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SECOND COLLOQUIUM OF EARTH SCIENCES COLLECTIONS – GRENOBLE – OCTOBER 14–17, 2024



The 2nd Colloquium of Earth Science Collections was held in Grenoble from October 14 to 17, 2024. The symposium was jointly organized by the Grenoble Museum and the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de Grenoble (OSUG) at the Grenoble Alpes University (UGA) (FIG. 1). This meeting of the French and

French-speaking communities on the theme of Earth Science Collections was born of the desire to recognize these collections as major scientific and cultural tool. The aim of this congress is to respond to the need for consultation and exchange of experience between many actors in the field of the numerous national collections, some of which are of international renowned and have a cultural heritage.



FIGURE 1 Participants in front of the Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de Grenoble (OSUG).

Monday, October 14, was held in the auditorium of the Grenoble Museum, with presentations and tours of the temporary Carboniferous exhibition, and of the permanent exhibition. The lectures on Tuesday (October 15) and Wednesday (October 16) took place in the Kilian amphitheater of the ISTERre laboratory on the UGA campus. Tours of the geological collections and the OSUG museographic space were also offered for the occasion. An exclusive exhibition of microphotographs of inclusions in gems: "the revelation of gems" by artist and gemology trainer Marine Bouvier was on display from October 15 to December 6, 2024.

The scope of the presentations was very broad: the management and conservation of collections; their enhancement and use for research, teaching, and the dissemination of knowledge; the diversity of professions and the human and logistical resources deployed; and the history of specimens and collectors. These presentations were punctuated by three round-table discussions on subjects as diverse as "Collections and radiation protection: uses and best practices," "Creating a national collection of field notebooks," and "Descriptors for geological collection inventory databases." A poster session was also proposed. The interventions were illustrated in life sketches with watercolors, full of humor and finesse, by Julie Polge (FIG. 2).

The Alpine heritage was highlighted throughout the event, whether through the objects in its collections, its reserves, or the analyses obtained using its major instrument, such as the ESRF synchrotron (public conference at the museum). In line with the museum's temporary exhibition, the Carboniferous was the focus of the field day that followed the symposium, with an excursion to the Vaulnaveys-le-Bas fossil site and a visit to the underground coal mining site at la Motte d'Aveillans (Mine Image, Isere, France; FIG. 3).

VISITE DE L'ESPACE MUSÉOGRAPHIQUE DE L'OSUG: COLLECTIONS & COMPACTUS.



FIGURE 2 Tour of the Museography area of Osug, sketched by J. Polge.



FIGURE 3 Visit of the underground coal mining site at la Motte d'Aveillans, Mine Image.

Finally, the gala cocktail took place in the former Dolomieu Institute, which until 2012, housed OSUG Earth science collections for rocks, minerals, and fossils. It has now been transformed into a rooftop restaurant with terrace, which we had privatized for the occasion to take advantage of the splendid view of the neighboring Alpine massif of Belledonne, and the Chamrousse ophiolite.

Program committee: F. Arnaud, Edytem; R. Bilon, J. Chiche, Grenoble Museum; V. Fernandez, ESRF Grenoble; M.-B. Forel, CR2P MNHN Paris; E. Janots, F. Giraud, OSUG; M. Guiomar, Réserve Géologique de Haute Provence; A. Lefort, Besançon Museum; P. Martinetto, Institut Néel; A. Médard, Marseille Museum; E. Robert, LGL Lyon 1 University. Organising committee: A. Benhamou, P. Descorps, C. Durand, Grenoble Museum, P. Jacquet, OSUG.

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