



Mineralogical Society of America



web

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Michael Brown

As the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) approaches its second century, it is appropriate to consider whether the services the society offers to its members and the community at large are appropriate, and whether there are services that the society does not provide that it should consider offering in the future. Learned societies commonly have informal origins and MSA is no exception. As a result, the services offered to members and the community have developed over time as the need arises, sometimes without proper consideration of the budgetary implications. Here, I want to address meetings and publishing, but I will return to our various outreach activities and budgetary support for them in a future letter.

The genesis of the MSA stretches back to a discussion among mineralogists at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting in 1916 and an informal mail survey of more than 50 colleagues by Edward Kraus early in the following year (*Elements* 2017, v13 p63). Although Kraus received a favorable response, the formation of the MSA was delayed until the GSA Annual Meeting in 1919 due to the entry of the US into the First World War (*Elements* 2017, v13 p349). The link to the GSA has remained strong: for example, the society does not run a separate scientific meeting of its own but continues to sponsor sessions at the GSA Annual Meetings where it also holds the MSA Awards luncheon, awardee lectures, and business meetings. The MSA has participated in other major society meetings, but without much success (*Elements* 2017, v13 p349); this is perhaps not surprising because these latter meetings are run for profit by the sponsoring organization. For November 2018, our efforts have centered on building an attractive slate of MSA-sponsored sessions at the GSA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis (USA). At the same time, we are also planning the MSA Centennial Symposium for June 2019. However, the interests of MSA's membership are much broader than the science fields covered by sessions at the GSA Annual Meetings. Some of these interests are undoubtedly covered by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and Goldschmidt meetings, but is there more that MSA should do in relation to collaboration with other, more specialist meetings? If so, please write to me with your ideas.

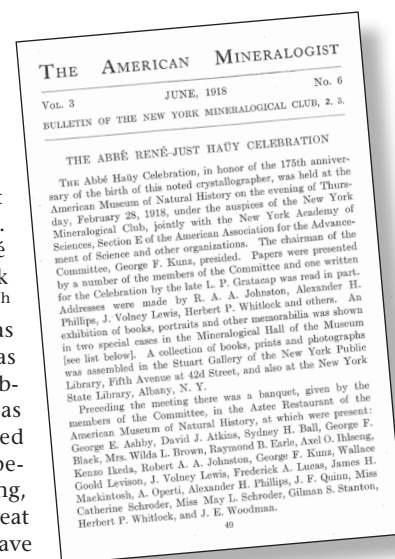
As Kraus made clear in his letter seeking support for a new society, "... perhaps the greatest benefit to be derived would be the founding by the society of a journal to be devoted exclusively to the publishing of mineralogical papers" (*Elements* 2017, v13 p63). This objective was achieved when MSA took over publishing the *American Mineralogist* at the beginning of 1920 (*American Mineralogist*, v5, p15), and, over time, MSA has broadened its publication program. The Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry (RiMG) series and *Elements* are the most successful developments, but the textbooks, monographs and special papers are also important components of the society's portfolio. During the past few years, the editors of the journal have striven to raise its profile (*American Mineralogist*, v98, pp1377-1378; v101, pp497-499; v102, pp1369-1372). As a result, we have seen a shift to a higher proportion of papers in petrology and geochemistry compared to those in mineralogy and crystallography, and papers from both areas now contribute equally to the journal and together continue to make up about two-thirds of the content.

Publishing is a rapidly changing field and the society must continue to plan and create strategies for success in the future. Each of the publications in the MSA portfolio has evolved with the changing technologies of online and traditional print publishing. However, in the case of the journal, size matters. Thus, a major challenge for the society is to grow the *American Mineralogist* within a sound budgetary framework. The MSA Council has also been investigating alternative ways to publish different kinds of content and is moving closer to launching a data journal (*Elements* 2016, v12 p350 and 2017, v13 p62). Another development last year was the initiative to launch an Earth and Space Science preprint server (*Eos*, December 2017). The society is also participating in the advisory group set up by AGU to explore all options for preprint publication. Your feedback on these issues is important as the society continues its quest to publish the best science in a variety of formats. Please write to me with your ideas.

