



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Moving to a Paperless World

Last December, I closed my President's Letter with a promise that I would report on a transition that is looming on MSA's horizon—the changeover to a paperless version of our flagship journal, *American Mineralogist*. In my conversations with previous leaders of MSA, this topic arose repeatedly as the most perilous challenge that our society faces, and

I asked Vice-President Nancy Ross to convene an ad hoc committee to explore the problem and to report at the spring council meeting in late May. The bottom line from Nancy's committee was this: there is no need to panic.

It will not surprise any members who are familiar with the personnel in our business and publications office that Alex Speer, Rachel Russell, and the editors have been on top of this problem for some time. They have evaluated the mechanisms and the timeline for the transition, and they have developed a stepped pathway to virtual publication that is financially sound and responsive to the needs of our members.

As Rachel emphasized to Council, some of the details that lie behind the publication of *American Mineralogist* are surprising. The largest costs associated with printing eight issues each year (~\$350,000) are incurred not by the production of the physical volumes but by the human components: salaries, rental of office space, peer review, and use of the AllenTrack database. The cost of printing and mailing a year's worth of volumes is \$100,000, mostly reflecting the outlay for paper. In other words, the switch from paper to paperless will diminish our publication expenses, but only by about 25%.

The primary source of income for *American Mineralogist* is the institutional subscribers. That number has been dropping consistently for the past decade. In 1998 it was 978, and today it is 603. As most of you know, libraries have been eliminating subscriptions for many science magazines because the costs of the "elite" journals have increased substantially and university libraries around the world have faced budget cuts. With each institutional subscription set at around \$800, that decrease represents a loss to MSA of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. To counter this trend, MSA served as a founding member of GeoScienceWorld (GSW), which offers electronic access to *American Mineralogist* and over 40 other Earth science journals. GSW offers a deal that few libraries can turn down, and GSW now boasts 308 subscribers. Every time someone downloads an *American Mineralogist* article through GSW, MSA receives compensation. Last year, MSA collected \$85,000 from GSW, and we hope to see that number soar even higher.

As GSW grows in popularity, the demand for hardcopies of *Am Min* will continue to diminish. Among individual members, the number of journal subscribers who have selected electronic access is approaching 25%. The publications office at MSA has developed a two-step system to address this trend. When the number of printed copies of *American Mineralogist* falls below 500 copies, Rachel will move to a digital printing process that becomes cost-effective for smaller runs. This transition

should not be apparent to the readership. When the number of printed copies approaches an even smaller number, perhaps 200, then MSA will generate those hardcopies through "print-on-demand" (PoD) services. With PoD, it always will be possible for members to receive a hardcopy for a reasonable subscription price, even if only one person desires it. In addition, PoD will provide physical volumes for archival preservation.

The ad hoc committee raised some questions that can only be answered as that final changeover draws nearer. Future officers will have to set a date for the switch from the hardcopy to the virtual version of *American Mineralogist* as the "journal of record." For example, electronic papers are more amenable to colored figures and dynamic graphics, and those enhancements become "official" components of the article once the electronic version is recognized as the journal of record. Second, MSA will continually analyze the business model for the virtual *American Mineralogist* to ensure that income balances expenses.

It is reasonable for members to greet this new frontier with some degree of unease. On the other hand, it is a transition that all science journals are confronting. Indeed, the American Geophysical Union recently announced that it will no longer produce print versions of any journals after 2008. We all should feel some assurance that MSA is in the hands of the most capable people, with the expertise to navigate this next stretch of the ongoing publications revolution.

With this final letter, I move into the realm of virtual presidents. Many thanks to the dedicated councilors and office staff who have made this job such a pleasure, and welcome to Nancy Ross.

Peter J. Heaney, MSA President
Pennsylvania State University

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The Society welcomes the following exceptional students to the program's honor roll and wishes to thank the sponsors for enabling the Mineralogical Society of America to join in recognizing them. MSA's American Mineralogist Undergraduate (AMU) Award is for students who have shown an outstanding interest and ability in mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, or geochemistry. Each student is presented a certificate at an awards ceremony at his or her university or college and receives an MSA student membership with electronic access to *American Mineralogist* and an MSA publication chosen by the sponsor, student, or both. Past AMU awardees are listed on the MSA website. Instructions on how MSA members can nominate their students for the award are also provided on the site.

Kathryn M. Albright

Acadia University – Sponsored by Dr. Sandra Barr

Seela H. Lahti

University of New Brunswick – Sponsored by Dr. Cliff Shaw

Merilie Reynolds

Smith College – Sponsored by Dr. John Brady

EVEN IF YOUR INTERESTS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE AROUND YOU, THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN MSA.
JOIN MSA ONLINE AT WWW.MINSOCAM.ORG

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

• MSA members were contacted electronically in September to renew their membership for 2009. Members who renewed and paid online before October 31, 2008, received a \$5 dues discount; the discount reflects cost savings to MSA from members who renew early online. After several electronic reminders, a paper copy will be sent during November to those who did not renew online by the end of October.

• Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.

Members qualify for Senior Member or Senior Fellow status if they have reached the age of 65, have retired from fulltime professional employment, and have been a member of the Society for at least 30 years. Senior Members and Fellows

retain all benefits of MSA membership (receiving *Elements*, voting rights, reduced rates on MSA products, etc.), but need not pay dues. They 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 in the text box that you would like to become a Senior Member.

• If you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Journal of Petrology*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogical Abstracts*, *Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks & Minerals*, *Gems & Gemology*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to the publishers before your subscription runs out.

• The results of the 2008 election are in: the new president of the Society is Nancy L. Ross, the new vice-president John B. Brady, and the new treasurer Darrell J. Henry. Secretary Mickey Gunter

remains in office. The new councilors are Marc M. Hirschmann and Penelope L. King. They join continuing councilors Jean Morrison, Klaus Mezger, Peter C. Burns, and Carol D. Frost.

• Accepting the recommendations of the respective award committees, MSA Council selected Alexandra Navrotsky of the University of California–Davis as the 2009 Roebling Medalist. Robert M. Hazen of the Carnegie Institution of Washington is the 2009 Distinguished Public Service Medalist. Jillian F. Banfield of the University of California–Berkeley is the 2010 Dana Medalist, and Thomas Patrick Trainor of the University of Alaska–Fairbanks is the 2009 MSA Awardee

• The 2009 Kraus Crystallographic Research Grant recipient is Andrew J. Wall, Pennsylvania State University, for his study “Assessing Cu isotopic fractionation in Cu-(Fe)-S minerals using time-resolved synchrotron X-ray diffraction.” The 2009 Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant recipients are: Christopher M. Fisher,

Memorial University of Newfoundland, for his study “Testing the Use of Synthetic Minerals as Isotopic Reference Materials: An Example Using Hafnium in Zircon” and Dongbo Wang, Virginia Tech, for the study “Investigating a New Pathway to Carbonate Mineralization and Implications for Mg:Ca Paleoenvironmental Signatures.”

• New Fellows of the Society are Daniele Cherniak, Patrick Cordier, Herta Effenberger, Kiyoshi Fujino, Robert W. Luth, Masanori Matsui, A. Mottana, Enver Murad, Philip Peter Nabelek, and Lidunka Vočadlo.

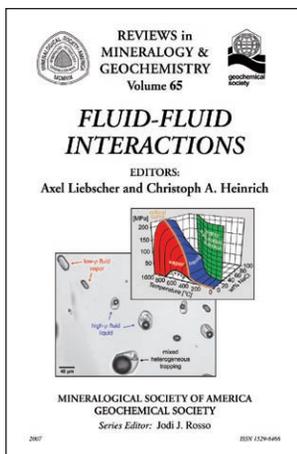
• Reports by the MSA secretary and the MSA treasurer containing more details on these and many other society events of the past year can be obtained on the MSA website by selecting “Officer Reports” under “The Society”.

J. Alex Speer

MSA Executive Director
j_a_speer@minsocam.org

FLUID-FLUID INTERACTIONS REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY VOL. 65

Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society



Fluid-Fluid Interactions explores the role that co-existing mixing and unmixing fluids play in the diverse geologic environments. Fluid interactions in continental, volcanic, submarine, and subduction zone environments are examined.

Volume 65, 2007, Axel Liescher and Christoph A. Heinrich, eds. i-xii and 430 pp. ISBN 978-0-939950-77-5. US\$40

For a more detailed description and table of contents of this book, and online ordering, visit www.minsocam.org or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly VA 20151-1125 • USA, Tel: +1 (703) 652-9950, Fax: +1 (703) 652-9951, e-mail: business@minsocam.org

2008–2009 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Mineralogical Society of America is pleased to announce its Distinguished Lecturers and their lectures for 2008–2009

Donald Dingwell

University of Munich, Munich, Germany
Explosive Volcanism: A Materials Catastrophe
and
Flow of Magma: Solving a Rheological Puzzle

Jennifer Jackson

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA
Diamonds, Iron, and X-rays: Views into Earth's Interior
and
The Behavior of Iron-Bearing Mineral Assemblages in Earth's Lower Mantle

Bruce Marsh

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
History of Geologic Exploration of Antarctica,
Magma in the Proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository,
and
Magmatic Mush Column Magmatism: McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica

The schedules of the Lecturers' tours are given on the MSA website (www.minsocam.org/MSA/Lecture_Prog.html). Check to see if they will be at a location near you. MSA expresses its appreciation to these individuals for undertaking such a service to our science.



IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD J. MARCIN (Life Fellow – 1947)
AKHIO MIYASHIRO (Life Fellow – 1962)
EDUARD WOERMANN (Fellow – 1965)