



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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August 17, 1976

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

Since the last Newsletter sent to you in March, a Council meeting was held, and plans for our joint meeting with the G.S.A. have moved ahead. I would like to bring you up to date on a variety of matters of interest.

1. The 1976 Annual Meeting. I hope you all received the First Announcement in May. Enclosed please find the Second Announcement which includes details and the pre-registration form (members outside of North America should have already received this). Note the deadline for pre-registration is October 8. Please indicate on the form your affiliation with the MSA. Attendance of people having identified society affiliations helps to determine room size for technical sessions for future meetings, so it is a worthwhile exercise.

The Joint Technical Programs Committee met in Boulder in July; our Representative was Subrata Ghose and our Conferee was John H. Carman. The enclosed program summary sheet gives the information on MSA-sponsored sessions. I call your attention especially to the symposium on Magma genesis in the Mantle which is organized by John Carman. We will have 5-1/2 regular sessions in petrology, with 79 papers, and 2-1/2 regular sessions in mineralogy, with 35 papers, in addition to the symposium. Even though the G.S.A. has extended the meeting to four days this year, and added extra sessions, the number of contributed abstracts was far greater than could be accommodated, and approximately 1/3 of the papers had to be rejected. On the morning of Tuesday, November 9, we will have the Annual Business Meeting, to be followed by the Presidential Address and the Annual Luncheon. At the Luncheon, the Roebling Medal will be presented to Carl W. Correns and the MSA Award will be presented to Friedrich A. Seifert. I hope you will be able to attend these events, but do sign up for the Luncheon early -- the number of seats is limited!

2. Preceding the Annual Meeting, the Society will once again sponsor a Short Course, this time on Rock Forming Oxides, as described in the last Newsletter. Enclosed is a special announcement giving further details and an application form (those outside of North America should have already received this). The form should be returned directly to the organizer, Doug Rumble of the Geophysical Laboratory. Our two previous Short Courses were highly successful and the Notes are useful references; this year's promises to be of equal interest.

3. At the April meeting of our Council, a number of items were acted on that should be of interest to you. (a) The Council voted to create, in principle, a husband-and-wife membership category, which will permit a couple to receive a single set of the American Mineralogist, while continuing their separate and full rights and privileges as members. The necessary amendments to the Society's bylaws are being prepared and will be submitted to the membership for approval. If you have any comment to make on

this innovation, please let me hear from you. (b) The Council voted that we will hold another joint meeting with Friends of Mineralogy, February 13-14, 1977. The meeting will be in Tucson, Arizona in conjunction with and as guests of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society at their annual Show. Arthur Roe is the general chairman, and a symposium on "Crystal Growth and Habit" will be organized by Gordon E. Brown who is the chairman of Technical Programs. (c) The Council voted to abolish our Scholarship Fund. We have received virtually no contribution from the members, and this lack of support makes it impossible to continue with the fund's activities. (d) The Council voted to create an ad hoc committee which is to study the feasibility and problems of electronic storage of petrologic and mineralogical data, and to represent the MSA at the meeting of CODATA in Boulder and of the IMA Working Group I in Sydney. The ad hoc committee consists of Thomas L. Wright (U.S.G.S., Reston), Chairman, Felix Chayes (Geophysical Laboratory), William G. Melson (Smithsonian Institution), and Charles T. Prewitt (SUNY Stony Brook), and will report its findings and recommendations to the Council in November. If you have ideas on this subject, please contact one of the committee members. (e) The Council encouraged and authorized the Publications Committee to make an in-depth study of the Society's publication policy. Are we adequately serving the needs of the community of mineralogists, petrologists, and crystallographers? Will we be able to face the next few years financially, and compete with the increasing number of commercially-oriented technical journals? Should we expand our journal repertoire, and if so, how? Since the American Mineralogist is the heart of the Society's activities (one Councilor put it this way: "The MSA without the Am. Min. is like an ice cream cone without the ice cream"), we want to be very sure that the journal continues not only to be scientifically sound but to meet the evolving scientific needs. Since most of the critical comments about the journal during the past year or so have come from the petrologists, the Publications Committee sent out a questionnaire to a sample of about 100 petrologists of different stripes for their opinion. The response is most gratifying. Most of those contacted wrote lengthy, thoughtful, constructive comments on how they feel the society's journal program could be strengthened. This material is being digested by the Committee and will be the basis of a major review session of the Council. If you have thoughts about the journal but were not polled, please write to: Benjamin A. Morgan, Chairman, Publications Committee, MSA, c/o U.S. Geological Survey, Mail Stop 951 National Center, Reston, VA. 22092. (f) As this Newsletter goes to press, the IMA meeting is being held in Sydney, Australia, in conjunction with the International Geological Congress. Our delegation consists of C.T. Prewitt, acting Representative to the IMA; Paul Desautels, Commission on Museums; Cecil Schneer, Commission on Teaching; Charles Milton, Commission on Mineral Data and Classification; Peter Buseck, acting, Commission on Ore Microscopy; Paul Ribbe, acting, Commission on Abstracts; Brian Mason, acting, Commission on Cosmic Mineralogy; and Sidney Williams, acting, Commission on New Mineral Names.

