

Activities of the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) in 2012

1. The Spanish Clay Society (SEA) organized the **Scientific Meeting SEM-SEA 2012** with the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM). The event took place in Bilbao (Spain) from June 27 to 30, 2012. This corresponds to the 22nd meeting of the SEA. One hundred and fifty researchers participated in the meeting.

The program for the SEM-SEA 2012 Meeting included:

A) One-day workshop seminar on "Archaeometry and Cultural Heritage preservation: the contribution of Mineralogy and related sciences". The seminar took place on June 27th and was addressed by scientists of international prestige that will deliver seven master lectures. The aim of the seminar was to present and discuss on new perspectives and ideas about these topics, particularly for young scientists.

The seminar consists of the following lectures:

"Archaeomineralogy and prehistoric artifacts and gemstones". Dr. Salvador Dominguez Bella, Universidad de Cadiz (Spain).

"Trace element geochemistry and mineralogy for solving problems in provenance and production technologies of Pre-historic ceramics". Dr. Prudencio, Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa, Portugal.

"Technology and provenancing of French faience". Dr. Maggeti, Fribourg University, Switzerland.

"Archaeometallurgy: the contribution of mineralogy". Dr. Artioli, Padova University, Italy.

"Microanalysis of pigments in art works. Dr. Hradil, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Prague, Czedch Republic.

"Lithic materials, coatings and finishes in architectural heritage. Dr. M. Vendrell, Universidad de Barcelona, Spain.

"Binders in historical buildings: traditional lime in conservation". Dr. Rodriguez-Navarro, Universidad de Granada, Spain.

B) Scientific Sessions. The scientific sessions took place on June 28-29 featuring invited scientists who delivered plenary lectures on topics of general interest. Oral and poster presentations from all fields in Clays, Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry were accepted for submission. Our main objective was to organize high-quality scientific

sessions that became a platform for debate, exchange of ideas and new scientific collaborations. The following invited lecturers were given:

“La Mineralogía en el estudio del Patrimonio histórico”. Dr. Marius Vendrell (Universidad de Barcelona).

“Marine minerals as tracers of detrital provenance and transport agent”. Dr. Nathalie Fagel (Université de Liège, Belgique).

“Using clay to bioremediate oil spills”. Dr. Lawrence Warr (Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität Greifswald, Germany).

“Structure and Lithology of the oceanic crust: What do we know today?” Dr. Thierry Juteau”. (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, France).

C) Geological excursions. One field trip was development in 30 June:

+ The Carranza Valley and its Geological Heritage. This excursion included a visit to karstic caves with helictites (Pozalagua), the banded dolomites of Ranero and an old underground Zn-Pb-F-mine (Matienzo).

The General Assembly of the SEA will take place during the meeting.

During the conference dinner, two prizes for Young Researchers were given to Ana C. S. Alcântara (Instituto de Ciencias de Materiales de Madrid) for “Bionanocomposites Based on the Megamolecular Polysaccharide Sacran and Clay Minerals” and to Chiara Cappelli (Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra) for “Monitorization of the biotite alteration by Contrast Confocal Microscopy”.

2. The SEA organized a four-day **Field Trip** from 31 May to 3 June 2012 to visit the **bentonite clay deposits located in Cabo de Gata (Almeria, SE Spain)**. The origin of these clays is related to the hydrothermal alteration of Tertiary calc-alkaline volcanic rocks.

The aim of the activity was to know the geological setting of the volcanic and bentonite outcrops, genetic processes and mineral characteristics. Fifteen people participated in the field trip. The company Süd-Chemie Ibérica, S.L. facilitated the access to bentonite outcrops and open pits promoting a very interesting field trip.



Participants in the field trip to Bentonite clay deposits in SE Spain at the “Mirador de la Amatista”.