



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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SEM-SEA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The 28th meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Zaragoza on 16–19 September 2008. The conference was co-organized by the Mineralogical Society of Spain (SEM) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA). The meeting, which takes place each year at different places in Spain, was convened by Dra. Blanca Bauluz Lázaro and brought together over 170 scientists from Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Israel, Switzerland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and India.

A number of activities took place during the meeting: monographic workshop, two days of scientific communications and posters, and a field trip. The workshop was focused on the topic “Instrumental Techniques Applied to Mineralogy and Geochemistry,” with the aim of updating the knowledge of both young and senior researchers. The most common analytical techniques employed in geology and materials science research were covered, and ideas on new tendencies, applications and commercial equipment were presented. The workshop was conducted by specialists like Fernando Nieto (University of Granada, Spain), Elisabetta Mariani (University of Liverpool, UK), Biliana Gasharova (ANKA synchrotron light source at Karlsruhe, Germany), Jesus Chaboy (CSIC-Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain), Clemente Recio (University of Salamanca, Spain), Kjell Billstrom (Natur Historiska Riskmuseet of Stockholm, Sweden) and Salvador Morales (University of Granada, Spain). The lectures were grouped into four sections (electron microscopy, X-ray absorption spectroscopy-XAS, isotope geology and fluid inclusions) in the manner of the fifth volume of the SEM Seminars Series (I. Subías and B. Bauluz, eds.). The book, with contributions in Spanish and English, will provide a valuable source of documentation for students and researchers.

Oral and poster contributions covered a number of topics (mineral resources and sustainability; cultural heritage; replacement, dissolution and recrystallization in low-temperature systems; water–rock interaction and environmental quality; characterization and clay genesis; clays and materials); as well, there were open sessions on mineralogy, geochemistry and petrology. The sessions included plenary lectures given by specialists like Jacques Schott (CNR Université Paul Sabatier, France), José Pedro Calvo (Spanish Geological Survey), Crisógono Vasconcelos (ETH-Zentrum-Geologisches Institut, Switzerland), Martine Buatier (UFR des Sciences et des Techniques, France) and Giora Rytwo (Tel Hai Academic College, Israel).

The meeting concluded with a one-day field trip to the iron deposits of the Ojos Negros mining district and to sites illustrating the cultural heritage of the region. The next meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Spain will take place in Salamanca, in the fall of 2009.

SEM 2008 YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

Saoia Suárez and Encarnación Ruiz Agudo were the recipients of 2008 Young Scientist Awards of the Mineralogical Society of Spain. Saoia, a researcher at the Basque Country University, co-authored a work with H.M. Prichard, F. Velasco, P.C. Fisher and I. MacDonald on the weathering of platinum-group minerals in the gossan of the Aguablanca Ni-Cu deposit (SW Spain). The work of Encarnación (University of Granada) combined TEM and two-dimensional XRD studies to better understand the thermal decomposition of calcite.



From left to right: Manuel Prieto (SEM president), Eduardo Ruiz Hitzky (SEA president), Blanca Bauluz (meeting convener), and Young Scientist awardees Saoia Suárez and Encarnación Ruiz Agudo. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEM-SEA 2008



Mineralogical Society of Poland

www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl

MINERALOGIA JOURNAL

As announced earlier in *Elements* (volume 4, number 4, 2008), *Mineralogia* (formerly *Mineralogia Polonica*) is the official journal of the Mineralogical Society of Poland. *Mineralogia*, an open-access journal, publishes original papers within the broad scope of the mineralogical sciences (i.e. mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, environmental sciences, applied mineralogy, etc.). *Mineralogia* is an English-language journal with a 40-year-long tradition. For details see www.mineralogia.pl.

Mineralogia:

- facilitates communication and promotes scientific research,
- covers the broad scope of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and related disciplines,
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The journal publishes original research papers up to 20 pages long (1800 characters per page), review papers, short notes (e.g. new, interesting occurrences of minerals), book reviews, and letters to the editors commenting on earlier papers. Authors of larger manuscripts are asked to contact the editor

before submitting. If you have any questions regarding our journal, please address them to mineralogia@home.pl. Thank you in advance for your consideration to submit an article to our journal.

Content of the first published issue of Mineralogia (volume 39, number 1, 2008)

- E.J. Catlos, C.B. Baker, I. Çemen, C. Ozdemir – Whole-rock major-element influences on monazite growth: examples from igneous and metamorphic rocks in the Menderes Massif, Western Turkey
- J. Rakovan, Y. Luo, O. Borkiewicz – Synchrotron microanalytical methods in the study of trace and minor elements in apatite
- E. Janots, F. Brunet, B. Goffé, C. Poinssot, M. Burchard, L. Cemic – Thermochemical characterization of $\text{Ca}_4\text{La}_6(\text{SiO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$, a synthetic La- and OH-analogue of britholite: implication for monazite and LREE apatite stability
- I. Broska, I. Petrik – Genesis and stability of accessory phosphates in silicic magmatic rocks: a western Carpathian case study

Full texts are available on these webpages: MetaPress www.metapress.com, DOAJ www.doaj.org, and *Mineralogia* www.mineralogia.pl.

PETROLOGY, MINERALOGY, AND GEOCHEMISTRY SESSION DURING THE 1st POLISH GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN KRAKÓW

The Geological Society of Poland held the 1st Polish Geological Congress in Kraków on 26–28 June 2008. The congress brought together about 600 geoscientists from all over Poland and several foreign countries. The meeting's 13 sessions covering all fields of geoscience provided a forum to present recent works and achievements and to discuss new ideas. The petrology, mineralogy, and geochemistry session, led by Zbigniew Sawłowicz, was one of the biggest (more than 100 authors involved). Sixteen invited lectures presented advances in research on radiogenic and stable isotopes, geochronology, application of geochemistry to paleoenvironmental reconstructions, petrology of magmatic and metamorphic rocks, clay minerals, and meteorites. The 45 posters covered an extremely wide spectrum of techniques used and materials studied. The session stressed the importance of petrology, mineralogy, and geochemistry in Polish geoscience.