The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Paul Schroeder, President

I'm sitting in my office about to undertake the review of a manuscript that looks interesting because it delves into the exciting (at least to me) topic of clays and a biologically important element. The authors are from a well-respected Chinese university. According to our trusty chief editor, Joe Stucki, *Clays and Clay Minerals* is experiencing an increase in submissions from clay scientists around the world. It is wonderful to know that the global network of clay science is growing, not only in China but also on all continents.

The life-blood for promoting and sustaining high-quality publication runs through the veins of associate editors and their army of reviewers. Reviews take a great deal of time, and the peer-review system is currently under stress as we are asked to "do more with less." The increase in submissions presents a challenge for which I'd like to propose a solution: it's time to embrace more people into the reviewer pool. This includes clay scientists who are newly submitting manuscripts, like the ones whose manuscript I am about to review. Others include doctoral candidates, postdocs, and those outside the traditional domains of clay science (e.g. medical researchers if the topic covers public health). By being asked to review a manuscript, these emerging clay scientists gain experience and feel a greater sense of ownership and personal investment in the CMS. Let's extend our tentacles, and the next time you are asked to review a manuscript please suggest a new name; if you have never reviewed a paper, send your own name to an associate editor or our chief editor. Now it's time for me to start that review and add a name or two to the pool. Cheers.

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THE 2010 SEA-CSSJ-CMS TRILATERAL MEETING ON CLAYS

The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) held its 47th annual meeting in conjunction with the Clay Science Society of Japan (CSSJ) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) in Spain on June 6–11, 2010. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky. Yoshiaki Fukushima and Ray Ferrell were cochairs. Pilar Aranda and Patricia Aparicio served as general secretary and general treasurer of the meeting, respectively. The trilateral meeting on clays (2010TMC) provided a unique atmosphere for the presentation and discussion of over 200 technical reports on innovations in the study of clays and clay minerals. The 2010TMC began with a one-day workshop on clays and materials in Madrid, followed by a symposium on sepiolite. The symposium included a field trip to Mg-clay deposits close to Madrid and one half-day technical session in Seville with papers describing the origin and technical applications of sepiolite. The general meeting, also in Seville, was followed by a field trip to the Rio Tinto Mines area.

The workshop focused on the development and use of advanced materials based on clays and clay minerals. It was held at the Materials Science Institute of Madrid (National Research Council of Spain, ICMM-CSIC, www.icmm.csic.es), located on the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) campus. The chairs, Pilar Aranda, Makoto Ogawa, and Lawrence Drummy, were assisted by Margarita Darder, M. Angeles Martín-Luengo, Carolina Belver, Francisco M. Fernandes, and Bernd Wicklein. Ten speakers reviewed conventional and innovative aspects of industrial and medical applications of clay and related materials. The proceedings will be published online by the CMS as a monograph in their Workshop Lectures Series.

The visit to the sepiolite quarries and the symposium provided unique insights into the origin and applications of this important industrial mineral. Field trip participants also had ample sampling opportunities at the Vicalvaro (Madrid) and Cabañas (Toledo) mines operated by TOLSA. Sepiolite activities were organized by Santiago Leguey and Jaime Cuevas (UAM) and by Emilia García-Romero, José Fernández-Barrenechea, and Javier Luque (Complutense University Madrid), with help from Javier Berrio and Antonio Alvarez (TOLSA) and Daniel Tejela (Sud Chemie).

A high standard of excellence for technical presentations at the general meeting was established during the plenary lectures. These were delivered by J. M. Serratosa (CMS Bailey Award recipient), R. T. Cygan (CMS Brindley Lecturer), T. Kogure (CMS Jackson Award recipient), S. Takagi and E. Narita (recipients of CSSJ special awards for contributions to clay science), and distinguished scientists E. Ruiz-Hitzky, J. Cornejo, and A. Inoue. Keynote speakers provided special insights for the general sessions, namely, Structural Features and Crystal Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology, Soil and Sediments, Environment and Energy, Biological Aspects and Health, Industrial and Other applications, and Clays in Education Programs. Abstracts of all oral and poster presentations during the general meeting are available online at www.sea-arcillas.es/2010TMC/Book_of_abstracts-2.pdf. A tour of the Real Alcazar followed by cocktails and a gala closing banquet with flamenco-style entertainment at the Triana Abades Restaurant provided spectacular opportunities for social interaction among the participants. The general meeting was chaired by M. Carmen Hermosa, seconded by cochairs P. Schroeder and H. Yamada. They were assisted by J. Cornejo, C. Maqueda, E. Morillo, L. Cox, R. Celis, T. Undabeytia, F. Bruna, I. Gonzalez, and P. Aparicio. Members of the local scientific advisory committee included J. Cornejo, E. Galán, S. Leguey, F. Nieto, J. L. Pérez-Rodríguez, J. M. Serratosa, M. Suárez, and V. Rives. International members included A. Thomas, D. Bain, J. Stucki, W. Huff, K. Okada, T. Sakamoto, R. Kitagawa, E. Narita, M. Shishime, and A. Inoue. The high quality of the technical presentations is due in part to their efforts.