Michael Brown
2018 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

■ As described elsewhere, the theme for the 2018 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (Tucson, Arizona, USA) was crystals and forms. One-hundred years ago, the June 1918 issue of the *American Mineralogist* was the first large, special issue of the journal. It comprised papers from the Abbé Haüy Celebration in New York City (USA), in honor of the 175th anniversary of his birth. This was an important issue because it was said at the time that the issue established the *American Mineralogist* as a serious journal. This helped attracted more subscribers, especially overseas. Before the meeting, there was a banquet. The main meat dish was whale ... how times have changed since those early days.



J. Alex Speer
MSA Executive Director

2018 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS)



There was a combined Mineralogical Society of America/Mineralogical Association of Canada (MSA/MAC) booth at the 2018 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS), which was held 14-17 February. This theme of the show had the title "Crystals and Forms". Among the many displays

☒ **VOTE**
2018 MSA ELECTIONS

was Charles Palache's crystal collection from the Harvard Mineralogical Museum (USA). Charles Palache (1869–1954) was a Harvard University professor and curator of the museum there. Dr. Palache was also MSA's second president (1921) and the first awardee of the Roebling Medal (1937). He appears to have been instrumental in obtaining the contribution of Washington Roebling (1924 MSA Vice-President) to MSA in 1925–1926. Many of the Tucson show attendees are from the general public. They attend out of curiosity and had lots of questions on crystals, forms, and symmetry.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations Sought for 2019 Awards

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1 JUNE 2018

The **Roebling Medal** (2019) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** (2019) is intended to recognize continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of their career.

Mineralogical Society of America Award (2019) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** (2019) is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science.

Society **Fellowship** is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors. Form required, contact committee chair or MSA home page.

Mineralogical Society of America

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page:
<http://www.minsocam.org>

PUBLICATIONS ON PLANETARY MATERIALS



For more description and table of contents of these books and ordering online visit www.minsocam.org or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110 USA phone: +1 (703) 652-9950 fax: +1 (703) 652-9951

SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mineralogical Society of America
and Geochemical Society

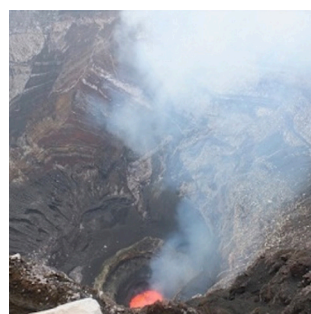
SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

High-Temperature Gas–Solid Reactions in Earth and Planetary Processes

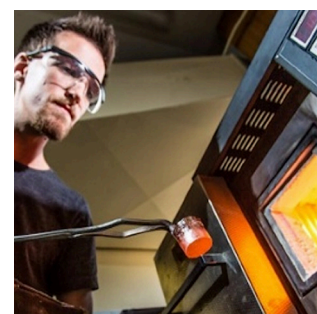
ORGANIZERS: Penny King and Richard Henley,
Australian National University

10–12 AUGUST 2018

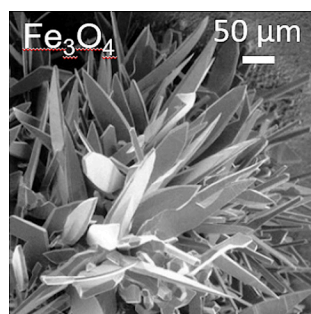
(before the Goldschmidt Conference,
12–17 August 2018, Boston, Massachusetts, USA)



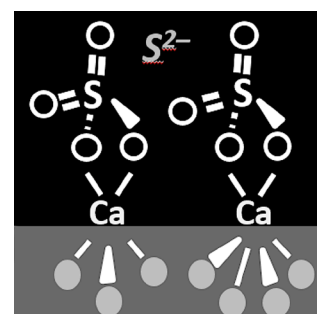
Degassing volcano



Lab experiments



Gas–solid reaction products



Theoretical model for coating
formation

Gas mixtures play a crucial role in distributing elements between different parts of the Earth and of planet-forming systems over a range of settings and temperatures. The goal of this short course is to review, update, and synthesize the current knowledge of high-temperature gas–solid reactions relevant to the geosciences. In addition, we aim to grow research in an area that has previously received little attention yet is critical for advancing our understanding of magmatic systems, planetary evolution, and industrial processes.

Description and registration online at www.minsocam.org or contact the Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110 USA phone: +1 (703) 652-9950 fax: +1 (703) 652-9951.