



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

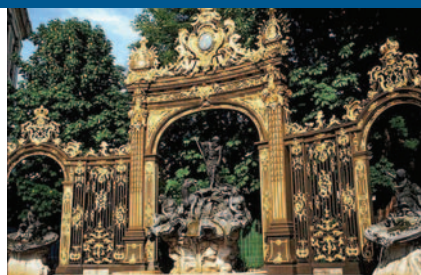
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE MINÉRALOGIE ET DE CRISTALLOGRAPHIE AND THE 2011 HAÛY-LACROIX AWARD



Aurélie Violette and Johan Villeneuve, recipients of the 2011 Haüy-Lacroix Award, and Anne Marie Karpoff (centre), SFMC president

The Society's annual general assembly was held on May 30, 2011, in the historical mineralogical museum of the École Nationale Supérieure des Mines, now called Mines-ParisTech, in Paris. The 2010 highlights were presented by Anne Marie Karpoff, SFMC president. She reported the creation of the Society's new website (www.sfmc-fr.org), considered an

essential support for communication, and she thanked Bertrand Devouard and Étienne Balan for their valuable input. A major action was the formation of two thematic groups, the Synchrotron Users Group and the Endogenous Petrology Group. These groups were immediately successful, leading exchanges between thematically diverse and dispersed communities and filling the need for national-scale lobbying groups. Anne Marie Karpoff also outlined the Society's contributions to the *European Journal of Mineralogy* and *Elements*, as well as its role as sponsor or organizer of six meetings and conferences sessions. Most rewarding was the success of the three-day school *Journées analytiques* in November, 2010. The lectures on analytical and characterization methods were aimed at PhD and master's students and gathered 70 participants. The president reported on upcoming events and projects, and Stéphanie Rossano, treasurer, presented the budget. One of the main points raised during the discussion was the misunderstanding of the role of learned societies by the young generation and the importance of reminding people that without learned societies, conferences, schools, awards, grants, and inexpensive highly ranked publications – essential components of scientific activities – would no longer exist. Following the assembly, the Haüy-Lacroix award ceremony rewarding outstanding PhD work was livened up by lectures given by the two laureates. Aurélie Violette completed her thesis at the Laboratoire Géosciences Environnement Toulouse with a study entitled "Processes and Mass-Balances of Tropical Weathering: Sensitivity to the Mineralogical Composition and Climate." Johan Villeneuve presented his PhD, carried out at the CRPG, University of Nancy, entitled "Chondrule Formation: Precursors and Chronology." Both recipients were warmly congratulated, and their work will be reported in a future issue of *Elements*. Moving to science politics, Bruno Goffé (CNRS-INSU) presented an overview of the French government's strategy on mining resource research (as well as waste and recycling products) and of the consequent academic needs. Jean-Claude Boulliard presented his book on mineral twins, *Le cristal et ses doubles* (CNRS Éditions, ISBN 978-2-271-07049-4). Lydie Touret, our host and curator of the museum, drew the assembly's attention to the uncertain future of the collections and noted that a move to a site outside Paris is being envisaged. The afternoon ended in a friendly manner around drinks and biscuits and with a tour, guided by Lydie and Jacques Touret, of the fabulous museum with its rich history and collections. However, in contrast with the current increasing concern for mineral resources, the museum is very fragile and in danger at this time.



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

GeoRaman–10th Meeting

Following the ninth GeoRaman meeting, the tenth meeting dedicated to the applications of Raman spectroscopy to the Earth sciences will be held in Nancy on 11–13 June 2012 at the Faculty of Sciences. An international school will be associated with this meeting (14–16 June). The meeting and school will be sponsored by the European Mineralogical Union and the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie.

The provisional scientific sessions of the 10th GeoRaman meeting are as follows:

Raman spectroscopy for the exploration of oceans, atmosphere, and planets, as well as in the field and in environmental monitoring

Raman and bio-geochemical processes + astrobiology

Mineralogy + petrology + gemology

Raman in extreme pressure conditions

Raman and glasses, liquid silicates, ionic liquids, aqueous solutions

Cultural heritage

Raman and chemometry + Raman mapping

Theoretical modeling of Raman spectra

The decision to organize an international school associated with the 10th GeoRaman meeting was based on the following considerations: (1) Raman spectroscopy is a powerful tool allowing significant progress in many fields of the Earth and related sciences. (2) Inadequate training in university Earth science courses (theoretical, instrumental, and experimental aspects) is a limiting factor for the application of Raman spectroscopy to the Earth sciences. (3) "Plug and play" instruments may hide different levels of difficulties. In consequence, the following program for this school has been devised: (1) The principles of Raman spectroscopy. (2) Instrumentation and calibration of Raman spectrometers. (3) Raman and fluorescence. (4) Raman data analysis. (5) Theoretical modeling of Raman spectra. (6) Raman spectroscopy at high pressure and temperature: Phase transitions and thermodynamics for geophysical applications. (7) Optical cells for the study of geologic fluids at the Moho and in sedimentary basins. (8) Raman spectroscopy of geological fluids. (9) Raman spectroscopy of glasses. (10) Application of Raman microspectroscopy to the study of carbon materials in the geosciences. (11) Raman spectroscopy in biogeology and astrobiology. (12) Raman spectroscopy as a tool for studying radiation damage in minerals. (13) Raman spectroscopy applied to gemology. (14) Applications of Raman spectroscopy in cultural heritage research.

Registration will start in October 2011.

Website: <http://georaman10.uhp-nancy.fr/>