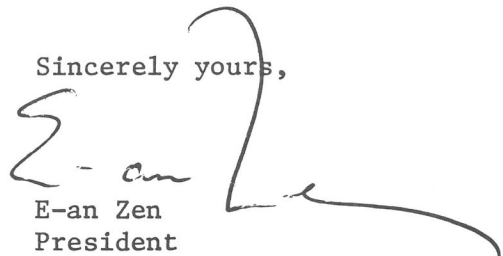
4. One person whom we will miss not only at the IMA meeting but at the MSA is Marjorie Hooker, who died in May. Marge had served the MSA long and loyally, having been for many years the Treasurer, and in recent years as our Representative on the IMA Commission on Abstracts and as the North American Organizer for the Mineralogical Abstracts, of which the MSA is a co-owner and co-publisher. At the April Council meeting it was voted to present Marge with a special gift in recognition of her services, but that was not to be. Dr. Richard V. Dietrich of the Central Michigan University has agreed to be the North American Organizer for the Mineralogical Abstracts. I am pleased that a person of his capability will be taking up where Marge Hooker left off, and we send Dick our best wishes.

5. I want to call your attention to the fact that all members of the Society are entitled to subscribe to our co-published journal, Mineralogical Abstracts, at a handsome bargain. The regular subscription price for this journal, which is published four times a year, is \$50. However, as a member of the Society, you can order the journal at the time of membership dues payment for a mere \$15 -- just 30% of the subscription price! The Mineralogical Abstracts is the most prestigious, comprehensive and up-to-date abstract journal in the English language in the mineralogical, crystallographic, and petrological sciences; it is an essential tool of research and a handy way to find out what's going on without having to thumb through reams of journal pages. Your subscription to the journal will also help to support it financially and ensure that it will continue to be published as a high-quality journal. So, if you don't already have a subscription, please consider it carefully. Give it to someone for Christmas!

6. While I am on the recruiting binge, allow me to point out also that there remain many professional, amateur, and student crystallographers, mineralogists and petrologists, especially in the United States and Canada, who are fully qualified to be members of the Society but who are not. Several of us contacted many such people during the past year; quite a few were interested but had previously taken no action simply because of inertia, and a personal request was enough to overcome the activation energy barrier. May I respectfully request that every member try to help to add a new member to the Society? The qualification for membership is simple. The Society's Constitution states that "members shall be those persons interested in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, or related sciences, who are sponsored by two Members or Fellows in good standing, and who have paid the dues established in the By-Laws." Also, "Student Members shall be persons interested in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, or related sciences, who are certified as bona fide students for the current year by a faculty member of the school of their enrollment and who have paid the dues established in the By-Laws. They shall enjoy all privileges of membership except that they are ineligible to hold office in the Society." For your convenience, I am enclosing a blank membership application form; it is self-explanatory and contains the "certification" form for students. Use the form. If you can't handily find another Member to be a cosponsor, just sign your own name and return it to us; we will find someone to sign the other slot. The current membership dues is \$20 per year, and for students, \$6 a year. Dues must be sent in with the application form. Many thanks!

7. I was asked by the National Academy of Sciences to call your attention to the fact that the Academy recently passed a resolution, "An affirmation of freedom of inquiry and expression" which the Academy invites all interested scientists to join in signing. To give you a flavour of the resolution, the first paragraph states that "the Search for knowledge and understanding of the physical universe and of the living things that inhabit it should be conducted under conditions of intellectual freedom, without religious, political or ideological restriction." If you wish more details, please contact: Commission on International Relations, NAS, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Sincerely yours,



E-an Zen
President