



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dave Bish, President

My, how the times have changed! Many of our members have fond (perhaps becoming “fond” only after many years) memories of late evenings spent in the library, poring over articles in *American Mineralogist*. And we did this only after spending considerable time manually browsing and searching for references to the most important papers. In my younger days, I would often catch up on the most recent *American Mineralogist* at home in the evening while my wife read a novel, looking askance at me for my habit. As recently as 2000, more than 90% of our members received the print copy of

our journal. Longtime members of MSA had bookshelves filled with copies of *American Mineralogist*, almost a badge of honor. As Alex Speer's report below shows, personal subscriptions to the printed journal have dropped from about 90% of members to approximately 20% in only ten years. The fledgling electronic subscriptions have grown to 20–30% since 2002. Surprisingly, this number seems to have leveled off, perhaps because many of our home institutions purchase an electronic subscription. Thus, it is important to ensure that your libraries continue to subscribe to *American Mineralogist*, at least in electronic form.

Clearly, the nature of *American Mineralogist* access is evolving, and 80–90% of our new members subscribe to neither the hardcopy nor the electronic version. Indeed, the way in which we obtain information from our society is changing. GeoScienceWorld (GSW) has become an important purveyor of our scientific communications, and RIMG volumes and *American Mineralogist* preprints are now available online. It is possible to set up alerts from GSW, even if your institution does not subscribe. I encourage you to access *American Mineralogist* and our other publications through GSW, as this is the best way to ensure that MSA receives income every time our articles are downloaded.

We are currently discussing the production of electronic versions in e-book format of virtually everything we publish, including the RIMG volumes, and we anticipate that these will initially be in pdf format to allow presentation of high-resolution tables, graphs, and figures. All of these changes to our journal and our other publications have been driven by our readers and subscribers. But those of you who like to read a hard copy of the journal will also be accommodated. Modern technology allows us (at least for the near future) to produce a paper copy, one of the significant benefits of the option of print on demand. And, of course, all members receive hard copies of the popular journal *Elements*, with unique topical discussions in every issue.

Given the changes to our journal in the past decade, it is easy to imagine a world with virtually no hard copies of *American Mineralogist*. It is not difficult to imagine an entire generation of young graduate students and professionals curling up in bed or in front of their fireplaces with an e-book reader, studying the latest research published in our journal. These same young professionals will have few hard copies of books on their shelves, and certainly no bound journals. I am a bit nostalgic for the “good old days,” but I have to admit that searching and finding the best research in a field is so much easier today than it was even ten years ago. Enjoy this efficiency! Now, I just have to figure out what to do with all those hard copies of *American Mineralogist* filling my shelves!

As I write, I am completing my term as vice-president of MSA. One of the interesting tasks of the VP is chairing the Committee on Committees, which is charged with identifying volunteers to staff virtually all of our operations. This committee provides a glimpse into the wide array

of things going on in MSA, and it gave me a great opportunity to witness the strength of our volunteer community around the world. There is room for anyone who wishes to have a more active role in MSA.

Upcoming MSA activities in 2011 include the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, to be held in Tucson, Arizona, on February 10–13. I had my first opportunity to attend the show in 2010 and I assure you that it is well worth a visit. If you go, be sure to check out the myriad of satellite venues before the “official” show; at these events you can often find the best deals on just about any mineral. The show is a great place to stock up on mineralogy lab specimens. Also, be sure to stop by the MSA booth at the convention center. Our summer meeting will be held on August 14–19, in conjunction with Goldschmidt 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic, where Ross Angel of Virginia Tech will receive the Dana Medal. Michael Carpenter, Alan Woodland, and Tiziana Boffa-Ballaran are busy organizing a special session entitled “Structure, Elasticity and Thermodynamics of Minerals” to accompany Ross's award.

I am excited about the changes currently occurring with our publications, and our managing editor, Rachel Russell, has instituted modifications that should plant us firmly in the electronic publishing world. Most of the changes will be invisible to you. I look forward to hearing from many of you this year, and I encourage you to take advantage of everything MSA has to offer and to give MSA your active participation.

Dave Bish, President
bish@indiana.edu

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2012 AWARDS

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2011

The **Roebing Medal** is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.

The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

Society **Fellowship** recognizes a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors. Form required; contact the committee chair or visit the MSA home page.