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Prof. **J. M. Serratosa**, recipient of the 2010 Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award

Dr. **Randall T. Cygan**, who delivered the 2010 George W. Brindley Lecture

Prof. **Toshihiro Kogure** (RIGHT), recipient of the 2010 Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award, and his mentor, Prof. **Victor A. Drits** (1996 Bailey Distinguished Member awardee)

A highlight of 2010TMC was the presentation of the best paper award and travel grants to student participants. Francisco M. Fernandes (Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid) was recognized with the best oral presentation award for his communication, coauthored by E. Ruiz-Hitzky, entitled "On the Synergy between Sepiolite and Carbon Nanotubes in Bionanocomposites." Sara Moron (University of Minnesota) received the best Earth science poster award for her communication entitled "Middle Miocene in Panama, Wet or Dry?" It was coauthored by C. Montes, A. Cardona, C. Jamarillo, and D. Fox. Yohei Ishida was given the best poster presentation award in clay technology for the paper (coauthored by S. Takagi, D. Masui, T. Shimada, H. Tachibana, and H. Inoue) "Efficient Excited Energy Transfer Reaction between Porphyrins on Clay Surfaces: The Effects of Adsorption Conditions." Eight students received travel awards from CMS: Marek Szczerba (Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland), Tom Naumann (Georgia State University), Autur Kuligiewicz (Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland), Ali Hooshiar (University of Alberta), Ines Mulder (University of Heidelberg), Sara Moron (University of Minnesota), Irshad Bibi (University of Sydney), and Elena Kuznetsova (Lomonosov Moscow State University). Student travel stipends were also provided by CSSJ and SEA.

The meeting ended with a trip to the Rio Tinto pyrite mines in the province of Huelva, about 80 km northwest of Seville. The mining operations (since prehistoric times), which produce gold, copper, silver, zinc, lead, and other metals, have created a world of reddish hues and a wide range of other colors. Waters draining the region are extremely acidic. The history of the region was told through exhibits at a government-supported tourist facility. The trip was organized by Isabel González and Antonio Romero (University of Seville).

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Ray Ferrell, Louisiana State University

Mineralogical Society of Poland

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POLISH FIELD TRIPS DURING THE 20th GENERAL MEETING OF THE IMA

The Polish Mineralogical Society was one of the co-organizers of the IMA meeting in Budapest, 21–27 August 2010. Among the activities were three pre- and postconference field trips to Poland. The field trip guidebooks were published in *Acta Mineralogica-Petrographica* (Szeged), Field Guide Series, volumes 16, 17, and 18.

Participants in the PL1 field trip beside the statues of the Saint Apostles, damaged by Kraków air pollution

Field trip PL1, "Mineral deposits of the Fore-Carpathian region and weathering processes of monuments in the polluted atmosphere in Kraków (SW Poland)," took participants to a variety of interesting places in and around Kraków: building stones used in historical monuments and weathering processes in a polluted urban atmosphere (leaders: Wanda Wilczyńska-Michalik and Marek Michalik); a historical salt mine in Wieliczka situated in the Carpathian Foredeep (leader: Andrzej Ślączka); and a Mississippi Valley–type (MVT) lead and zinc deposit at the Pomorzany Mine, with its flotation waste and metallurgical slag dumps (leader: Harry Kucha).

Field trip PL2, "Mineralogy of Lower Silesia, Poland," visited famous mineralogical localities in Lower Silesia. These were: the pegmatites of the Karkonosze and Strzegom-Sobótka granite massifs, the Sowie Mountains gneiss block and the Szklary serpentinite massif; the skarns of the Izera metamorphic massif; and the rodingites and nephrites of the Gogołów-Jordanów serpentinite massif. Many nice samples were collected, and the best examples of pegmatite and nephrite will find their way to the Mineralogical Museum of the Eötvös L. University (ELTE) in Budapest. The leaders were Eligiusz Szełęg and Irina Galuskina.

Participants in the PL3 field trip studying the 'Organy Wielisławskie' columnar-jointed Permian rhyolites near Różana

Field trip PL3 was entitled "Late Paleozoic volcanism in the Sudetes Mountains and the Kupferschiefer-type ore deposits in the Fore-Sudetic Monocline, Poland." On the way from Budapest to Wałbrzych (Sudetes), participants enjoyed the scenery of the Bohemian Massif. On the next day the Carboniferous-Permian postorogenic volcanism and associated postmagmatic mineralization were observed within continental molasse successions of two big intramontane troughs: the Intra- and the North-Sudetic basins. Selected volcanic structures (mafic to felsic lavas, subvolcanic intrusions, pyroclastic deposits) were visited (leader: Marek Awdankiewicz). Typical ore sections, as well as unique Au-enriched barren zones and sandstone-hosted massive ores, were seen in two enormous underground mines, Polkowice and Rudna, along with its flotation plant (leader: Zbigniew Sawlowicz, with the collaboration of Jadwiga Pieczonka and Adam Piestrzyński).