



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

www.socminpet.it

A NEW WEBSITE FOR SIMP: WWW.SOCMINPET.IT

We are happy to announce the new website of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology. The graphics and structure of the site have been entirely rebuilt. The purpose of the new site is to provide a portal, mainly for the Italian scientific community, to access mineralogical and petrological resources on the Web. New sections have been added in order to stimulate the interest of students and non-academic organizations in our fields of research in the Earth Sciences. Several pages are dedicated to conferences and activities popularizing mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology held at universities and museums in Italy. Students will find information on PhD programs and courses at various levels. Collectors will take advantage of comprehensive lists of not-for-profit organizations, mineral shows, and publications illustrating the beauty of minerals and rocks. Books and journals are introduced to researchers.



An innovative feature of the new website is the structure of the section dedicated to job opportunities. This is not simply a place where positions are posted; young researchers can develop their career by publishing their own curriculum vitae on the Web. Expertise is then searchable through the Google engine, implemented on the Home page, promoting contacts between graduate students, postdocs, research institutions, and private companies.

We wish to thank Nadia Malaspina (winner of the SIMP prize for the best PhD dissertation in 2007; see *Elements* 4: 267) and Lorenza Fascio for developing this very promising tool for Italian scientists.

NEWS FROM GNP

During the last SIMP meeting held in Sestri Levante, the National Group of Petrography (GNP) renewed its executive committee. The new members are Massimo Coltorti (Ferrara) – President; Costanza Bonadiman (Ferrara) – Secretary; Bernardo Cesare (Padova), Patrizia Fumagalli (Milano), Paolo Mazzoleni (Catania), Maurizio Mazzucchelli (Modena) and Elisabetta Rampone (Genova). The outgoing committee wishes the new members fruitful work.

Sandro Conticelli (Past President)
Diego Perugini (Past Secretary)

GEOITALIA 2009 VII ITALIAN FORUM OF EARTH SCIENCES



Rimini, September 9–11, 2009

The meeting will feature 122 thematic sessions grouped in 22 symposia, 13 general sessions, 14 workshops, and 9 short courses. For information, visit WWW.GEOITALIA.ORG.

SIMP PRIZES FOR PHD STUDENTS IN 2008

Every year SIMP awards prizes for the best PhD dissertations by young researchers. The winners for 2008 were Cristina Carbone (University of Genova), and Stefano Del Moro (University of Urbino).



CRISTINA CARBONE

Crystal-Chemical and Minerogenetic Study of Fe Oxides and Oxyhydroxides Related to Acid Mine Drainage Processes in the Libiola Mine (Sestri Levante, Italy)

This PhD thesis was focused on the crystal-chemical and minerogenetic characterization of iron oxides and oxyhydroxides related to acid mine drainage (AMD) processes in abandoned mine areas. The AMD environments

are particularly suitable for the investigation of different mineralogical aspects of Fe-rich mineral assemblages; in fact, iron-rich minerals occur in huge quantities in these environments and continuously form and transform as a consequence of variations in physico-chemical parameters. The analyzed samples were representative of different minerogenetic conditions: (1) altered massive and stockwork mineralizations, (2) unconsolidated precipitates characterized by amorphous or poorly crystalline phases, and (3) oxidation crusts (layered hardpans) consisting of crystalline and stable minerals. A combination of different analytical techniques, such as XRPD with Rietveld refinement, TEM, IR, micro-Raman, EPR, and magnetic measurements, was used. Moreover, the use of synchrotron radiation (in particular μ -XRD, μ -XRF, and μ -XANES) was very helpful in the investigation of the temporal and spatial evolution of the mineralogy and chemistry of complex iron oxides and oxyhydroxides.



STEFANO DEL MORO

Pyrometamorphic Processes at the Interface between Magma and Products of the Hydrothermal System in Active Volcanoes: Evidence from the Ejecta of Stromboli (Aeolian Islands, Italy)

This PhD work demonstrated how hydrothermally altered wall rocks, heated by contact with high-temperature basaltic magmas in the feeder conduit system of volcanoes, may commonly suffer pyrometamorphism. Partial melting followed by quenching and/or subsolidus recrystallization of the hydrothermally altered protoliths give rise to contact-metamorphic rocks belonging to the buchite facies, which are then disrupted and erupted as ejecta during volcanic paroxysms. In order to provide insights into the origin and high-temperature and low-pressure modal mineralogy of some buchite facies rocks formed at the magma–hydrothermal system interface of Stromboli, various analytical techniques, such as ICP-OES-MS, SEM-EDS, EMPA, ion chromatography, and X-ray diffraction, were applied.