



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

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MEETING REPORTS

"Serpentine Days," Third Edition

The third edition of "Serpentine Days" was held on the island of Porquerolles, France, on 2–6 September 2012. It attracted 90 participants from 14 countries, and some 45 talks and 40 posters were presented. The previous editions of "Serpentine Days" (*Journées Serpentes* 2003 and 2007) were mostly French meetings initiated by the SFMC, and they gathered scientists working on serpentine-related issues. Due to the success of these events, we opened up the third to a wider international community. The Deep Carbon Observatory joined the SFMC and generously supported the meeting. Other sponsors (IMPMC, INSU, IODP and UCBL) also contributed.

During the meeting, we covered topics as diverse as serpentine in a subduction context, prebiotic environments, life, oceanic settings, societal implications, and more. The aim of these sessions was to bring together people working in different fields but sharing an interest in serpentine. Goal achieved! The scientific sessions were introduced by authoritative keynote speakers. The audience was very attentive and enthusiastic throughout the meeting. The discussions brought out new questions dealing with serpentine and serpentinization processes and continued into the poster sessions. The social events were also highly appreciated, with the traditional ice-breaker party held on Sunday evening in the Salle Cheminée, next to the auditorium. Prior to the gala dinner, featuring specialties from Provence, the participants were invited to a wine tasting at the Domaine de la Courtade vineyard on Porquerolles Island. On Wednesday evening, the Häuy-Lacroix Prize for the year's best PhD thesis in mineralogy was awarded by Bruno Goffé, SFMC president, to Frank Bourdelle for his work "Phyllosilicates as

markers of the thermal history of diagenetic and low-grade metamorphic rocks." Frank then gave a short overview of his work to an attentive audience. On the last day of the meeting, the winner of the photo contest, Bertrand van de Morteele, and the author of the best student poster, Peter Canovas, were rewarded. They both left with a beautiful mineral sample provided by the Mineralogical Museum of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

The success of the event showed how important it is for diverse communities to interact. Serpentine-related questions are complicated, and the integration of knowledge from different scientific fields is essential if we are to identify the various roles of these minerals. The meeting's success proves that the international version of *Journées Serpentes* has a bright future. So, keep tuned.

The Organizing Committee: **Muriel Andreani** (LGL, Lyon), **Anne-Line Auzende** (IMPMC, Paris), **Isabelle Daniel** (LGL, Lyon), **Adelie Delacour** (GET, Toulouse)

GeoRaman Meeting

GeoRaman X was held in Nancy at the Faculté des Sciences et Technologie on 11–13 June 2012. Organized by M.-C. Boiron, M.-C. Caumon, J. Dubessy and P. Lagrange (G2R, Université de Lorraine, France), the meeting brought together 150 participants from Europe, America and Asia. The CNRS, the Université de Lorraine, the French Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche and the SFMC sponsored the meeting. SFMC President Bruno Goffé welcomed the participants and spoke of the importance of Raman spectroscopy in the Earth sciences. SFMC contributed greatly to publicize this meeting at the national scale, but also internationally via *Elements* and its contacts with other mineralogical societies. A selection of talks given at



An attentive audience in the conference room



Jean Dubessy and the three PhD students whose attendance to the GeoRaman meeting was funded by the SFMC: Catherine Evrard (Ifremer, Brest, France), Pauline Henri (Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, France) and Victoria Munoz (Centro de Astrobiología, INTA-CSIC, Madrid, Spain).

the meeting will be published in the *European Journal of Mineralogy*. The meeting featured two poster and five oral sessions: Biomineralogy, astrobiology, planetology, carbon; Methodology and instrumentation; Cultural heritage; Experimentation; and Mineralogy, petrology and gemmology. A social dinner was held in the Grands Salons de l'Hôtel de Ville, located in the splendid Stanislas Square, both from the 18th century. The next GeoRaman meeting will be held in St. Louis (Missouri, USA) in 2014.

The GeoRaman meeting was followed by a three-day international school (14–16 June) entitled Applications of Raman Spectroscopy to Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage; it was co-sponsored by the European Mineralogical Union and the CNRS. More than 60 participants attended. A book containing the different presentations is in press. SFMC supported the participation of three young PhD students.



Participants in "Serpentine Days" in front of the IGESA Hotel Club, Porquerolles, France