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Mineralogical Society of America

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MY LAST LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

I was amazed when Alex Speer told me that this was to be my last "Letter from the President." Could a year fly by so fast? But it is true, and in a few short weeks I'll be in Salt Lake City, handing the gavel to John Valley.

Time has flown by, and yet, as I look back, this has been a year of significant growth and change for MSA. For the first time in our history we've added a third editor to our flagship publication, *American Mineralogist*. Bryan Chakoumakos is now on board, with the principal responsibility for our popular "Letters" section. Also, our MSA Distinguished Lecture series has continued to expand its geographic coverage with tours to New Zealand this year. And we are set to release three, possibly four, new volumes in the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* series.

But these are the incremental activities that every society experiences on a year-to-year basis. What sets the last year apart are three significant changes that are sure to have a lasting effect on our society and its operations. Inasmuch as all three of these contributions were in the works long before my tenure and were shepherded through by the hard work of others, I've been able to sit back and admire how the vision of one or two individuals can expand into a reality that benefits literally thousands of people.

You're holding the first of these advances in your hand. *Elements* is an extraordinary success, thanks in great measure to the vision and sweat of founding Editor Rodney Ewing and Managing Editor Pierrette Tremblay. When Rod first proposed this idea years ago, many people (myself included) were skeptical. In an age increasingly devoted to electronic media, was there really a place for a new, full-color, glossy periodical? But look at the result! *Elements* provides a stylish, accessible, timely, and compelling forum for all Earth materials scientists to present their advances to the broader community of scientists, educators, policy makers, and students. I'm willing to bet that *Elements* will be thriving many decades from now.

A second significant change is the move of MSA headquarters from downtown DC to Chantilly, Virginia, near Dulles Airport. Check out Alex Speer's "Notes from Washington" to learn more about this important transition. This timely move will consolidate all MSA facilities, increase our efficiency, and result in significant long-term savings.

And finally, there's GeoScienceWorld, the new joint electronic publishing venture among MSA and 19 other societies. Individuals and libraries

are becoming increasingly reliant on electronic access, while hard-copy scientific journals are increasingly marginalized. At the same time, commercial electronic subscription rates for libraries are spiralling out of control. GSW provides a low-cost, flexible, non-commercial alternative, while enhancing our abilities to search full texts and cross-link to references. We are still in the first few months of operation, but I would not be surprised if GSW is some day viewed as a landmark change in the way scientific research is published and distributed.

So, it's been a good year for MSA. Still, I remain deeply concerned about our long-term financial security. Therefore, fundraising for MSA has been, and will continue to be, a major personal goal for me. In the past few months, the 30 living MSA Past Presidents have come together to offer more than \$25,000 in donations and pledges. I will soon be contacting individuals and corporations to build on that initial success.

If I've learned one thing during the past year, it's that dedicated individuals make all the difference to our society. You can make a difference.

Robert M. Hazen, MSA President
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NOTES FROM WASHINGTON

✂ During its 2005 spring meeting, MSA Council voted to keep the 2006 professional member dues at \$55. Student dues remain at \$5 to encourage members to sign up student members. Member subscriptions to the paper copy of *American Mineralogist*, which include online access, will increase to \$45. The cost of access to the online electronic version stays at \$15. Institutional subscriptions to the paper journal increase to \$675 for subscribers with US addresses and \$700 for subscribers with non-US addresses. Included with the institutional subscription are all the current year issues of *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, *Elements*, as well as access to the electronic journal on the MSA website.

✂ MSA 2006 membership renewals will start in September 2005 with mailing of hard-copy renewals to all members, followed by an electronic notice for online membership renewal soon afterwards. This is what we did last year. The number of members willing to renew online remains at about one-third, and attempting to process online renewals before preparing and sending hard-copy notices makes for tight timing. Complicating matters is that renewals occur at the same time the office is preparing for the fall meeting. The timing may also contribute to the large number of renewals received in a very short

time span around December 31, which the office has difficulty processing in a timely manner. If you have not shared your current e-mail address with MSA and would like to participate in online renewal, please send us your e-mail address.

✂ Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are also sent renewal notices. They need not renew. They are sent notices because this is the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mailing addresses.

According to the MSA Bylaws, members qualify for Senior Member or Senior Fellow status if they have reached the age of 65, have retired from full-time professional employment, and have been a member of the society for at least 30 years. Senior Members and Senior Fellows retain all benefits of MSA membership (receiving *Elements*, voting, reduced rates on MSA products, etc.), but need not pay dues. You can subscribe to the paper or electronic version of *American Mineralogist* or other journals, purchase society publications, and attend short courses all at member rates. If you are interested in senior status, select Senior Member or Fellow dues on your next renewal and write us in the text box that you would like to become a senior member.

✧ At the moment the only way to secure a copy of *Elements* is to be a member of one of the participating societies. A number of members have asked if it were possible to send copies to funding agencies, representatives in government, and university or corporate administrators. Clearly the participating societies could not afford to send such a possibly large number of complimentary copies. There is also the possibility that such mailings could be construed as lobbying. Instead, MSA has decided to allow MSA members to purchase subscriptions to *Elements* to be sent to other addresses as part of their renewal for 2006. The cost has not been set, but is likely to be on the order of \$30 for each additional address.

