

Presentation of the Distinguished Public Service Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America for 2007 to Marie Huizing*

JOHN RAKOVAN

Department of Geology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, U.S.A.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good evening. The first issue of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine that I purchased as a young collector was Jan/Feb 1979. I poured over its pages numerous times, and I was so enamored with the serandite and analcime on the cover that I convinced my parents to take me to the Smithsonian to see it on my 16th birthday.

Much has changed since then, and as a reader *Rocks & Minerals* for almost 30 years now, I think that I can speak for many people by saying that it has become one of the premier mineralogy magazines in the world. This is because of the hard work and support of numerous individuals, many of who are here tonight. This includes authors, editors, the production and marketing staff at Heldref Publications, donors, advertisers and others. *Rocks & Minerals* is a journal that truly belongs to all of us in the mineral enthusiast community. Its entire content and much of the money that goes to support its production, especially color copy, and its marketing comes from the community through donations. Of all the individuals who contribute in their own personal ways, one stands out for her extraordinary and tireless effort: Marie Huizing, managing editor of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine.

While preparing this citation yesterday, I asked Marie if she could find out which issue had that serandite and analcime on its cover. To my amazement, she immediately answered that it was the Jan/Feb 1979 issue. I asked how she could remember exactly which issue it was almost 30 years later, and she said that it was the very first issue that she had produced.

Editing *Rocks & Minerals* has been more than a full-time job for Marie, but her efforts do not stop there. She and her husband, Terry Huizing, travel to between 8 and 12 events a year (some overseas) to promote *Rocks & Minerals* and its educational mission. Almost all of this is personally financed. Marie and Terry graciously and enthusiastically promote other mineralogical journals (including the *American Mineralogist*) at these events. As an ambassador for the advancement of mineralogy Marie is also an active board member of the Friends of Mineralogy national chapter, and she has been intimately involved in one of the top local mineral shows in the country (sponsored by the Cincinnati Mineral Society) for more than 40 years. It is for this work over the last 27 years that Marie has been chosen as the 2007 recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America's Distinguished Public Service Medal. This is a wonderful honor for Marie and for all who have worked hard to make R&M what it is today.

It is interesting to note that *Rocks & Minerals* Magazine has its origin as a spin-off from the *American Mineralogist*. In 1919 the fledgling *American Mineralogist*, which at that time was principally a collector's journal designed to replace *The Collector* (which ceased

publication in 1909), was given to the Mineralogical Society of America. By the mid-1920s it was clear that it would be evolving into a more scientific journal. Peter Zodak recognized that with this new direction the *American Mineralogist* would no longer fulfill the need for a publication geared towards the mineral enthusiast community, so in 1926 he started publication of *Rocks & Minerals*.

Since 1979 Marie has made major changes and additions to *Rocks & Minerals* that have greatly increased its scientific and educational quality and strengthened its mission of teaching and outreach. To name just a few, these improvements include:

(1) Formation of a distinguished board of editors (most of whom are professional mineralogists and MSA members) that has significantly increased the standards for scientific accuracy and style. All submissions, for example, are reviewed by at least two editors, and reviews are often solicited from experts in specific fields. A testament to the high quality of articles published in *Rocks & Minerals* is the frequent request by many other international journals to translate and republish articles.

(2) Marie includes in every issue a wide variety of content and styles that leaves one anxiously anticipating every new issue and enjoying the reading of them from cover to cover.

(3) One or more theme issues (in conjunction with the mineralogical themes of major events such as the Denver and Tucson shows, state issues, etc.) are published each year. Furthermore, *Rocks & Minerals* publishes all original research abstracts from the annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium.

(4) Marie has initiated several regular columns that are specifically geared toward education at all levels. These include GeoCurrents, Let's Get it Right, Connoisseur's Choice, and Word to the Wise. Marie also recently coordinated collaboration between *Rocks & Minerals* and the Mineralogical Society of America for educational outreach and cooperation between collectors and professional mineralogists.

With these changes, along with increases in size, the amount of color copy, paper quality, and other physical improvements, subscriptions and readership have substantially increased since Marie took over as managing editor.

In short, Marie Huizing has devoted much of her life, over the last 27 years, to advancing mineralogy through public education and outreach. This is quite remarkable in light of Marie having no formal training in mineralogy or geology (other than an introductory geology course in college). She is a gracious advocate of mineralogy who shies away from personal publicity and acknowledgment for her efforts, and she is immensely deserving of our recognition.

Madam president, it is my great pleasure to introduce this year's recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America's Distinguished Public Service Medal, Marie Huizing.

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