

Memorial of Enrico Franco



Enrico Franco, Professor of Mineralogy of the University of Naples Federico II, passed away on June 25 2009. His students and colleagues thought that the best way to demonstrate their affection to his memory was to dedicate him a special issue of the “*Periodico di Mineralogia*”, where they present some of their most recent scientific researches.

Incomparable teacher for clarity and brilliance, Enrico Franco was tireless in the rigorous training of students and young researchers. He always communicated his passion for Mineralogy and Geology to everyone. His students remember his apparently icy disposition, but really friendly and generous, full of humanity. Discreet and never pushy, he was respected by his colleagues for his intellectual honesty in the research work.

After the huge damages caused to our Department by the strong 1980 earthquake in Naples, he was closely involved in the renovation and reorganization of its Mineralogy, Petrography, Geochemistry and Volcanology section. Besides, he worked very hard during the subsequent renovation of the Royal Mineralogical Museum, and for the organization of a new exhibition room containing the mineral collection of Somma-Vesuvius. He was always considered the “depository” of the Museum history and he also contributed to the enrichment of this important collection with the study of new or rare species. For decades, he collaborated with colleagues of different scientific background in the characterization of natural and synthetic zeolites. The results of his studies were published in prestigious national and international scientific journals.

All of us have started our research under the leadership of Enrico Franco, who always supported us with affection and dedication; nevertheless, he never hesitated to encourage us to work independently. We want to remember Enrico not only as a researcher and a teacher, but also as the special person he was. Rigorous but not austere, he always stayed away from disputes, preferring tolerance, gentleness and understanding. To fully outline his personality, we have to remind his deep knowledge of the history, culture and traditions of his beloved Naples. When colleagues from other Universities stayed in Naples, he was happy to show them the Neapolitan historical and artistic heritage, as well as the gastronomic delights of his city.

This is only a little tribute to the memory of Enrico Franco, a Guide, a Gentleman.

Giuseppina Balassone, Maria Rosaria Ghiara and Maurizio de Gennaro

Selected bibliography of Enrico Franco

by G. Balassone

- Franco E. (1962) - Su alcuni minerali della Grotta dello Zolfo (Misero). *Bollettino Società Naturalisti Napoli*, 70, 3-7.
- Franco E. (1963) - Sulla presenza di halloysite nella leucite analcimizzata di Roccamonfina. *Bollettino Società Naturalisti Napoli*, 71, 6-11.
- Sinno R. and Franco E. (1965) - Composizione mineralogica e chimica di alcune bauxite del bacino del Mediterraneo. *Atti Accademia Scienze Fisiche Matematiche Napoli, Serie 3*, 5(3), 49-99.
- Scherillo A., Franco E., Di Girolamo P. and Vallante G. (1966) - Forme crateriche tra Mondragone e Vairano (Caserta). *Periodico di Mineralogia*, 34, 2-3, 497-513.
- Franco E. (1975) - La zeolitizzazione naturale. In: Atti Convegno Zeoliti e Zeolitizzazione, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 33-61.
- de Gennaro M. and Franco E. (1976) - La K-cabasite di alcuni tufi del Vesuvio. *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*, 60, 490-497.
- Franco E. and Rolandi G. (1978) - Segnalazione di una probabile bocca eruttiva nei dintorni di Pollena-Trocchia (settore N-NW del Somma-Vesuvio) e di tufi zeolitici sovrapposti contenenti K-cabasite. *Rendiconti Accademia Scienze Fisiche Matematiche, Società Nazionale Scienze Lettere Arti Napoli, Serie 4*, 45, 83-103.
- de Gennaro M. and Franco E. (1979) - Arricchimento e separazione delle zeoliti di rocce piroclastiche. *L'Industria Mineraria*, 30, 329-336.
- Marmo F., Franco E. and Balsamo G. (1981) - Scanning electron microscopic and X-ray diffraction studies of otoconia in the lizard *Podarcis s. sicula*. *Cell and Tissue Research*, 218, 265-270.
- de Gennaro M., Colella C., Franco E. and Aiello R. (1983) - Italian Zeolites 1. Mineralogical and technical features of Neapolitan yellow tuff. *Industrial Minerals*, 186, 47-60.
- de Gennaro M., Franco E., Colella C. and Aiello R. (1984) - Estimation of zeolite content in neapolitan yellow tuff. II. Phillipsite and chabazite in typical phlegrean deposits. *Rendiconti Società Italiana Mineralogia e Petrologia*, 39, 155-162.
- de Gennaro M., Colella C., Aiello R. and Franco E. (1984) - Italian zeolites 2. Mineralogical and technical features of Campanian tuff. *Industrial Minerals*, 204, 97-109.
- Merlino S., Franco E., Mattia C.A., Pasero M. and de Gennaro M. (1985) - The crystal structure of Panunzite (natural tetrakalsilite). *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie Monatshefte*, 7, 322-328.
- Franco E. and de Gennaro M. (1988) - Panunzite, a new mineral from Mt. Somma-Vesuvio, Italy. *American Mineralogist*, 73, 420-421.
- Balassone G., Boni M., Di Maio G. and Franco E. (1988) - Armenite in SW Sardinia first recorded occurrence in Italy. *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie Monatshefte*, 2, 49-58.
- Franco E., Wittmann K.J., Ariani A.P. and Voicu G. (1989) - Nuovi dati sulla composizione minerale degli statoliti dei Misidacei. *Oebalia*, 15(2), 923-926.
- La Iglesia A., Franco E. and Pozzuoli A. (1991) - Stability Diagrams of Zeolites II. Phillipsite and chabazite from pyroclastic rocks in Southern Italy. *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie Monatshefte*, 162(3), 261-280.
- La Iglesia A., Balassone G. and Franco E. (1993) - Thermodynamic study of armenite-bearing deposit from SW Sardinia, Italy. *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie Monatshefte*, 10, 433-446.
- Ariani A.P., Wittmann K.J. and Franco E. (1993)

- A comparative study of static bodies in Mysid Crustaceans evolutionary implications of crystallographic characteristics. *Biological Bulletin*, 185, 393-404.
- Ruiz Amil A., Vila E., Franco E. and Pozzuoli A. (1994) - X-ray diffraction analysis of biotite weathering to vermiculite in Quaternary lahars from Monti Ernici, Central Italy. *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie Monatshefte*, 1, 17-30.
- Balassone G., Franco E. and Petti C. (1998) - Le analisi mineralogiche e petrografiche. In *La Campania antica - dal Pleistocene all'età romana. Electa Napoli*, 104-105.
- Balassone G., Franco E., Mattia C. A., Petti C. and Puliti R. (2002) - Re-examination of fluosiderite, an unknown mineral from southern Italy equal to fluorine-rich chondrodite. *European Journal of Mineralogy*, 14, 151-155.
- Balassone G., Franco E., Mattia C.A. and Puliti R. (2004) - Indialite in xenolithic rocks from Somma-Vesuvius volcano (Southern Italy) crystal chemistry and petrogenetic features. *American Mineralogist*, 89, 1-6.