



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL MEETING

The SFMC held its general assembly at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, on 10 June 2008. During the meeting, the Society awarded the Prix Haüy-Lacroix to Mélanie Auffan (see *Elements*, August 2008).



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, Dominique DeLigny, Anne Marie Boulrier, Michel Maquet, Catherine Mével, Stéphanie Rossano, Marc Blanchard, Patrick Cordier, Mélanie Auffan, Martine Lagache, Anne Marie Karpoff, François Farges

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Transmission Electron Microscopy Workshop

A workshop on new developments in TEM techniques and applications will be organized by Patrick Cordier and held in Lille in January 2009 (patrick.cordier@univ-lille1.fr).

Micro-Analysis, Processes, Time Conference (MAPT)

The Society, as co-convenor, is involved in sessions of the 2009 annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The program is still being developed. The conference will be held in Edinburgh, from 31 August to 2 September 2009. The SFMC is involved in the following sessions:

- New advances in transmission electron microscopy characterisation and preparation of minerals (patrick.cordier@univ-lille1.fr)
- Environmental mineralogy: from science to solutions (farges@mnhn.fr)

For more information, visit

www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/MAPT/MAPT.html.

XIV International Clay Conference

Society members are co-convenors of the following sessions at the AIPEA meeting, which will be held in beautiful Castellaneta Marina, Italy, June 14–20, 2009.

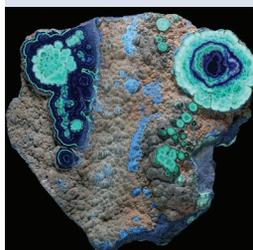
- Clays in geological processes (amk@illite.u-strasbg.fr)
- Serpentine as hot clays (baronnet@crmcn.univ-mrs.fr)
- Structural characterisation of lamellar compounds (Bruno.Lanson@obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)
- Crystal chemistry and structure of clays (alain.meunier@univ-poitiers.fr)

For more information, visit www.14icc.org/index.html.



For all SFMC and FFG joint activities visit the website
<http://e.geologie.free.fr>

A VIRTUAL GALLERY OF MINERALOGY IN PARIS



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The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris has opened its virtual gallery of mineralogy and gemology. Funded thanks to the corporate philanthropy of the French oil company TOTAL, the website currently displays 300 samples from the museum collection. Historical samples that cannot yet be exposed to the public, like the Great Sapphire of Louis XIV of France, and recent acquisitions from the Himalayas are among the items shown in the gallery. Texts explain how minerals are formed and give scientific information on each mineral species presented. Some minerals can be visualized in 3D using QuickTime® VirtualReality technology. One can zoom into each sample to see details. The site is bilingual in French and English. The gallery is now in its first version, and further developments are underway to increase the number of displayed samples. A very new type of marketing was associated with the opening of the gallery, involving bloggers and journalists from the virtual world.

A blog (address below) gives details on recent acquisitions, donations, trips, exhibits and much more. The bilingual blog aims to provide recent information in a few clicks. Notes are classified according to the year (currently 2007 and 2008). Among the information given is a mention of the fabulous Rosenthal donation, recently obtained, which comprises many very rare gems (painite, red beryl and many more) and an exquisite fire opal from Mexico. The blog also highlights the instruments recently obtained by the Museum, including a Gandolfi-type micro-diffraction instrument and a variable-pressure scanning electron microprobe. Including its SIM and nanoSIMS capacities, the laboratory is one of the world's best, if not the best, laboratory for research centered around a major mineral and gem collection.

François Farges

Professor MNHN/Stanford, Curator in Charge

Website at:

www.museum-mineral.com/home.php

Video announcement in English (HD format) at: www.vimeo.com/1189820

Blog at:

www.mnhn.fr/blogmineralogie