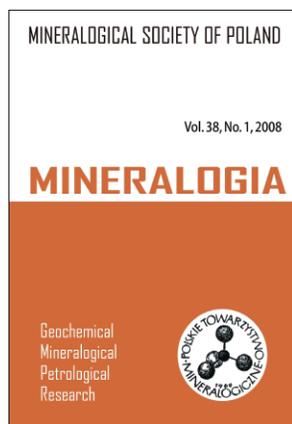




www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl

Mineralogical Society of Poland

MINERALOGIA POLONICA JOURNAL CHANGES ITS TITLE AND COVER



Mineralogia Polonica, the official journal of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, was founded in 1970. Two issues have been printed every year to date. *Mineralogia Polonica*, publishing in English from its beginning, has been very important for the development of mineralogical science in Poland. Based on a long discussion with our foreign contributors and other colleagues from abroad, we have concluded that the title suggests that the journal is focused on local mineralogical problems in Poland. To avoid this misunderstanding, we decided to modify the title and, accordingly, the journal cover. The new and simple title *Mineralogia* (with subtitle *Geochemical, Mineralogical, and Petrological Research*) indicates the open character of the journal. Our intention is to publish original papers, review papers, and short notes from the broad fields of geochemistry; mineralogy; petrology; technical, experimental and applied mineralogy; and environmental geochemistry and mineralogy. We also decided to introduce changes in the review and preparation of papers to ensure a high scientific level and a relatively short time span between paper submission and publication (electronic and paper versions). The regular series *Mineralogia* will be accompanied by the irregular one (*Mineralogia – Special Papers*), containing conference abstracts.

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It is our deep conviction that the journal published by our scientific society should be accessible freely to the whole scientific community. Similarly to the former *Mineralogia Polonica*, all full-text papers in the new journal will be accessible via the society website (www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl), Direct Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org), Metapress (www.metapress.com), and via the *Mineralogia* webpage (www.mineralogia.pl).

We invite you to publish your papers in *Mineralogia*, and we hope you will like the experience.

Marek Michalik

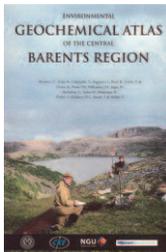
President of the Mineralogical Society of Poland

4th MID-EUROPEAN CLAY CONFERENCE MECC'08

Zakopane, Poland
22–27 September 2008
www.mecc08.agh.edu.pl
e-mail:mecc08@agh.edu.pl

IAGC (cont'd from page 268)

Special Offer for IAGC Members: 10 Years of the Kola Project



In 1998, the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) published the now-classic *Environmental Geochemical Atlas of the Central Barents Region* or, in short, *The Kola Atlas*. The atlas presents the results of an international (Finland–Norway–Russia) multimedia (terrestrial moss, topsoil and the O-, B- and C-horizon of podzol profiles), multi-element (more than 60 chemical elements, radioisotopes and other parameters), geochemical mapping project, covering 188,000 km² in the European Arctic. IAGC members who do not yet have the atlas in their library can now get it free of charge, provided they pay the postage (the book weighs 2.5 kg). The official sales price of the book is 450 NOK, about US\$90. The NGU still sells about one copy every three months or so but wants to reduce the stock substantially. Orders should be sent to Clemens.Reimann@ngu.no.

START-UP MEETING FOR EUROPEAN-SCALE GEOCHEMICAL MAPPING PROJECT

The EuroGeoSurveys Geochemistry Working Group met in Berlin, March 5–7, 2008. At this meeting the GEMAS Project (Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural Land and Grazing Land Soils of Europe) was officially started. Thirty-four European geological survey organizations have agreed to collect samples of arable land (ploughing layer, 0–20 cm) and of land under permanent grass cover (0–10 cm) at a density of 1 site per 2500 km² in their territory. The total area covered will be about 5.8 million km². The project is a continuation and extension of the Baltic Soil Survey, which resulted in a very successful geochemical atlas. The project is led by Clemens Reimann, IAGC Vice-President. The European metals industry, represented by EuroMetaux of Brussels, will support this project with a contribution of 130,000 Euros per year, over a four-year period.

Clemens Reimann

SFMC (cont'd from page 269)

PRIX HAÛY-LACROIX 2008



Mélanie Auffan receiving the Prix Haüy-Lacroix 2008 from Patrick Cordier, SFMC President

studies. Our goal was to develop appropriate methods to assess the safety of NP. Using a standardized bio-physicochemical approach controlling the properties of NP all along their interactions with biological targets, it is possible to compare toxicological data and to identify mechanisms of toxicity. We propose a classification of the potential toxicity of metallic NP related to a redox sensitivity that predisposes them to induce an oxidative stress towards biological targets. Indeed, chemically stable metallic NP in physiological redox conditions do not exhibit any cytotoxicity in our experimental conditions, whereas metallic NP with strong oxidative (e.g. CeO₂) or reductive (e.g. Fe⁰ or Fe₃O₄) power appear cytotoxic for *Escherichia coli* and genotoxic for human fibroblasts. The main source of toxicity is the electronic and/or ionic transfers during oxidation (e.g. Fe²⁺ and/or Fe⁰) or reduction reactions (e.g. Ce⁴⁺, Mn³⁺, Co³⁺) either within the NP lattice or on release to solution. These results raise many questions concerning the toxicity of nanometric crystallites. While this redox activity may be desirable for several applications (e.g. catalysis, sensors), we have pointed out that this same trait can also have negative implications in an environmental context.