



# MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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1983 NEWSLETTER #1

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

This newsletter is intended to bring you up to date on the status and operations of our Society. Although put together by your titular President, the bulk of the material in it stems from the efforts of your "working officers," most particularly Secretary M. Charles Gilbert and Treasurer Odette B. James.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

As of December, 1982, there were 2825 members (an increase of 58 over the 1981 membership) distributed as follows: Members, 1664 (up 17); Student Members, 580 (up 40); Fellows, 573 (up 2); Honorary Fellows, 8 (down 1). Over the period 1978-82, overall membership has gone up about 15% but there has been a 43% rise in Student Members. Non-member subscriptions were about 1500 (down 155). Please help us continue to grow by encouraging a colleague or student to join (an application form is included). Note that student dues, even though just raised to \$10.00, still remain a tremendous bargain!

## AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

The American Mineralogist has continued to hold its place as the prestigious scientific journal in its field, under the capable guidance of Editor Michael Holdaway. Thanks are also due 12 Associate Editors and the many referees, most of whom come from the membership. The journal is now operating with a one-issue backlog, and a 10 1/2-month median publication time. Good review papers are especially invited; as an inducement, they will not be subject to page charges.

The back-issue stocks of the 1979 and 1980 volumes of the American Mineralogist are very low. If anyone wishes to make a tax-deductible donation of their issues for 1979 and/or 1980, the Business Office would be glad to receive them.

Missing old back issues? Mary Mrose has very generously offered to sell her collection of miscellaneous back issues from 1916-1969 at \$2.00 per issue (plus postage), and 1970- at \$3.00 per issue (plus postage). All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Mineralogy-Petrology Fund. Send her a self-addressed stamped envelope for list of available issues: Mary E. Mrose, U.S. Geol. Survey, 959 National Center, Reston, VA 22092. Phone (703) 860-6670.

## SHORT COURSES AND REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY

A short course on "Characterization of Metamorphism through Mineral Assemblages and Mineral Chemistry," convened by J.M. Ferry of Arizona State and held at GSA New Orleans, was a huge success. A short course on "Carbonates," convened by R. Reeder of Stony Brook, is scheduled for GSA 1983, and one on "Micas," convened by S.W. Bailey, is scheduled for GSA 1984. The former Short Course Notes have now been renamed Reviews in Mineralogy (to cover review volumes that are not necessarily connected with a specific short course). We hope that the problems that led to the unfortunate delays in the distribution of these volumes have now been cleared up. I have personally looked over the procedures being used at the Business Office, and believe that improvements are taking effect. If any members continue to have troubles getting

acknowledgments of orders or delivery of ordered volumes from the Business Office (2000 Florida Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA), please send me a carbon copy of your complaint. Be aware, however, that even the most efficient Business Office cannot ship volumes before they are printed.

The volumes have been highly successful, and almost all volumes have had to be reprinted. The current price list and order form accompanies this newsletter. The Mineralogical Society of America is exceedingly lucky to have P.H. Ribbe as Reviews Editor. His continuing hard work and selfless contributions to the success of this series helps everyone in the Society. Only authors in the series really know how large and thankless a task that is.

#### MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS

As you know, the Mineralogical Societies of Great Britain and America jointly publish Mineralogical Abstracts. This valuable publication is available to mineralogists as a result of the efforts of many volunteers. Abstractors are needed here in the United States. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Dr. Karl A. Riggs, Jr., P.O. Box Kr, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (phone 601-325-3915).

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 1983 Annual Meeting of our Society will be held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America, October 31-November 3, 1983, in Indianapolis. THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS at GSA Headquarters will be June 3, 1983. In addition to the usual variety of technical sessions, MSA is sponsoring a symposium on "Oxide-silicate interactions in igneous and metamorphic rocks," to be convened by B. Ronald Frost of Univ. of Wyoming. Our delegates to the Joint Technical Program Committee will be D.C. Presnall, T.L. Grove, and M. Cameron. Any and all suggestions for future symposia subjects and/or convenors are welcomed by any of the delegates. The GSA First Announcement will be ready in late March.

