



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is not often that the presidency of the French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography (SFMC) directly addresses the subscribers of *Elements* magazine. Personally, it seemed useful and necessary to me to do so before the end of my term of office scheduled for December 31, 2023.

Indeed, it is a good opportunity to take stock and talk about the future of the SFMC. I was elected President on January 1, 2020. Suffice to say that it was a mandate that began in a very particular way with the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic in March of the same

year. We therefore had to learn very quickly to manage the society remotely and in particular to meet exclusively by videoconference.

The year 2021 was less chaotic, but it took until 2022 to resume a more traditional mode of operation, which has however evolved with the maintenance of remote meetings, so practical for a society whose office members and councilors are distributed over almost the entire territory. But despite all the hazards and constraints linked to a particularly stressful situation for the entire world population, the SFMC continued its program of setting up (and sometimes reinstating) activities. For our society, as for many other learned societies of moderate size, it is necessary to relaunch our attractiveness, undermined by the evolution of our professions and in particular by the methods of communication, dissemination of scientific results, and more generally of our knowledge (conferences, publications, etc.). We have maintained the organization of a field trip per year as initiated during the previous mandate (presidency of B. Devouard).

The trip centered on the metamorphic series of Les Sables d'Olonne (France) was first scheduled in 2021 but will finally take place in May 2023. The annual rhythm of a field camp organized by the SFMC should resume next year. The mandate of B. Devouard had also proposed to relaunch the "Specialized Days of the SFMC," which had disappeared for a long time. Thanks to the commitment of our members, the first "new look" Specialized Days of the SFMC was held in Lille in February 2022, masterfully organized by Alexandre Mussi. The next Specialized Days are scheduled on a biannual basis and will therefore take place in 2024 and then in 2026.

Finally, the previous term of office had put forward the idea of establishing a new prize: the "SFMC Merit Award" rewarding, also on a biannual basis, an internationally renowned scientist or group of scientists. The first recipient was Georges Calas in 2020 and the second was Christian Chopin in 2022. The year 2022, declared the Year of Mineralogy (as part of the IYBSSD "International year of basic sciences for sustainable development" under the aegis of the IMA) is an opportunity to offer events organized at the local scale, which are relayed on the SFMC website (<https://min2022.sfmc-fr.org>) thanks to our representatives in the research laboratories.

The list of SFMC representatives was set up in 2021 in order to root our society in French geoscience research laboratories. Regarding the future, we are thinking about the regular co-organization of Summer Schools, in collaboration with these same research laboratories. The Summer Schools have indeed become essential meetings for the training and networking of doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, and young researchers. We are also going to discuss the setting up of a newsletter which will allow us to better inform our members.



International Association of Geochemistry

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Ultimately, the permanent activities of the SFMC should therefore include, in addition to the awarding of the Haüy-Lacroix thesis prize and the SFMC Merit Award, annual field trips and biannual Specialized Days and Summer Schools. Of course, the SFMC will continue to support as best as possible events organized by our French community and the participation of young people in conferences and workshops. It will continue to work hand in hand with the other learned societies of mineralogy, crystallography, and petrology at the international and European levels, in particular through the IMA and the EMC. It remains of course committed to the *European Journal of Mineralogy*, whose transition to Open Access in 2020 was a real challenge for the four founding societies (DMG, SEM, SIMP, and SFMC) but is showing the crucial role of learned societies in offering a sound alternative to predatory publishers.

Michel Grégoire
President of SFMC