



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

It has become customary for a President to send a Newsletter in order to assure members that the Society really cares. Personally, I could do without a Newsletter as long as the Society keeps publishing good material and organizing good Meetings. Don't you have enough to read already? But now that I have the Chair, it turns out that I welcome this opportunity to tell you my great discovery as President: that is, that many members work extraordinarily hard to keep the Society functioning smoothly. The problems that do arise rarely reach the membership as a whole, because they are normally solved promptly by officers, or permanent staff, or committees. I have been really impressed. I feel tempted to list those who have been especially effective, but this would occupy too many lines. You should read their names in *The American Mineralogist*. When you do this, please pay special attention to the requests you should find for nominations of various kinds. The committees that nominate officers, committee members, candidates for the Roebling Medal, the MSA Award, and External Awards urgently plead for suggestions from the membership at large. Now is the time of year to respond to those pleas.

A good deal for student members. Most of us belong to the Society in order to receive *The American Mineralogist*. This must be the second best deal in the country. The best deal is student membership. Where else can one purchase so much good literature for \$6? It appears that membership in MSA is not increasing at the same rate as the total number of mineralogists (or GSA membership). The way to keep the Society healthy, and the price of membership down, is to encourage your students to join. Members can also purchase the *Journal of Petrology* and *Mineralogical Abstracts* at significant reductions.

Send Editor Brian Mason your petrological papers. Ben Morgan and Phil Bethke, successive chairmen of the MSA Publications Committee, reported to Council the results of an inquiry about how the Society might best serve the needs of its petrological members. A great majority of respondents suggested that "the emphasis of *The American Mineralogist* should be brought back to a more equal division between crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology." Council therefore authorized the publication of up to 200 additional pages of *The American Mineralogist* for increasing the amount of petrology, without depleting crystallography and mineralogy. This will work only if members and other petrologists submit their papers to *The American Mineralogist*. Brian Mason has appointed additional petrologists to the Board of Associate Editors. Please give them work!

Short Courses and Short Course Notes. The Short Courses held at Annual Meetings of the Geological Society of America have served relatively small numbers of participants very well, and the roaring success of the Short Course Notes prepared by the lecturers has spread the service widely, at incredibly cheap prices. The Council concluded that this is one of the best things the Society can do for its members and intends to plan further ahead to ensure continuity of the Courses. Paul Ribbe has kindly consented to continue as Editor of the Short Course Notes. For the GSA/GAC/MAC/MSA Meeting in Toronto this year, tentative plans for a Short Course have been abandoned, but the Mineralogical Association of Canada will be running a Short Course on "Uranium Deposits-their mineralogy and origin," October 27-29. Paul Ribbe has a cast of writers who will prepare a set of Notes on "Orthosilicates" for publication despite the absence of a course. Watch for information about publication and sales of this and the other Short Course Notes in *The American Mineralogist*.

The Annual Meeting (GSA/GAC/MAC/MSA) in Toronto, October 23-26, 1978. This year, in addition to the normal sessions constructed from your abstracts, the Society joins the Mineralogical Association of Canada in organizing a symposium on "Metamorphic Field Petrology." You will enjoy this, because two great theoreticians are in charge: H. J. Greenwood and J. B. Thompson. As noted above, the Society will publish Short Course Notes but offer no Course, but the MAC Short Course is available for compulsive learners. The Roebling Medal and MSA Award will be presented at the Annual Luncheon of the Society on Tuesday October 24, 1978. This is always a pleasant affair-if you haven't tried it before, make Toronto a first.

Relationship between GSA and MSA. Many of you know that the Geochemical Society polled its members to gauge the extent of dissatisfaction with the problems of scheduling many overlapping sessions at an enormous Annual Meeting and to find out if the membership favored the idea of splitting from the GSA Annual Meeting to hold its own Meeting, possibly in collaboration with another society such as the MSA. The GSA already had a Committee examining relationships between the GSA and Associated Societies, and the MSA Council appointed an ad hoc Committee to consider the same topic. It would be premature for me to leak the results of the Geochemical Society poll and to anticipate the conclusions of our ad hoc Committee. But if you hear a rumour that the MSA intends to split from the GSA Annual Meeting, I think you can safely squelch it. There are problems with large Meetings, but the GSA Council and the MSA Council expect to define these and hope for improvements.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Wyllie, *President*

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