



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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2nd 1984 President's Newsletter
July 31, 1984

Dear Members of MSA:

The year is passing very quickly and a lot has happened in relation to MSA since my last Newsletter. Therefore, I am writing a second letter in order to bring you up to date on Society activities.

Second 1984 Council Meeting

Council met during the Cincinnati AGU Meeting in May and dealt with a number of topics of interest and importance to MSA members. Each of these topics is summarized below.

Executive Secretary. As mentioned in my 1st Newsletter, MSA Council has been trying to improve the operation of our Business Office. As part of this improvement program, we have hired Barbara Minich as the Society's Executive Secretary. Ms. Minich is working full-time on MSA affairs at the Business Office, and is available to help members with claims and other matters. She can be contacted at the above address or telephone number. I am confident that you will see a marked improvement in member services during the coming months because of Barbara's efforts and because of our continuing attention to the details of office operations.

Finances. In the previous Newsletter I said that I would review our financial situation in more detail in this Newsletter. However, so many changes have been made this year that it is premature to give a full financial review at this time. Basically, the Society is in good financial shape, but a number of decisions were made at the Cincinnati Council meeting and more have to be made about how we are to operate in coming years. Some of these topics are discussed below, including a request from our Treasurer, Odette James, for member feedback about whether it is better to raise dues or to make changes in the way in which The American Mineralogist is produced.

MSA members can help in a big way with one aspect of our finances, i.e., the addition of new members and the retention of present members. Although we are one of the largest mineralogical societies in the World, we need a growing membership to support needed member services and to help with other activities, particularly in the area of our publications. If all or most of us would recruit just one new member each in the next year, we could put MSA on a very firm foundation and reduce the necessity for dues increases in future years. Each year Council is concerned about how many members do not renew their memberships -- I know that we all have to reconsider how many sets of dues and publications we can afford each year, but I believe that membership in MSA is one of the best investments to be found anywhere and hope that you will all stay with us as long as you possibly can.

Research Grants. A substantial number of applications have been received for the 1985 Research Grant in Mineralogy-Petrology. The recipient of the 1985 grant will be chosen at the Fall Council Meeting, based on the recommendation of the selection committee, and announced in the next newsletter.

Council action taken at the Spring meeting increases the research grants from \$1500 to \$3500 in order to make the grants more meaningful and useful to the recipients. The increased grant amount will take effect with the 1986 Crystallography Grant, applications for which will be accepted next year through August 1, 1985. There are no restrictions on the Crystallography Grant except that awardees must be between 25 and 35 years of age, and the money must be spent in the support of research.

These grants represent the income from invested Funds created by bequests and contributions from the MSA membership. However, the principals of the Funds are not large enough to continue to grow with the rate of inflation after the \$3500 awards become effective. Council is confident that we can expect our membership to contribute to this very important and visible activity of the Society. Members are urged to contribute to these Funds, and a specific request will be included with the dues statements for 1985. All donations are tax deductible.

Questionnaire. Increasing publication costs for The American Mineralogist are just one reason for current estimates that by the end of this decade member dues will be \$60 and institutional subscription rates for The American Mineralogist will be well over \$150. The enclosed questionnaire asks for your thoughts on the dues rate you would be willing to pay to offset expenses of keeping the journal in its current format, and offers some cost-saving alternatives. It also gives you a chance to express your thoughts on how some of the income from the Endowment Fund should be spent. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to the MSA Business Office by October 1, 1984.

Price Increases. The MSA Council voted at its Spring Meeting to increase student dues for 1985 from \$10 to \$15. No change was proposed for regular membership dues, which will stay at \$35 for 1985. Student dues, even at the \$15 level, remain a bargain. Students receive valuable membership benefits--a subscription to The American Mineralogist, and a 20% discount on volumes in the Reviews in Mineralogy series--at a fraction of the full-member cost. To maintain student membership, or join as a student, a person must be a full-time student at a college or university.

Institutional subscription rates for The American Mineralogist will also increase slightly in 1985. Cost for U. S. subscribers will be \$110; for non-U. S. subscribers, the cost will be \$115. Even with these increases, the journal is an outstanding value for libraries and other institutions and compares favorably in price with comparable publications.

In response to the increasing publication costs of The American Mineralogist, the Council also voted to increase page charges by \$5 to \$50/page beginning January 1, 1985. This rate is comparable to or less than that charged by similar journals and will do much to defray costs and enable the journal to keep its current high standards.