MSA's portion of the 1982 program in New Orleans was ably organized by G.E. Brown, Jr., D.C. Presnall, and T.L. Grove. We thank them as well as those who helped by reviewing abstracts: Charles Prewitt, David Veblen, Glenn Waychunas, Howard Day, Bob Dymek, Derrill Kerrick, John Holloway, Bob Newton, David Walker, Ian Carmichael, Mike Garcia, Jim Hawkins, Bill Bryan, and Tom Casadevall. Of 244 volunteered and 11 invited abstracts, 169 of the volunteered and all 11 of the invited abstracts were accepted for presentation (9 1/4 oral technical sessions, 1 poster session, and 1 Symposium session. The Symposium, organized by G.V. Gibbs and G.E. Brown, Jr., was Applications of Quantum Chemistry to Earth Materials.

Interactions between the MSA and the Geological Society of America are mainly a result of our holding our Annual Meeting in conjunction with that of the GSA. Unilateral actions of the GSA concerning the operation of this meeting in the past have strained the relationship, to the extent that some in Council have suggested scheduling our own annual meetings. I attended a meeting of the Associated Society Presidents, Feb. 1, at GSA headquarters in Boulder, Colo., and believe that GSA now is honestly trying to be more considerate of the needs of the associated societies. Some conflicts of time and space are inevitable in a meeting of that size, but I am pleased with the degree of cooperation and concern I noted. Following are the sites and dates of the meetings already scheduled: Indianapolis, Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 1983; Reno, Nov. 5-8, 1984; Boston, Oct. 14-17, 1985; San Antonio, Nov. 10-13, 1986; Phoenix, Oct. 26-29, 1987; and Denver, Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 1988. Many suggestions have been made concerning possible improvements in these meetings, and the Council and I welcome additional ones. Rest assured that

all will be considered, but I find that the complexities of such a meeting often preclude what might at first seem to be a simple, logical action.

#### ROEBLING MEDAL AND MSA AWARD

The Roebling Medal for 1983--our Society's highest honor--will be presented to Hans P. Eugster, and the MSA Award for 1983 will be presented to David R. Veblen, both of the Johns Hopkins University. I hope you will be able to attend and help us honor these eminent mineralogists.

We will soon begin to select the awardees for 1984. Please send your nominations (preferably with a vita or other supporting material) by July 1, 1983. Nominations for the Roebling Medal should be sent to J.R. Craig (V.P.I.), and for the MSA Award should be sent to A. Navrotsky (Ariz. State). In making nominations for the MSA Award, please bear in mind that the outstanding contribution must have been made by the Awardee prior to the 35th birthday, and the Awardee must be younger than 37 on January 1, 1984. No special forms are required and all members of the Society are urged to take an active part in making nominations.

#### RESEARCH GRANTS

Our Society offers two research grants, one in each alternate year, to young scientists. The 1982 research grant in the field of crystallography, was divided between Richard N. Abbot, Appalachian State U., NC, and George A. Lager, Univ. Louisville, KY. The 1983 research grant, in the field of mineralogy-petrology, was awarded to T.N. Tingle, University of California, Davis. Applications are being accepted now for the 1984 Crystallography Research Grant; application forms are available from the MSA office (2000 Florida Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009). Recipients must be between the ages of 25 and 35 at the time the award is made. Applications should include a one or two-page research proposal, together with a statement of other funding available and of how the grant would make the proposed research possible. This information should be sent before Sept. 1, 1983 to D.R. Peacor (Univ. Mich.).

Despite a number of generous contributions made last year in memory of several recently departed members, the Mineralogy-Petrology Research Fund remains underfunded. Several thousand dollars more is needed to endow this award at a minimum level. I urge all MSA members to consider making contributions - large or small.

#### INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The 1982 meeting of the IMA was held near Varna, Bulgaria, on September 19-25, 1982. The program listed 434 papers and posters, including 205 from the USSR, 49 from Bulgaria, 18 from other Eastern European countries, and 18 from the USA. Approximately 16 Americans attended the meeting. Many USSR (and some Western) papers were cancelled because their authors did not attend. Total attendance was 500.

The newly elected Officers and Councillors for 1982-1986 are: President, I. Kostov (Bulgaria); 1st Vice-President, P.J. Wyllie (USA); 2nd Vice President, D. Coombs (New Zealand); Secretary, S.S. Hafner (F.R.G.); Treasurer, P. Zwaan (Netherlands); and Councillors, G. Gottardi (Italy), D. Smith (Canada), R. Segnet (Australia), N. Sobolev (USSR), and R. Vochten (Belgium). C.T. Prewitt, our representative to the IMA, coordinated the activities of the MSA delegates to the General Business Meeting and to the various Commissions/Working Groups.

