

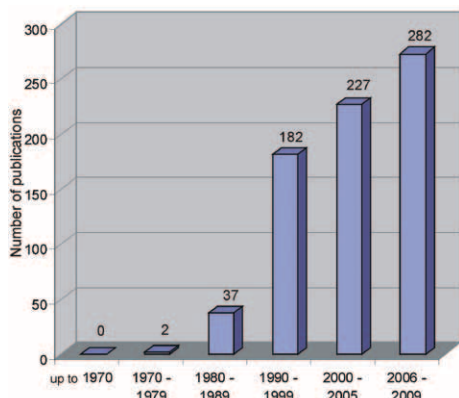


## Mineralogical Society of Poland

[www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl](http://www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl)

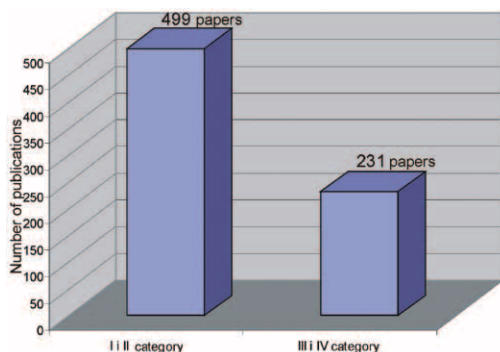
### PROGRESS IN THE PUBLICATION OF POLISH PAPERS ON MINERALOGICAL SCIENCES IN RENOWNED JOURNALS

Results of a survey conducted recently among Polish geochemists, mineralogists, and petrologists by the Mineralogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences revealed a significant increase in the number of research articles published in ISI-listed journals since the political and economic transformations in 1989 (Fig. 1).



**FIGURE 1** Number of publications registered in the ISI database during individual time periods

The main reasons cited were unrestricted international collaboration, better funding, unlimited access to worldwide journals and databases, and easier access to modern research equipment. Introduction of so-called parametric evaluation of the performance of research institutions in Poland further motivates scientists to publish their papers in the most prestigious journals, i.e. with the highest impact factors (Fig. 2).



**FIGURE 2** Comparison of the number of mineralogical papers published in categories I and II (highest impact factors) vs. III and IV (lowest impact factors) among the ISI-listed journals

The relatively low impact of articles authored by Polish mineralogists as measured by their low citation rates, especially the low Hirsh index, with the exception of a few scientists whose papers are widely cited, may have resulted from focusing on solving regional problems rather than tackling issues relevant to the whole scientific community. Fortunately, this trend has recently been reversed. The Committee cautions not to overestimate the role of citation indices in evaluating progress in research. For instance, a description of a new mineral is an important contribution to mineralogy; however, the chance that it will be widely cited is rather small. A more dynamic progress of Polish mineralogical sciences is hindered by still-limited access to modern equipment (there are only two electron microprobes in Poland available to mineralogists, and no ion microprobe) and unsatisfactory funding of research projects. The most optimistic conclusion of the survey is the increasing international activity of young Polish geochemists, mineralogists, and petrologists.

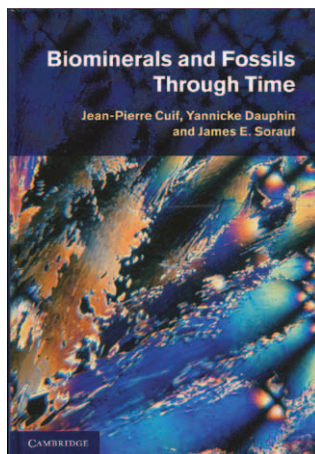
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## Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

[www.sfmc-fr.org](http://www.sfmc-fr.org)

### BIOMINERALS AND FOSSILS THROUGH TIME



SFMC members Jean-Pierre Cuif, Yannicke Dauphin, and James E. Sorauf recently published a book entitled *Biominerals and Fossils Through Time*, edited by Cambridge University Press. Applying recent imaging and chemical characterization methods to a wide diversity of skeletal structures, the authors have produced a fully illustrated, coherent database. At micrometer and submicrometer scales, the morphologically diverse calcareous skeletons exhibit a remarkable similarity that reflects an unexpected sameness in the control of crystallization during growth of the microstructural units. The consequences are presented through various case studies, ranging from chemical and isotopic measurements on recent structures to the interpretation of fossil data and the distribution of fossil lineages through time.

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### 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 instructional sessions 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/>.

