



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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1st 1984 President's Newsletter
January 23, 1984

Dear Members of MSA:

The 64th meeting of the Society was held in conjunction with the Indianapolis GSA meeting, October 31, - November 3, 1983. At that time the MSA Council discussed and acted on a number of topics that are of general interest to the membership.

Finances. Our Treasurer, Odette James, has done an outstanding job in pulling together the rather complex financial aspects of Society operations. Largely as a result of her efforts and those of our Financial Advisory Committee chaired by Steve Huebner, we can now say that our finances are sound and that we can begin to think about (limited) new initiatives as well as continuing with our current activities. One of these new initiatives is discussed in the next section. However, this does not mean that we can be wasteful and relax our vigilance in reducing the costs of running the Society. In particular, the cost of printing and distributing *The American Mineralogist* is rising steadily and our Editor, Mike Holdaway, is always looking for ways in which we can reduce the cost of the journal. Because of the importance of these matters to the Society, I will review our financial situation in more detail in the next Newsletter.

Executive Secretary. During 1983, the Management Committee under the leadership of Peter Bell examined ways in which the operations of the MSA Business Office could be improved. The Committee considered a number of alternatives including the establishment of an independent office not connected with AGU and one that would continue with AGU but with a new Executive Secretary whose job would be to spend full time on the business affairs of the Society and to improve and expand the level of member services. After extensive discussion of the operation of the MSA Business Office in Washington, Council voted to continue with AGU and to establish the position of Executive Secretary. Although this will require us to pay a new salary, we believe that the potential for improvement of our operations more than justifies the investment. Furthermore, a "rolling" two-year contract has been instituted with AGU wherein either party can give notice of its intention to terminate the association one year from the date of the notice. If MSA were to pursue such a course, the Executive Secretary would be in charge of supervising the establishment and eventually the management of a separate MSA Business Office. A description of the Executive Secretary job opening has been included with this newsletter so that interested MSA members can submit applications before the opening is announced in other publications.

Roebling and MSA Awardees. I am pleased to announce that Paul B. Barton, Jr., of the U. S. Geological Survey has been selected as the

Roebing Medalist for 1984, and that the recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America Award will be Bernard J. Wood of Northwestern University.

Crystallographic Research Grant. Melinda Darby Dyar of Wellesley College and MIT was the selected in a competition for the Biennial Crystallographic Research Grant. Darby's research proposal involves the structures of glasses of petrologic importance. In 1984, a Committee chaired by Alexandra Navrotsky will review proposals for the 1985 Mineralogy - Petrology Research Grant.

AMU Award. At the suggestion of Peter Buseck, Council created the following new Award: American Mineralogist Undergraduate Award (AMU Award) for and outstanding undergraduate student. This new award is for undergraduates displaying exceptional interests, abilities, and performance in mineralogy, crystallography, or petrology. The award, consisting of a certificate and a free one-year subscription to the Mineralogist, is to be presented to one outstanding student each year at an appropriate ceremony by a sponsoring college or university department. In order to be eligible to make the award, the sponsoring department must fulfill the following criteria:

- (1) The department must offer one or more courses in mineralogy, crystallography, or petrology.
- (2) A member of the permanent (or tenure-track) faculty must be a member or Fellow of MSA.
- (3) The department must present the AMU Award at an appropriate awards ceremony.

Because American Mineralogist subscriptions start with the January-February issue, the name and address of each awardee must be received in the Business Office by November 1st. Each participating institution should provide the following information on departmental letterhead:

- (1) Name and departmental mailing address of student.
- (2) Year of student and, if known, area of interest (for statistical purposes only).
- (3) Name of MSA Member or Fellow Sponsor.
- (4) One sentence description of the type of award ceremony and its date.
- (5) Signature of department chairperson making the nomination.

MSA Fellows. Thirteen new Fellows recommended by the Fellowship Committee were approved by Council. Following procedures adopted by Council in 1982, we now elect 0.5% of the total membership to Fellowship each year, thus making this a more significant recognition of the scientific accomplishments of new Fellows. The people chosen were David E. Anderson, Nabil Z. Boctor, Kurt G. V. Boström, Arthur H. Brownlow, Bruce W. Chappell, Mabel I. Corlett, Pete J. Dunn, Rodney C. Ewing, Hans-Ude Nissen, Gordon Nord, Lawrence A. Taylor, Robert A. Wiebe, and Bruce W. D. Yardley.

Ballot for election of Officers and Councillors for 1985. The following people have been nominated:

President: Hans P. Eugster

Vice President: Arden L. Albee
Paul B. Barton, Jr.

Treasurer: Gordon L. Nord, Jr.

Councillors: Rodney C. Ewing
Charles V. Guidotti
Cornelis Klein
Anthony J. Naldrett

New Committee. A new ad-hoc committee, the Membership Committee, was formed by Council. This year, the members are M. Charles Gilbert, Chair, R. James Kirkpatrick, and Bruce Loeffler. Council is concerned that the number of members declined slightly in 1983 and charged this Committee with the responsibility of investigating ways in which we can increase our membership, with special attention to attracting new members from other countries. The Committee will report back to Council during 1984 and, if this approach appears to be successful, Council may make this a permanent committee.

Vice-Presidential Elections. Several years ago the Society changed the By-laws to require at least two nominees for Vice President. It was felt at that time that this would give members a choice in the election and that anyone nominated would be pleased and honored by being nominated, even though he or she eventually lost the election. However, many people believe that, because those who lose the election may not be very interested in further active participation in the Society, we are losing the services of some of our most talented members. These people think that we should return to having just one candidate for Vice President. Council has made no decision or recommendation on this, but we would like to hear your views on the subject. If you have an opinion, please send it to me or one of the other members of Council.