The 1986 Meeting of IMA will be held on the campus of Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA, during the week of 13-18 July. This Meeting, sponsored by the Mineralogical Society of America, will be accompanied by a full program of scientific sessions, field trips, cultural events, and local trips to points of interest in the San Francisco Bay area. Prof. C.T. Prewitt (Stony Brook) is Chairman of the Organizing Committee. To receive a copy of the First Circular, or to make suggestions concerning the meeting, please write: IMA 1986, P.O. Box 183, Stony Brook, New York 11790, USA.

#### NEW FELLOWS

On the recommendation of our Nominating Committee for Fellows (I.Y. Borg, P.H. Reitan, and C.V. Guidotti, Chairman) the Council has elected 25 new fellows: J. Akella, J.L. Anderson, R.A. Bideaux, J.G. Blencoe, G.M. Boone, H.R. Dixon, F.C.W. Dodge, W.A. Elders, R.F. Emslie, J.M. Ferry, J.C. Green, J.R. Holloway, T. Hugli, J. Laird, G.E. Lofgren, D. McKie, A.J. Naldrett, M.C. Nichols, S.A. Norton, M.S. Paterson, J.R. Renault, J.M. Rice, M.J. Rutherford, S.K. Saxena, and F.S. Spear.

A casual glance at this list shows that many of the new fellows were long overdue for this recognition; Charles and his committee are to be thanked for their diligence in identifying the candidates and preparing the supporting documents. An important change to begin in 1983 was voted by the Council: No more than 0.5% of the total membership will be elected to Fellowship each year.

#### FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

No MSA Treasurer's report has been published since that for 1978. Preparation of the reports for 1979 and 1980 was delayed because of severe problems with the accounting procedures caused by rapid turnover of staff at our Business Office during 1979-1980. These problems were not completely resolved until the financial records for 1979-1981 had been audited. During the audit, no evidence of fraud was found (only incompetence). A Treasurer's report covering the three-year period is now in press in the American Mineralogist.

The 1979-1981 report and the 1982 statements (not yet in final form) show that the costs of Society activities supported by dues and subscription income have been rising very rapidly over the past few years. The most important of these activities are: publication of the American Mineralogist, general Society administration, and presentation of Society awards and medals. Cost of production of the American Mineralogist rose from \$119 per page in 1978 to \$171 per page in 1981 and is budgeted at \$199 in 1983; page charge and reprint income together are currently bringing in only about \$20 per page. Cost of Society administration rose from \$27,335 in 1979 to \$64,416 in 1981 and is budgeted at \$80,000 in 1983. As a result of these rising costs, the money in the Society's General Operating Fund was nearly exhausted at the end of 1982 (because income exceeded expenses between 1973 and 1979, the Society invested the excess income and used it to delay dues and subscription rate increases as long as possible). Accordingly, increased dues, subscription, and page-charge rates have been instituted for 1983. Unfortunately, the new rates will probably not permit any excess income to be built up, as happened after the 1973 dues increase. In fact, the Treasurer now predicts that Society operations will no better than break even in 1983. Thus, increases in dues and subscription rates will soon be necessary again, perhaps as soon as 1984. In order to hold dues and subscription rates and page charges down as much as possible in the future, the Publications Committee and the Council are now evaluating the operation of the American Mineralogist and changes will soon be instituted for the purpose of decreasing the cost of publication.

Another major activity of the Society is intended to be financially self-supporting-- publication of the Reviews in Mineralogy. The cost of publication of the Reviews of Mineralogy has been rising rapidly and has necessitated increases in prices of Reviews volumes in both 1982 and 1983. Income is expected slightly to exceed costs, and the Treasurer hopes that prices will not have to be increased again for a few years. The Short Course series will continue to be self-supporting.

The Society also has three funds whose assets are wholly invested. The first of these, the Endowment Fund, is the Society's reserve. An endowment consisting of one year's operating expenses is considered a healthy reserve for a society such as ours. The market value of our Endowment Fund is now 1.7 times the annual operating expenses of the Society. The value of this ratio fluctuates with the stock market indices, however. At the stock market high in mid 1980 it was 2.3, but at the stock market low in mid 1982 it was 1.1. The Society has been expanding its operations at a greater rate than the overall economy has been inflating; if this growth continues, the ratio can be expected to decline even if the stock market remains healthy. At the October, 1982, meeting of Council the Council set a policy for investment and use of the Endowment Fund, as follows: the principal of the Fund shall be expected to keep pace with inflation, as measured by the CPI; any excess income or growth over inflation may be used to support the activities of the Society.

