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## PREFACE

The annually published mass of new mineralogical information is gargantuan—not only in size but likewise in its time-devouring nature. Concealed within its bulk, as diamonds in a kimberlite pipe, are widely disseminated descriptions of new minerals and dispersed data on some that were previously described. Many of the new species are descriptively flawed, with hidden imperfections not readily observed upon megascopic examination. Almost from its beginning *The American Mineralogist* has attempted to provide for its readers a service that not only will bring these widely scattered new descriptions to their attention but also will evaluate the quality of the new species and of its description. This service we have published as NEW MINERAL NAMES, DISCREDITED MINERALS, and NEW DATA. It has proved to be invaluable.

For 25 years the burden of the search and of the evaluations has been borne by Michael Fleischer, who, more than any other mineralogist has attempted to bring about a disorder→order transformation in mineral nomenclature and description. Our Society and, indeed, all mineralogists, are enormously in his debt. Now, however, the volume of the abstracts themselves has accreted to a second-order mass. To reduce this to a readily usable bibliographic tool Dr. Fleischer has prepared this index and two tables. I predict that this number of *The American Mineralogist* will be a "best seller."

E. WM. HEINRICH, *Editor*