1984 Symposium. Maryellen Cameron will organize the MSA Symposium for the Reno meeting, "Diffusion in Mineral, Melt, and Glass Systems."

Credit Cards. The MSA Business has made arrangements for payment of membership dues and publications with VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards. We hope this will make payments easier for members, especially for those in other countries.

Short Courses

The 1983 Short Course on Carbonates convened by Richard J. Reeder before the Indianapolis meeting was attended by approximately 100 people and considered by all to be a great success. A Short Course on Micas will be convened by S. W. Bailey at the time of the 1984 Reno meeting (November 3-4, Reno Hilton Hotel). Another Short Course tentatively entitled "Microscopic to Macroscopic: Atomic Environments to Thermodynamic Properties", to be convened by Susan Kieffer and Alexandra Navrotsky, is scheduled for the time of the 1985 Spring AGU meeting in Baltimore. The Short Course Committee chaired by David Veblen would appreciate receiving your suggestions for new short courses together with names of possible convenors. Please send your suggestions directly to Dave at Johns Hopkins University.

International Geological Congress

The IGC will be held in Moscow on 4-14 August 1984. There will be several sessions/symposia of interest to MSA members, as noted on page 648 of the May-June 1983 issue of *The American Mineralogist*. I have received a statement from the U. S. National Committee on Geology giving its position on attendance at the Congress. This statement reads, in part: "Although recent troubling events have raised questions about participation in the 1984 IGC meeting to be held in Moscow, it is the position of the U. S. National Committee on Geology that participation in the activities of both the the IGC and the IUGS is required for the continuing health and growth of important international science programs. On the other hand, the Committee recognizes that individual scientists must make a personal decision with regard to participation." The full text of the USNCG statement has been submitted for publication in *Geotimes* and *EOS*.

Reno Meeting, Awardees, and Appointments for 1985

The 65th Meeting of the Society will be held in Reno, Nevada, on 5-8 November, 1984, at which time Council will meet to make plans for 1985. In order to help Council with awards, grants, committee appointments, and other activities, I list below the names of those who chair the relevant committees. Please send them your suggestions as soon as possible because the selection process has already begun.

Roebing Medal Committee: Gordon E. Brown
MSA Award Committee: Hugh P. Taylor
Committee on Committees: Hans P. Eugster
Short Course Committee: David R. Veblen

The Committee on Committees is chaired by the Vice President and is responsible for submitting to Council a list of candidates for various committees. If you have not been involved with the administrative aspects of the Society, but want to become involved, I urge you to write Hans Eugster and tell him of your interests. If you have suggestions or comments for MSA in general, please send them to me. We are striving to improve the ways in which MSA can serve its members and it is only through frequent communication that Council and I can become aware of your concerns and desires for improvement.

Best regards,



Charles T. Prewitt
President



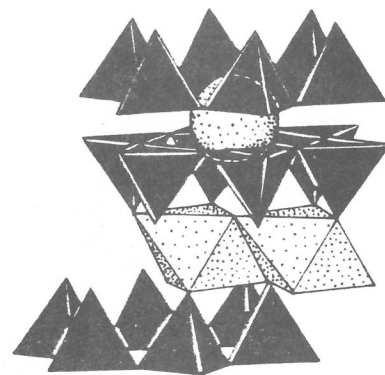
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

1984 SHORT COURSE

MICAS

November 3-4, 1984

Hilton Hotel, Reno, NV



ORGANIZER: S. W. Bailey, Department of Geology & Geophysics, Univ. Wisconsin

The Mineralogical Society of America will sponsor a Short Course entitled "Micas" before the 1984 MSA/GSA Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. The Short Course will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 3-4, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Reno. A welcoming reception will be held the evening of November 2.

Authors / speakers include: S. W. Bailey (University of Wisconsin), P. Černý (University of Manitoba), D. D. Eberl (U. S. Geological Survey), R. F. Giese, Jr. (SUNY at Buffalo), S. Guggenheim (University of Illinois - Chicago Circle), C. V. Guidotti (University of Maine), D. A. Hewitt (Virginia Polytechnic Inst.), J. L. Munoz (University of Colorado), I. E. Odom (American Colloid Co.), G. R. Rossman (California Inst. Technology), J. A. Speer (Virginia Polytechnic Inst.), J. Środoń (U. S. Geological Survey), R. E. Wilcox (U. S. Geological Survey), and D. R. Wones (Virginia Polytechnic Inst.). The following topics will be covered: classification and structures of micas, crystal chemistry and petrology of brittle micas, electrostatic modeling of micas, spectral methods applied to micas, phase equilibrium diagrams, optical properties of micas under the polarizing microscope, micas in pegmatites, micas in igneous rocks, micas in metamorphic rocks, F-OH and Cl-OH exchange in micas with applications to hydrothermal ore deposits, illite, glauconite and celadonite.

The Short Course will consist of two morning and two afternoon lecture-discussion sessions and one evening workshop. Two catered luncheons and coffee breaks are included. The Short Course lectures will form the basis of Volume 13 of the MSA series Reviews in Mineralogy.

For further information or for registration, write: S. W. Bailey, Department of Geology and Geophysics, 315 Weeks Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Telephone (608) 262-1806.

MSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SOUGHT

The MSA Executive Secretary is the member of the staff of the American Geophysical Union in Washington, D.C., who is responsible for managing the business activities of the Society. Duties include involvement in activities such as membership, publications, accounting, subscription fulfillment, computer record management and meeting arrangements. A scientific (mineralogy/geology preferred), management and/or publication background is desirable. Salary from \$23,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Send resume and names of three references to the Chairman, Search Committee, Mineralogical Society of America, 2000 Florida, Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.