

rim and a circular, 25 km diameter outer rim. After the impact 15 million years ago, the crater became an undrained lake for two million years and filled up with washed-down silt. Thus, the crater was protected from weathering and vegetation. Earthquakes, volcanism, and faulting have not affected it. During the Pleistocene, the crater sediments were washed out. Human settlement started slowly during the Paleolithic era (Old Stone Age). Archeological finds can be seen in the museums in the Ries. Ipf, a table mountain at the western edge of the Ries Crater, is currently the largest Celtic excavation site in Western Europe.

Further information can be obtained on the Internet by entering the names of locations, minerals, concepts, and STS numbers of space flights.

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DMG PETROLOGY AND PETROPHYSICS SECTION MEETING



Participants at this year's Petrology and Petrophysics Section meeting in front of the Institute of Geosciences, Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main. PHOTO: ALAN WOODLAND

On 26 June 2010, the traditional Petrology and Petrophysics Section meeting of the German Mineralogical Society was held once more. At the invitation of Prof. Alan Woodland and Dr. Kevin Klimm, 44 scientists and young researchers from all over Germany convened at the Institute of Geosciences of Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main to present their latest scientific results and discuss them with colleagues. Many participants had met the evening before to exchange news and get early information about the meeting program.

After a short introduction by Allan Woodland, the program started with a presentation by Prof. Katsura (Bavarian Geoinstitute, Bayreuth, Germany), who explained in detail multi-anvil experiments, including X-ray diffractometry measurements under high pressure and temperature conditions. Other contributors presented experimental studies on the formation of reaction rims on mineral surfaces, water-rock interactions in submarine hydrothermal systems, laboratory-scale CO₂ sequestration, and the composition of the Archean and Proterozoic atmosphere and seawater. Field-related studies, such as fluid processes in subduction channels, metasomatic processes in eclogites, research on the eastern Antarctic Annandagstoppane granite, and Ta-Nb mineralization processes in Colombia, were also detailed. Other workers described new methods in X-ray microcomputer tomography and electron backscatter diffractometry, as well as the atomistic simulation of silicate melts. One talk dealt with a new Internet platform on which petrologists can discuss problems or ask questions. Find further information about this at www.expet-network.com. With a total of 16 presentations, the diverse program allowed participants to look outside their own scientific interests and get insights into different subjects.

During lunch break and after the scientific program was completed, participants had the opportunity to visit the new Institute and laboratories. The evening ended with sporting events and a delicious BBQ with cold drinks (with the kind support of Springer). The 2011 meeting will be organized by colleagues of the Ruhr University in Bochum.

Katja Beier, Kiel



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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BIOMINERALS AND BIOMINERALIZATION PROCESSES: NEW VOLUME OF THE SEM SEMINAR SERIES

Understanding the complex interplay between the organic and inorganic factors controlling the formation of biominerals represents one of the most challenging goals of modern mineralogy. *Biominerals and Biomineralization Processes*, the seventh volume in the Seminar Series of the Mineralogical Society of Spain, is aimed at providing young and senior researchers with an updated and comprehensive view of recent advances in the field of biomineralization. The volume collects the invited lectures delivered at a workshop held in Madrid on 13 September 2010. The first chapter introduces the hierarchical architecture of most biomaterials, from which their mechanical properties derive. The second chapter provides a detailed review of the state of knowledge about bacteria-mediated magnetite crystallization. The third contribution focuses on the microstructural and crystallographic features characteristic of shells. The fourth and fifth chapters discuss the so-called "vital effects"—how they influence the geochemical signature of biominerals and the applicability of such signatures as proxies for paleoclimate reconstructions. The final chapter reviews the impact of contaminants on biomineralization and the suitability of biominerals as contamination pathfinders.

Lurdes Fernández-Díaz and José Manuel Astilleros, researchers in the Department of Mineralogy of the Complutense University of Madrid, are the special editors of this volume.



This book, like the others in the series (with the exception of volumes 1 and 2, which are in the process of being digitalized) can be downloaded at no cost from the SEM website (www.ehu.es/sem/revista/seminarios.htm).

This seventh volume of the SEM Seminar Series inaugurates a new format, typography, and image. These changes, while improving many visual aspects, seek the harmonization of the editorial products of the SEM (the Seminar series and the journal *MACLA*) with the new corporate image of the society.