



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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THE 38th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

The 38th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held 25–28 June 2019 in Ronda (Málaga, Spain). The meeting started with a one-day seminar (June 25) entitled “Critical Mineral Resources”, followed by two days (June 26 and 27) of oral communications, poster sessions and two plenary lectures: one by Prof. Giacomo Chiari, former head of research at the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles (California, USA); and one by Prof. Francisco Velasco Roldán, from the University of the Basque Country (Spain). The meeting finished on June 28 with a field trip to the ultramafic rock massif of Ronda (Sierra Bermeja area). The meeting was organized by members of the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Granada (Spain), together with a small group of students who contributed to the smooth running of the scheduled activities (see conference website: <http://congresomineralogia.es/>). Also at the meeting was the launch of the field guide book *Geology and Metallogeny of Upper Mantle Rocks from the Serranía de Ronda*, written by Fernando Gervilla, José María González-Jiménez, Karoly Hidas, Claudio Marchesi and Rubén Piña. The publication of this book was funded by the SEM. It collates current knowledge about the geology, geochemistry, geochronology and metallogeny of the rocks of the Serranía de Ronda.

THIRD EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL CONFERENCE IN KRAKÓW (POLAND)

The Third European Mineralogical Conference will be held from Sunday, 6 September 2020 until Thursday, 10 September 2020 at the Auditorium Maximum, the conference centre of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (Cracow) (Poland).

Thanks to the involvement of the members from all the main European mineralogical societies, a wide range of scientific sessions has been prepared. The full list of sessions, arranged in 17 themes, is listed at the conference website: <https://emc2020.ptmin.eu/>. The local organizing committee has prepared numerous attractions to accompany the main event. These include pre-conference workshops and post-conference field trips. We hope to meet you in Kraków during emc2020.



Third European Mineralogical Conference

For the latest updates in regards to COVID-19, please visit the meeting website.

SOMETHING IN THE WATER: A COMIC BOOK BASED ON THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S PROMETHEUS PROJECT

Four billion years ago, life conquered Earth. Expanding and evolving until omnipresent, life has redefined the inorganic world, which today supports it as a skeleton supports flesh. But there was a time when life was nowhere to be seen, and minerals were evolving and changing by themselves. The European Research Council's project PROMETHEUS, led by Professor Juan Manuel García-Ruiz, is an exploration of this primordial world, specifically on mineral self-organization and primitive life detection in the early Earth. Juan Manuel García-Ruiz is Research Professor of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas at the University of Granada (Spain). Founder of the Laboratory of Crystallographic Studies, and of the Crystallization Factory, he is an international expert in the crystallization of minerals, drugs, and proteins, and on mineral self-organization in natural and synthetic materials. Prof. García-Ruiz is the author of the book *The Mystery of the Giant Crystals* and of the script of the homonymous documentary film. In 2006, he created the governmental Program Explora to support “out of the box” investigation. Prof. García-Ruiz is very much involved in promoting a culture of citizen science and building bridges between science and art.



Illustration from the comic *Something in the Water*, available from the ERCcOMICS website.

Till Lukat is a young illustrator from the ERCcOMICS group [an ERC group set up to communicate European science through the medium of comics and visual art] is publishing a comic book based on the ERC PROMETHEUS Project entitled *Something in the Water*. Through Lukat's drawings and imagination, we accompany Professor García-Ruiz on a research trip to find the remains of that lost, inorganic Planet Earth in a remote salty lake in Africa. The dream of discovery tantalizes the explorers. They realise that something in that salty water might reveal one of the biggest, yet least-known, scientific mysteries: the origin of life. This is a fun way for children and adults to learn about field trips, geology, minerals, crystals, how science is done, and life itself. English, Italian and French versions of the comic can be found at: <https://erccomics.com/comics/something-in-the-water>.