Mineralogical Society of America

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: <http://www.minsocam.org/>

IN MEMORIAM

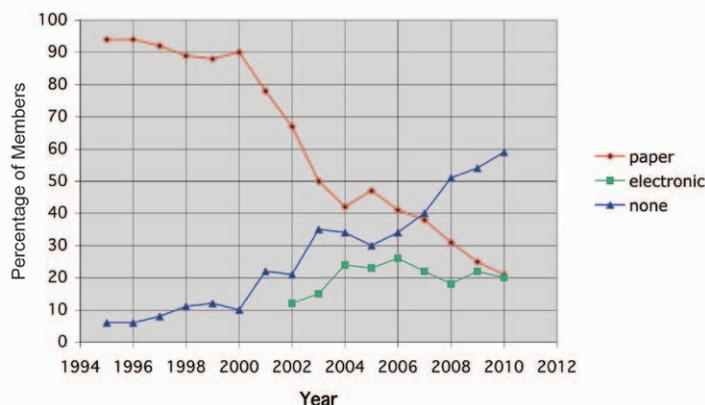
PETER G. HILL – Member, 1994

KURT E. LOWE – Life Fellow, 1938

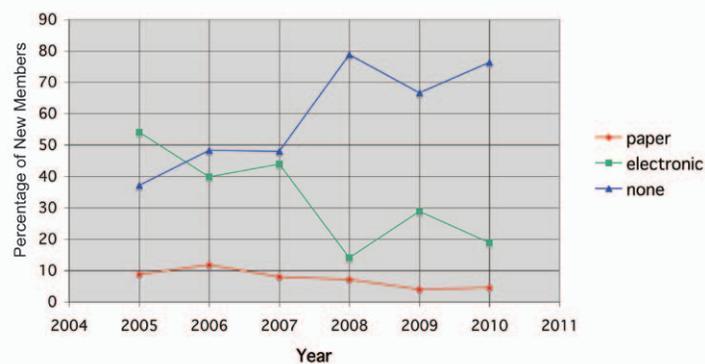
NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- All 2009 and 2010 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2011. If you have not renewed your MSA membership, please do so. If you have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA business office. You can also renew online at anytime.
- In 2010, 41% of MSA members subscribed to the *American Mineralogist* in some form, with roughly half of those receiving print + electronic and half having electronic access only. Since the journal was decoupled from dues in 1995 and with the advent of electronic institutional subscriptions, increasing numbers of members no longer receive personal copies but depend on their institutions for access to the journal. This trend is not surprising. For some time the newest members of MSA had been giving us an indication of where member journal subscriptions were headed, with up to 80% of new members in some years being nonsubscribers. This makes it imperative that institutions be convinced to subscribe to the journal, to make the journal available to users and to ensure its financial health.

MSA member journal subscriptions



New MSA member journal subscriptions



J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
jaspeer@minsocam.org

MSA AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,
DENVER, COLORADO

Dr. Robert C. Newton, University of California, Los Angeles, has been awarded the 2010 Roebling Medal, given for a lifetime of outstanding original research in mineralogy. Dr. Newton is widely recognized for three achievements. The first was conceiving and applying the concept of a reversed mineral reaction in the experimental study of mineral stabilities. The second was obtaining the thermodynamic properties of minerals that are widely used today in calculations of the stabilities of minerals \pm fluid or melt under various conditions. Third, Dr. Newton helped solve the riddle of the composition of the fluids present during the formation of the high-temperature, very dry granulite facies metamorphic rocks of the lower continental crust.



Dr. Benjamin Gilbert, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, is the 2010 recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America Award. This award is given for outstanding contributions by a scientist beginning his or her career. Dr. Gilbert is recognized for his work on nanoparticle–environment interactions. His work is of great significance to fields such as the remediation of natural resources using nanoparticles and the evaluation of biological responses to nanoparticles. His contributions include some of the first studies on the characterization and theory of mineral nanoparticle interactions.

His publications provide important insights into the mechanisms of nanoparticle interactions in ZnS and similar mineral systems, such as the effect of strain and surface-water interactions. Dr. Gilbert is now studying aggregation in these systems and the consequences on structure and reactivity, a subfield where few quantitative results have been assembled thus far.

The Mineralogical Society of America

2012 Grants for

Research in Crystallography

from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund with contributions from MSA members and friends

Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology

from an endowment created by MSA members



Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant; the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research as described in a written proposal; and the likelihood of success of the project. There are three US\$5,000 grants with no restrictions on how the funds may be spent, as long as they are used in support of research. Application instructions and online submission are available on the MSA website, www.minsocam.org. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2011.