The other two invested funds, the Crystallography Fund and the Mineralogy-Petrology Fund, support biennial research grants awarded to young scientists. The Crystallography Fund is fully endowed, but the Mineralogy-Petrology Fund has only about one-third the assets needed before it can be viewed as fully endowed. Additional contributions for this fund are badly needed.

Our Treasurer, Odette B. James, has done a fantastic job in straightening out the accounting disarray into which the Business Office had fallen for several years. Her budget presentation at Council brought a unanimous ovation, and represents service to the Society above and beyond the normal (large) Treasurer's call to duty. We are all most thankful.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR 1984

The following slate will appear on the ballot this summer for election to 1984 office. These were based in large part on recommendations submitted by the Nominating Committee (H.C.W. Skinner, Chair):

President:	C.T. Prewitt, State University of New York at Stony Brook
Vice-President: (one to be selected)	C.W. Burnham, Harvard University H.P. Eugster, Johns Hopkins University
Secretary: (1984-85)	H.O.A. Meyer, Purdue University
Treasurer:	not on 1984 ballot
Councillors: (two to be selected; 1984-1986)	G.E. Brown, Jr., Stanford University D.H. Egglar, Pennsylvania State University R.C. Newton, University of Chicago H.P. Taylor, Jr., California Institute of Technology

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The success of our Society depends largely on the effectiveness of many committees--and that, in turn, depends upon the willingness of our members to serve. If you would like to help, please contact C.T. Prewitt (Dept. Earth & Space Sci., State Univ. New York, Stony Brook, NY 11794) who heads our Committee on Committees. Last year we were able to place about one-half of the volunteers on committees; I will turn the names of the others over to Charles so that they can be considered in the coming year. So if you volunteered and were not chosen--take heart: we need you and will try to use your talents soon!

## DECADE OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOLOGY

The GSA has invited us to help it celebrate its upcoming centennial by participating in the Decade of North American Geology Series. Our contribution might be one or more volumes on appropriate mineralogical topics. Suggestions to date include ophiolite suites, the mineralogy of the Black Hills, thermal energy flow through the crust, and mineralogy and health. Please let me know your ideas regarding appropriate topics and authors. Pete Palmer, the science coordinator for DNAG, says there are several possibilities as to the form of the publication. A volume might be published by GSA as part of the formal DNAG series, or MSA might publish it with the inscription that it was dedicated to the GSA centennial.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our sister society to the North, The Mineralogical Association of Canada, will be holding its joint annual meeting (with the GAC and the CGU) in Victoria, B.C., May 11-13, 1983. Many aspects of this meeting will be of interest to MSA members as well.

The Council agreed to cosponsor a Symposium convened by A. Falster on Alkaline Complexes, to be held at Wausau, Wisconsin, Sept. 16-18, 1983. Technical chairmen will be E.E. Foord and P.B. Moore. For further details, contact A. Falster, 920 McIntosh St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 845-4473 after 6 pm.

## NECROLOGY

Since the publication of the last newsletter, our science and Society have been diminished by the deaths of the following members and fellows: Federico E. Ahlfeld, Nicolai K. Belov, Leonard G. Berry, Bobby G. Cahoon, Arthur L. Crawford, Heath R. Hose, Kenneth K. Landes, Heinz Meixner, Richard M. Pearl, Frand W. Stead, Lester W. Strock, and Edgar T. Wherry - Honorary Past President.

We invite memorials to be published in the American Mineralogist. If you would like to write a memorial for one or more of these members, please contact our Archivist, George T. Faust, P.O. Box 411, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, to be sure that someone else is not already preparing one.

In closing, I wish to thank all those members who have served the Society on committee or other assignments. I am especially grateful to the Officers and Councillors who have worked so hard for the benefit of our Society, including our retiring Past-President D.H. Lindsley, and retiring Councillors P.H. Ribbe and P. Robinson.

I will try to get out another newsletter in August with details of the program for the Fall Meeting. Please let me know of any news items that should be included.

Cordially,



Edwin Roedder  
President