Speaking of other subscriptions, if you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Journal of Petrology*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogical Abstracts*, *Mineralogical Magazine*, or *Rocks & Minerals*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to the publishers before your subscription runs out.

✧ Many members contribute to MSA each year by including a donation with their dues. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of the Endowment, Mineralogy/Petrology, Outreach, or Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Funds. The income of these four funds supports MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; publishing of *American Mineralogist*; the *American Mineralogist* Undergraduate Awards; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award; the Dana Medal;

the Roebling Medal; the website; and the lectureship program. Between June 19, 2004 and June 30, 2005, 486 MSA members and organizations contributed \$32,885 to MSA funds: Endowment (\$14,051.00), Kraus (\$1,692.00), Mineralogy/Petrology Fund (\$5,752.50), and Outreach (\$11,389.50). A list of contributors will appear in the August-September issue of *American Mineralogist*. MSA thanks all these members and organizations for their contributions. If you have not done so previously, you might want to consider contributing at the next opportunity.

✧ Two joint Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society short courses are planned for 2005: **Low-Temperature Thermochronometry: Techniques, Interpretations, and Applications**, organized by Peter W. Reiners and Todd A. Ehlers, and **Molecular Geomicrobiology**, organized by Jillian F. Banfield, Javiera Cervini-Silva, and Kenneth H. Nealson. One Reviews volume has been published thus far in 2005, RiMG volume 57, *Micro- and Mesoporous Mineral Phases*, edited by Giovanni Ferraris & Stefano Merlino. More about these can be found in ads that appear elsewhere in this issue and at the MSA website.

MSA Council has approved three short courses for 2006: **Neutron Scattering Applied to Earth Sciences**, organized by Hans Rudolf Rudy Wenk and Nancy Ross; **Medical Mineralogy and Geochemistry**, organized by Nita Sahai and Martin A. Schoonen; and **Water in Nominally Anhydrous Minerals**, organized by Hans Keppler.

✧ Thus far this year, the MSA has set up a booth at the 51st Tucson

Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ and the Goldschmidt Conference, Moscow, Idaho. MSA will have all of its usual social and technical functions at GSA, Salt Lake City, UT (October 14–20, 2005). MSA booth plans for 2006 are the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ (February, 2006), the spring AGU, Baltimore, MD (spring, 2006) and the GSA meeting, Philadelphia, PA (October 22–25, 2006).

✧ 2004 is the third year that the institutional or library subscriptions to *American Mineralogist* have included access to the online version. For access a library only needs to tell us who they are and their IP or range of IP addresses. In all, 604 of MSA's 791 institutional subscribers (76%) have requested access to the online version of *American Mineralogist* as of April 29, 2005. If your institutional library has not yet requested access, please ask them to do so. Members who have subscribed to the journal have access to electronic versions of the journal with use of an user ID (= their e-mail address) and password (= MSA membership ID). As a benefit of membership they can choose either the pdf versions on the MSA website or the pdf and html version posted on GeoScienceWorld (GSW). In the latter case, members can use all the capabilities of GSW. Members needing their MSA membership ID should contact the MSA Business Office.

✧ I write this column at the 1015 18th St NW Ste 601, Washington, DC, address where MSA has been for the last ten years. When you read this, MSA will have moved to its new offices at 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA. The office is part of an office complex known as Avion Business Park. It is at the south end of Dulles Airport, adjacent to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air and Space Museum. This was "raw" or unbuilt space of 6,740 sq ft. Build-out of the site is nearly complete. If the schedule is met, the MSA offices will move July 16. The book inventory will be moved in over the following two weeks. Half the space will be for offices, the other half a warehouse. The office side contains eight offices, a conference room, shipping room, pantry, two bathrooms, three work stations (for printers, copiers, fax, etc.), and a janitor's closet. MSA currently has office space plus three different storage locations, so the move represents a consolidation. But there is more than the physical move. Because MSA is a DC corporation, MSA must be "domesticated" for doing business in Virginia and will need to obtain sales and use tax exemptions in any new jurisdiction(s). We will also have to move our postal permits.

J. Alex Speer,
MSA Executive Director
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ADDRESS CHANGE

MSA HAS MOVED! Our new address is:

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3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500
Chantilly VA 20151-1125 • USA
Tel: +1 (703) 652-9950 (new)
Fax: +1 (703) 652-9951 (new)
e-mail: business@minsocam.org
Internet: www.minsocam.org



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEDALISTS FOR 2005 ANNOUNCED

The 2005 Roebling Medal, the highest award of the Mineralogical Society of America, will be awarded to **Ho-kwang (Dave) Mao**, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington. The Distinguished Public Service Medallist is **Robin P. Brett** of the USGS. The Dana Medal recipient (for 2006) is **Rodney C. Ewing** of the University of Michigan. The MSA Award recipient for 2005 is **Tiziana Boffa-Ballaran**, of Bayerisches Geoinstitut, Universität Bayreuth.

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES V. GUIDOTTI
(MSA Senior Fellow – 1959)

TAKAHARU ARAKI
(MSA Senior Fellow – 1963)