of the seminar will be provided to all universities in Spain, as well as to the Ministry of Education and to the national agency in charge of quality evaluation of universities and degrees. Further information may be obtained from barren@geo.ucm.es or Ishtar@geo.ucm.es.

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR THE SEM/SEA 2008 MEETING

The organizing committee of the Mineralogical Society of Spain/Spanish Clay Society meeting (Zaragoza, 16–19 September 2008) has arranged for a wide selection of plenary lectures delivered by reputed researchers: Jacques Schott (CNRS-Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France); Gyora Rytwo (School of Environmental Sciences and Technology, el-Hai Technological College, Israel); José Pedro Calvo-Sorando (Geological Survey of Spain); Crisogono Vasconcelos (ETH-Zentrum, Geologisches Institut, Zurich, Switzerland); Martine Buatier (UFR Sciences

et Techniques, Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France); and Elisabetta Mariani (University of Liverpool, United Kingdom). The scientific sessions of the meeting will focus on the following topics: replacement, dissolution and recrystallization in low-temperature systems; mineral resources and sustainability; cultural heritage; water-rock interaction and environmental quality; and characterization and genesis of clays. Further information about the meeting and related events is available at the official website: <http://semsea08.unizar.es/>

IN MEMORIAM LECTURE

On April 11, at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Barcelona, an homage was paid to Dr. Xavier Solans (1949–2007), Professor of Crystallography and Mineralogy at the University of Barcelona and a reputed member of the international community of crystallographers. Professor Joaquim Solans delivered a heartfelt testimonial about his brother and colleague, who was an expert in the field of X-ray diffraction and the resolution of crystal structures. After the commemoration, a Master Lecture was delivered by the Director of the Laboratory for Crystallographic Studies (LEC-CSIC), Dr. Juan

Manuel García-Ruiz. The topic of his talk was “Crystallography and Crystallization in the Earth Sciences.”

Other members of the SEM who sadly passed away in 2007 were Constanza Fernández-Nieto (1943–2007), José María Martín-Pozas (1939–2007) and François Fontan (1942–2007). All of them will be honored in a special session of the 2008 annual meeting of the SEM. The Society wishes to express its recognition and respect for their many years of dedication to teaching and fruitful research.



From left to right, Juan Manuel García-Ruiz (Director of LEC-CSIC), Joaquim Solans (Professor, University of Barcelona), Miquel Àngel Cuevas (Dean of the Faculty of Geology), and Salvador Gali (Chairman of the Department of Crystallography and Mineralogy) paying homage to Dr. Xavier Solans (inset). Photo courtesy of E. Tauler