Reviews in Mineralogy. Volume 12, Fluid Inclusions, by E. Roedder, was published at the end of June and has been mailed to all subscribers. All back orders have been filled by the Business Office. The price of the book, 644 pages in length, is \$14 (remember that there is a 20% discount for MSA members). Volume 13, Micas, is expected to be available in November for \$13.00. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for contents of these volumes and of Volume 11, Carbonates.

Short Courses. A Short Course on Micas will be held November 3-4, prior to the MSA/GSA Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. A welcoming reception will be held the evening of November 2. The registration costs are as follows: MSA members, \$125; MSA student members, \$40; nonmembers, \$155; student nonmembers, \$50. More information may be obtained by writing Professor S. W. Bailey, Department of Geology and Geophysics, 315 Weeks Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. The registration deadline is October 1. After this date a \$20 late registration fee will be assessed.

The first Short Course of 1985, entitled "Microscopic to Macroscopic: Atomic Environments to Mineral Thermodynamics", is scheduled for May 24-26, 1985, prior to the AGU Spring Meeting. The conference will be held at Washington College in Chestertown, MD, on the eastern shore. Transportation from Baltimore to Washington College will be available on Thursday afternoon. Additional information and registration forms will be published in The American Mineralogist and other journals later this Fall.

Fellows Committee Report. The ad hoc Fellows Committee made the following recommendations, subsequently adopted by Council at the Spring meeting: The category of Fellow will be retained; the number of Fellows shall not be set by an arbitrary percentage of the total membership; and the criteria for election to Fellowship in the Society shall be more clearly defined.

The new criteria are: (1) significant scientific contributions in any of the fields -- crystallography, mineralogy or petrology; (2) a minimum of a bachelor's degree in geology or a related field; (3) at least five years of professional experience beyond the last academic degree; and (4) achievements in other areas such as (a) excellence in earth science education, and/or (b) outstanding service to the profession. Roebling Medalists and MSA Award winners automatically become Fellows.

The deadline for receipt of Fellow nominations for 1985 has been extended to September 15th. Nominations for Fellowship may be made by three current members on forms available from the Business Office. Iris Borg is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Fellows; this year all nominations should be sent directly to Dr. Iris Borg, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Mail Code L-203, P. O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550.

Exchange of Publications. Because of limited foreign exchange funds, the Polish Academy of Sciences has suggested that they exchange some of their publications for current and back issues of The American Mineralogist and Reviews in Mineralogy volumes. Because MSA depends on income from publication sales and has no library for holding foreign publications, it has been suggested that members wishing to participate in a publication exchange with Poland or other countries could donate the cost of one or more Reviews volumes or a year's library subscription to The American Mineralogist (\$115). The

publications received in exchange could be kept by the donor or deposited in a library designated by the donor. Those wishing to participate should contact our Executive Secretary, Barbara Minich, at the MSA Business Office, 2000 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

American Mineralogist Commemorative Volume. The MSA Council in a unanimous vote at the Spring Meeting approved the publication of a regular issue of The American Mineralogist in honor of Richard Jahns. It will be published in 1986; the subject will be mineralogy and petrology of pegmatites. Extra copies will be printed for sale. Papers for inclusion in the volume should be submitted by February 28, 1985, to Michael J. Holdaway. The Associate Editors for this issue will be Gordon E. Brown, Jr., and Rodney C. Ewing.

American Mineralogist Editor. Mike Holdaway's five-year term as Editor of The American Mineralogist is up at the end of 1985. An Editor Search Committee has been formed with Hans Eugster as Chairman. Please send the name of your candidate(s) to Hans before October 1st. MSA Council hopes to decide on a new Editor in time for a smooth succession.

1984 Annual Meeting

MSA's annual meeting is scheduled for November 5-8 in Reno, Nevada. Registration materials and further information will be mailed to all members by August 15. The annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon are scheduled for Tuesday, November 6. The exact time and place will be given in the GSA Program.

Symposium. MSA will be sponsoring a half-day symposium at the Reno meeting entitled "Diffusion in Mineral, Melt, and Glass Systems." The symposium, convened by Maryellen Cameron, will address new developments in the mechanisms and kinetics of diffusion and in the measurement of diffusion coefficients in mineral, melt, and glass systems. It will also focus on the role of diffusion in the growth and nucleation of crystals, zoning in minerals, trace element partitioning between melt and crystals, and equilibrium/disequilibrium processes in magmatic and metamorphic systems.

Contributed Papers. Tim Grove, Chairman of our delegation to the Joint Technical Program Committee, tells me that many more abstracts were submitted for the Reno meeting than were submitted for the GSA meeting last year. As a result, the program is a very full one, even though a large number of abstracts had to be rejected because of a limit on space in the program. Surely the great interest in Reno by our members has nothing to do with gambling, fancy hotels, and Hollywood stars -- it must be the attraction of Western geology!

