



NEWSLETTER NO. 8

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

1909 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 202-331-0383

December 22, 1976

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

The petrologists among us will be pleased to learn that members of MSA may receive the Journal of Petrology at the special rate of \$30 per year instead of \$45. To obtain the Journal of Petrology at this reduced rate, your check for \$30.00, payable to MSA but marked, "For Journal of Petrology", should arrive at the letterhead address on or before February 21. If you have already paid \$45.00 for your Journal of Petrology, again write to the letterhead address to become eligible for a \$15.00 refund which will be issued by the Journal of Petrology. We hope this arrangement will be such a success that, after the trial period of three years expires, all parties will be eager to renew it.

Last May, Ben Morgan, Chairman of our Publications Committee, sent letters to approximately 100 petrologists who are MSA members. Of the 65 replies, most thought they were poorly served by The American Mineralogist and desired more papers in petrology to be published. Several noted the real problem, that this is easier said than done, because the journal is the product of what people choose to submit to it. To paraphrase a remark made by Bill Holser in 1972 relative to this continuing problem, 'You can't print what you don't get.' I do hope that in the near future our petrologists will submit their important papers to our Journal. In anticipation of this, Council voted last November to increase by approximately 200 the number of pages budgeted for The American Mineralogist. Meanwhile, our agreement with The Journal of Petrology, largely negotiated by Ben Morgan and E-an Zen, should also serve the interests of the petrologists in our society. The Journal of Petrology has traditionally taken the longer papers for publication so our publications committee does not anticipate that our arrangement with them will undercut our own efforts to publish petrological papers of high quality in The American Mineralogist.

Together with The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain, our Society publishes Mineralogical Abstracts. Although the annual subscription rate is \$50.00 per year for non-members, our members can subscribe to this very useful publication for only \$15.00 per year. Again send a check payable to MSA but marked "For Mineralogical Abstracts" to the letterhead address. Your support of Mineralogical Abstracts will ensure that it will continue to thrive and be available when you need it.

The MSA Award and Roebling Medal Committees would welcome your suggestions. If you have a good candidate for either award, please send sufficient documentation to Professor G.V. Gibbs, Chairman of the Roebling Medal Committee, (Department of Geological Sciences, V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va. 24061) or to Professor Paul Moore, Chairman of the MSA Award Committee (Department of Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637). For

the MSA Award, the candidate must be less than 37 years old in the year when the award is decided, and less than 35 years old when the chosen research was published. The Roebling Medal, our highest award, is given in recognition of scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding research in the mineralogical sciences.

The MSA Committee on Electronic Storage of Rock and Mineral Data wishes to learn whether computer-based files exist (or are contemplated) in the following categories: (1) Complete rock analyses; (2) Analyses of rock-forming minerals; (3) Crystallographic data; etc. Where such files exist, they would like to know if (and how) outsiders can gain access to the data and also what computer programs--such as plotting routines, normative calculations, calculations of structural formulae of minerals, etc.--are available for manipulating the data. To describe your computer file, please cite: (1) The nature of the data; (2) The beginning date and the date to which the file is current; (3) The index to contents of file (including bibliographic references); (4) The person(s) in charge of file; and (5) Whether (and at what cost) the file's contents can be made available to others by tape, disc, cards, etc. The Committee would also like to receive documentation for existing programs that use chemical data in plotting or in calculations relevant to petrology/mineralogy. Please send such information, and the names of others who may have such information, to the Committee's Chairman,

Dr. Thomas L. Wright
U.S. Geological Survey
Stop 959, National Center
Reston, Virginia 22092

Later, using MSA channels, the Committee will circulate the information they receive.

I strongly urge all fellows to review our latest membership list and to nominate deserving members for fellowship. Our constitution reads, "Members who have contributed significantly to the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, or petrology, or whose scientific contribution utilized mineralogical studies or data, may be designated as Fellows on proper accreditation to and election by the Council." Nominations for Fellowship may be made by three members, two of whom must be personally acquainted with the nominee and his qualifications. The necessary forms may be obtained from our Business Office (letterhead address) and when completed should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Dr. Larry Finger (Geophysical Laboratory, 2801 Upton St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008).

To broaden participation in the Society's operation, I would welcome your suggestions for new officers and committee members. Please send them to our Vice President, Professor Peter Wyllie (Department of Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637) who is the Chairman of our Committee on Committees. In making nominations, please bear in mind that the Society's well being often depends heavily upon our having capable and hardworking officers and committee members. We also try to get a geographic distribution in some committees whereas in others--for example, the Committee on Management and the Publications Committee--we attempt to cluster members so they can meet frequently at little or no expense to the Society.

The Committee on Management is always interested in whether the Society and its Business Office is operating efficiently. If there is room for complaint, direct your letter to the Committee's chairman, Dr. Douglas Rankin (USGS, 928 National Center, Reston, Virginia 22092).

For your convenience I am enclosing a blank membership form whereby you can propose a friend, colleague, or student for membership. The membership dues of \$20.00 (\$6.00 for students) include receipt of The American Mineralogist and thus represent one of the biggest bargains around, namely, approximately 1400 pages of science for the coming year plus the other privileges of MSA membership. Our Constitution accepts candidates "interested in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, or related sciences who are sponsored by two Members or Fellows in good standing..." If you can't handily find a second co-sponsor to sign the form for your friend, colleague, or student, send it in anyway and we'll find a second co-sponsor. The dues must accompany the application form. In the case of students, a faculty member must sign the form to certify the student as bona fide and full time.

One of our members, Dr. Peter Buseck, had a very good idea. In gratitude for the aid given to him by some geology majors when he was visiting another institution, he bought each a year's student membership. This would also be a nice award gift to give the top student(s) in your mineralogy and petrology classes.

The Short Course Notes on Feldspar Mineralogy and on Sulfide Mineralogy have just been reprinted and are again available at \$5.00 each. The Index to Volumes 51-60 (1966-1975) of The American Mineralogist is now available at \$13.00. This index also includes Dr. Michael Fleischer's 1966-1975 supplement to his Index of New Mineral Names, Discredited Minerals, and Changes of Mineralogical Nomenclature. As such, the approximately 500 new minerals therein listed are classified according to anionic groups (Table 1) and elements present (Table 2). A geographic index of the minerals and rocks discussed in The American Mineralogist from 1966-1975, is also included.

I am deeply grateful to those who have given unstintingly of their time to the benefit of our Society. There are a large number so I can only name a few. These include: Brian Mason, our Editor; Larry Finger, our Secretary; George Fisher, our retiring treasurer; and Malcolm (Mac) Ross, our new treasurer. I thank each one of them and hope the new year brings success and happiness to them--and to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Bloss".

Don Bloss
President