



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

Peter's dedication to systematic collecting, curating of his own collection, and keeping and maintaining an archive of accurate, detailed historical and scientific information has been of great benefit to the mineral sciences community in Canada and world-wide. Researchers have benefitted from his generosity in providing specimens and information for their studies. Peter has also authored or co-authored many articles in scientific and popular mineralogical publications. Peter has been a member of the Mineralogical Association of Canada since 1964, and was a member of the Mineralogical Society of America for more than 30 years.

Fourteen years ago Peter returned to his roots to work as a volunteer at the Redpath Museum where he has helped to completely renew the mineral exhibits, reorganize the mineral collection, and has written a scientific guide to the mineral gallery. He is an associate at the museum with the title of Honorary Curator of Mineralogy. Peter knows where his passion for the minerals sciences began and he is doing his utmost to ensure that the next generation has the same opportunities that he did.

The Pinch Medal recognizes major and sustained contributions to the advancement of mineralogy by members of the collector-dealer community. The Mineralogical Association of Canada is honoured to present Dr. Peter Tarassoff with this award: he is the true embodiment of what it means to be a professional amateur in the mineral sciences. His legacy, spanning more than five decades, will serve as inspiration for future generations. The Pinch Medal is given out on a bi-annual basis and will be presented at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show Banquet on 11 February 2017.

SERPENTINE DAYS 2016

The 4th international Serpentine Days workshop was held 25–29 September 2016 at the Lazaret resort in Sète (France). Workshop sponsors included the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie (SFMC), Géosciences Montpellier, the CNRS, the Université de Montpellier, the Institut des Origines and the Université de Lyon, the Région Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée, and the Deep Carbon Observatory. The workshop convened more than 85 scientists from 13 countries with broad expertise in the geological, physical, chemical and microbiological processes of serpentinization to share new findings in this exciting field of research. Sète's strategic location enabled the group to spend the first mild days of Autumn immersed in a deep discussion on the side products of serpentinization, such as methane and that intriguing, but evasive, mineral, brucite.



Participants of Serpentine Days 2016 at the Lazaret resort in Sète (France)

The program was divided into several sessions including: serpentines and tectonics, serpentinites and subduction, experimental petrology, serpentinization, redox and carbon cycle, serpentinization and life, ophiolites as field laboratories, and serpentinization in extra-terrestrial systems.



Participants of the field trip to the Étang de Lers in the French Pyrénées.

Two poster sessions complemented the oral discussions. Outstanding keynote speakers introduced each session, leading to passionate discussions that continued during coffee breaks and poster sessions. The participation of colleagues from NASA expanded our views on possible serpentinization on Mars.

To complete the workshop, Yves Lagabrielle (University of Rennes, France) and Michel de Saint-Blanquat (University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France) led a two-day field trip to the Pyrénées. More than 40 participants joined the field trip, where they explored field evidence of mantle denudation associated with a Cretaceous rifting event in the North Pyrenean Zone (Étang de Lers and Bestiac).

See the full Serpentine Days 2016 workshop report at <http://serpentines2016.gm.univ-montp2.fr/>

AWARD PRESENTATION

Camille Cartier, co-winner of the 2015 Haiy-Lacroix award of the SFMC, gave a lecture in Paris (14 November 2016) on the behaviour of the rare earth elements and high field-strength elements at low oxygen fugacity during the early differentiation of the Earth. After a sabbatical year, Camille received her medal from Bertrand Devouard, President of the SFMC.



Camille Cartier receiving her medal from Bertrand Devouard.

\$5000 Scholarships

The Mineralogical Association of Canada Foundation

will award two \$5000 scholarships to graduate students, one to a student enrolled in an MSc program and one to a student in a PhD program. The applicable fields of study are:

- Mineralogy
- Crystallography
- Geochemistry
- Mineral Deposits
- Petrology

Deadline to apply:
May 1, 2017

Eligibility

- 1 Students entering the second year of an MSc program or the second or third year of a PhD program at a Canadian university in September 2017.
- 2 Canadian citizens enrolled in the above or equivalent programs at any university.

For more information, contact the business office:

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Application form available at
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