

Acceptance of the Distinguished Public Service Medal for 2007*

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Thank you, John, for your kind words, and thank you, Barbara, for presenting me with this prestigious medal, which until a few months ago I didn't even know existed.

I am grateful that the late Peter Zodac had the vision in 1926 to establish *Rocks & Minerals* and that the Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation (HELDREF) had the resources to re-suscitate it in 1975 after Mr. Zodac died and his relatives found it too daunting a task to keep the publication afloat. I am also grateful for a supportive publisher and a growing host of writers, photographers, volunteers, donors, and advertisers who infuse *Rocks & Minerals* with vitality.

In October 1978, when I was asked to fly to Washington, D.C., from our home in Cincinnati to interview for the job of managing editor of *Rocks & Minerals*, I thought it sounded like an exciting position and a challenging opportunity. With three children still in school, a home-based editorial office would be ideal. And, I reasoned, how difficult could it be? Well...I found out when they handed me a pica ruler ("What's this for?" I wondered) and a sizing wheel ("Hmmm . . . never heard of that either"). Then they told me there was enough copy on hand to fill half of the next issue, which, by the way, needed to be marked for typesetting and back in the D.C. office in ten days. The layout would be due a week after I received the galleys. (Layout? I'd never done a layout!) Two days later, with a crash course in magazine design under my belt, a copy of *The Chicago Manual of Style* under my arm, and a huge manuscript titled "The Minerals of Mont Saint-Hilaire" in a brown paper bag, I headed home, overwhelmed, and certain of failure.

Twenty-nine years and 174 issues later, that pica ruler has become an extension of my right arm, *Chicago* has become my bible, we've published a total of three articles on Mont Saint-Hilaire, and I am much too busy to worry about failure. The excitement and the challenging opportunities that I had hoped to find? They are there, but even better are the satisfaction that comes with the work, the many friendships that have developed in the course of doing that work, and the thrill of contributing to the literature in this field.

As Peter Zodac stated in the very first issue of *Rocks & Minerals*, the dual purpose of the publication is to combine popular interest and scientific substance. Our goal remains the same. The importance of supplying an undercurrent of scientific inquiry and meaning to the specimens collectors find in the field or acquire at a show is paramount. By fostering the relationship



between the amateur and the professional communities, the magazine draws on the strengths of both groups in the exchange of ideas and in the writing and refereeing of articles.

Twenty-four reviewers are listed on the *Rocks & Minerals* masthead, several of whom have held that position for at least a dozen years, some for more than two dozen. Second reviews and guidance come from our three executive editors—Robert Cook, of Auburn University; John Rakovan, of Miami University; and Peter Modreski, of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. Together we set policy, determine direction, and brainstorm ideas. These people are the heart and soul of the publication, and their dedication is reflected in its pages. One person, however, my husband, Terry, should be singled out for contributions well above and beyond the call. From writing to reviewing, from coordinating benefit auctions to photographing minerals, from running subscription booths to financial bookkeeping, and from sharing my joys to shouldering my frustrations, for the past almost thirty years, he's done it all—including daily trips to the post office.

This is obviously a group effort, and on behalf of this special group I am pleased and honored to accept the Distinguished Public Service Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America. I will do my best to live up to all that it represents.

* This award was presented at the 2007 Tucson Gem and Mineral Society show banquet.