Open Meeting on Physics and Chemistry of Geological Materials. During 1983 two reports from the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council identified research opportunities/areas that could return significant dividends as a result of additional federal funding. One of these areas is of interest to many members of MSA, i.e., "Physics and Chemistry of Geological Materials." Substantial efforts have been made to follow up and capitalize on other initiatives featured in these reports, e.g., in seismology and continental drilling, but there has been no constituency organized to foster

interest in additional funding for physics and chemistry of geological materials. A first step to organize in this area was made at the Cincinnati AGU meeting by the AGU Mineral Physics Committee, and we have scheduled an open meeting at the Reno GSA meeting for further discussion of what might be done. Orson Anderson, Chairman of the AGU Mineral Physics Committee, will lead the discussion. This meeting has been scheduled for 2:30-3:30 PM on Wednesday, November 7th, in the Mayer Room of the MGM Hotel. All are invited to attend. Please check your GSA Program to confirm time and place.

Friends of Mineralogy - Tucson Mineral Show

We will co-sponsor a symposium, "Classic Mineral Localities", with Friends of Mineralogy at the Tucson Mineral Show next February. Eugene Foord (USGS Denver) is the convenor and he will be our representative at the symposium. Anyone interested in more information should contact Gene.

IMA 86 Meeting

Enclosed is the First Circular for the 14th General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association scheduled for July 13-18, 1986, at the Stanford University campus, Stanford, California. The meeting is co-sponsored by MSA and the U. S. Geological Survey. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please complete the form attached to the circular and return it to: IMA 1986, P. O. Box 183, Stony Brook, New York 11790, U.S.A. All persons responding with this form will receive the Second Circular and registration materials next Summer.

American Mineralogist Undergraduate Awards

Some 20 colleges and universities around the country have nominated students for the MSA 1985 AMU award. The selection committee will be reviewing these nominations and final notification will be mailed to the nominating departments by October 1. Each award recipient will receive a complimentary student membership for 1985, including a subscription to The American Mineralogist. An announcement for 1986 awards will be made next Spring.

M. J. Buerger Award

Through contributions from students, colleagues, and friends of Martin J. Buerger, the American Crystallographic Association has established an Award in his name that is to be made for the first time at the Stanford ACA meeting in August 1985. "The purpose of this Award is to recognize a mature scientist who has made contributions of exceptional distinction in areas of interest to the American Crystallographic Association." These criteria were made deliberately very broad to reflect the wide range of contributions made by Professor Buerger, which include the areas of crystal growth, morphology, structure analysis, phase transitions, and instrumentation as well as education through his teaching and many classic text and reference books. This Award should be of special significance to MSA members because of Buerger's great interest in mineralogy and because he was President of MSA in

1947 and received the Roebling Medal in 1958. Nominations for the 1985 Award should be sent with documentation to one of the members of the selection committee: Deane K. Smith, Chairman; Wayne A. Hendrickson, Charles T. Prewitt, and Bernhardt J. Wuensch. Nominations must be received by January 15, 1985.

Membership Directory

Publication of the biannual MSA Membership Directory has been postponed until the Spring of 1985. AGU is in the process of changing to a new fulfillment system that will enable MSA to list members' field of interest as is currently done in the AGU directory. All MSA members will have an opportunity to update their address and phone numbers prior to publication. However, if your mailing address has changed or will change in the near future, please notify the Business Office as quickly as possible. Unless we have your current address we cannot ensure that you will receive your journal in a timely manner.

Membership Information

As of June 28, 1984, MSA had 2659 members and 1178 subscribers. Our members reside in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 50 foreign countries. Subscribers in 80 nations, as well as 49 states and the District of Columbia receive The American Mineralogist.

The 1984 membership breaks down as follows: 1447 members who pay \$35 dues; 509 students who pay \$10 dues; 384 Fellows who pay \$35 dues; 115 life members; 197 life Fellows, and 7 honorary Fellows. The average age of the membership is approximately 47; for students the average age is approximately 27. The Society's oldest active member was born in 1888 and resides in the Northwest.

World Directory of Mineralogists

The International Mineralogical Association is currently in the process of publishing a new edition of the World Directory of Mineralogists. MSA has placed an advance order for 100 copies of this publication and will order more if there is sufficient interest. If you would like to receive a copy, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Business Office. You will be contacted when the price has been confirmed and a publication date is set so that you may place your order.

Best regards,



Charles T. Prewitt
President