



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

RED FLUORITE FROM MONT BLANC – A “NATIONAL TREASURE”



An extremely rare, beautiful and precious red fluorite was recently donated to the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) in Paris, thanks to the corporate philanthropy of a major international oil company. This fluorite, from the Mont Blanc area in the northern French Alps, has been classified as a “National Treasure” by the French Ministry of Culture, a first

for a natural history specimen. This registration allows a major tax deduction to the donor, to the benefit of a French national museum that allows everyone to see the sample. This opportunity opens unprecedented perspectives in France for the enrichment of national collections of mineralogy (and of science in general), which were not originally targeted by this legal tool.

Further information can be found at www.museum-mineral.fr/home.php#http://www.museum-mineral.fr/actualite.php/.

François Farges, MNHN

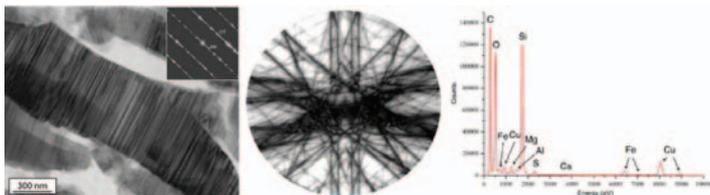
MEETINGS

TEM in Mineralogy 2011: Joint SFMC–DMG Graduate and PhD Course



The first German–French school on the theme “Transmission Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy,” organized by the DMG and SFMC, will be held at the University of Lille in October 2011. The main aspects of

TEM techniques (conventional and high-resolution imaging, diffraction, spectroscopy and chemical analysis) will be covered by the course, which will feature practical sessions, simulations and worked examples. Short courses will add theoretical support to the experiments, analysis and interpretation. The number of participants is limited to 12. The school will interest graduate students, postdocs and researchers. An examination for ECTS credit points will be held at the end of the school. For more information and registration, go to <http://umet.univ-lille1.fr/Animation/MinTem.php/>.



Amélie Bordage and Lyderic France, laureates of the 2010 Haüy Lacroix Prize

Training Days: “Méthodes d’analyse des matériaux et des minéraux”

Two training days organized by the Society were held in Paris, France (UPMC), on November 30 and December 1, 2010. A wide range of technical tools, such as electron microscopy and vibrational spectroscopy, were reviewed. This meeting was attended by 76 people, most of them PhD students. During the conference, the Society presented the Haüy Lacroix Prize, which recognizes original and high-quality PhD work, to two laureates: Amélie Bordage (IMPIC, Paris) and Lyderic France (Géosciences Montpellier). These training days will be repeated soon. Further information on the meeting and the two laureates can be found on the new website of the Society (<http://sfmc-fr.org/>).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Anne-Line Auzende, Etienne Balan (Etienne. Balan@impic.jussieu.fr) and Marc Blanchard

“Les isotopes non-traditionnels, nouvelle frontière en géochimie”



A workshop on “non-traditional” stable isotope biogeochemistry was held at the Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées (OMP), Toulouse, on 13–14 October 2010. The workshop was an extension of a local scientific meeting held every year in Toulouse; this time, however, it was open to the French-speaking community at large and its size was mid-way between that of a local meeting and a session at an international conference such as Goldschmidt or AGU. This informal workshop, sponsored by OMP, the LMTG laboratory and the SFMC, was broken down into four sessions. The first morning was devoted to theoretical and experimental studies of silicon,

iron and magnesium isotopes, and the afternoon session dwelled on high-temperature processes affecting mostly iron and silicon isotopes. The evening featured a poster session on environmental studies using Fe, Hg and Ni isotopes. The next morning was dedicated to low-temperature processes affecting Fe, Zn, Cu, Si and Mg isotopes, while the afternoon focused on the esoteric “MIF” (mass-independent fractionation) that Hg and S isotopes sometimes show.

This was a lively meeting with ample time devoted to discussions, much easier to conduct in French for the youngest scientists attending the event. Participants from Belgium, Greece, Russia, Brazil and the Netherlands had the opportunity to practice their French. Despite another round of strikes protesting retirement reform, which paralyzed French air and rail travel last fall, nearly 40 people attended. The average age of the audience (around 30–35) suggests that this new branch of geochemistry will surely grow.

For more information, go to www.obs-mip.fr/index.php/fre/actualites/Colloques2/isotopes.

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