



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dave Bish

This has been a busy year, and a number of exciting initiatives are ongoing within MSA, several of them direct outgrowths of MSA-Talk discussions (by the way, MSA-Talk now has over 1750 subscribers!). As regular readers of MSA-Talk know, there has been interest in forming some sort of clearing house for rock and mineral specimens for teaching and research purposes. I have long been interested in this and have often wondered if our members might use our web presence to benefit institutions in need of mineral samples and perhaps even books and periodicals. For example, when a member retires or changes fields, very often their mineral/rock collections and personal libraries are no longer needed and are often discarded. With this in mind, I have had numerous discussions with the management of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) in an effort to create a mechanism for transferring such collections to secondary schools, community colleges, or small four-year institutions in need of teaching materials. NAGT has been very supportive of this idea, particularly because they share the belief that many small institutions have difficulty assembling teaching materials. NAGT has generously offered to create a web page to facilitate this, and we hope to have something up for testing this fall. We also envision eventually using such a site, which will be linked to the MSA home page, to allow mineral scientists to exchange mineral and rock research materials, as suggested by the recent thread on MSA-Talk.

There has also been considerable dialogue on MSA-Talk about the nature of asbestos, and we received a number of comments on the proposed MSA policy statement. The discussion period is now closed, and the committee that originally proposed the statement is considering the comments and, where possible, incorporating them. We anticipate that the revised policy statement will be presented to MSA Council at this fall's GSA meeting in Minneapolis.

Yet a third initiative has come out of discussions on MSA-Talk, and we recently formed an ad hoc committee to formulate what I hope will become an MSA policy statement on the teaching of the mineral sciences. It seems that many MSA members have experienced efforts to minimize or even eliminate teaching of some fundamental aspects of the mineral sciences. It is our desire to draft a statement focusing on the reasons for and importance of teaching the basics of our science. I believe that such a statement will not only help us in discussions with departmental colleagues and university administrators, it can also help crystallize our own thoughts on the subject (e.g. what is the optimum balance between theoretical and applied subjects?).

In other news, after discussion at our May Council meeting, we decided to change the name of the American Mineralogist Undergraduate Award to the MSA Undergraduate Prize to reflect more accurately its purpose. This has been a very successful program to recognize outstanding achievement in the mineral sciences, and we had 24 awardees in 2010 and have had 11 so far in 2011. Indeed, we have had 503 awardees since the inception of the award in 1985, representing encouragement to a large population of mineral science students. The Prize provides an

award certificate, student membership in MSA with access to the electronic version of *American Mineralogist*, and a choice of one of our Monographs or Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry volumes. I encourage all of you in educational institutions to take advantage of this very nice mechanism to recognize our top students. You can find more information on the Prize on our web page under the old name, which we will retain for a while. We will also shortly begin revamping the highly successful K-12 section of our website, one of the most popular parts of our web presence.

I am happy to report that we will again sell mineral calendars this fall, and you will have the option to purchase one when you renew your membership. The calendars are beautiful and very reasonably priced, so be sure to purchase one for your office wall and a few for gifts. When you do renew your membership, I hope you keep in mind the many benefits that come with it, including reduced registration fees at our meetings and free color in *American Mineralogist*, among many others. You will shortly also have the opportunity to purchase all of our RIM and RIMG volumes electronically, on a subscription, individual volume, course pack, or chapter-by-chapter basis, as our business office recently completed scanning volumes 1 through 73. I have personally looked forward to the opportunity to obtain electronic copies of our older RIM and RIMG volumes.

This is my last *Elements* newsletter as president of MSA, and I'd like to reflect for a moment on the operations of the society. MSA is healthy, and the society runs smoothly through the operations of our business and editorial offices, our staff of editors, and countless volunteer members. Throughout the year I have been tremendously impressed by the dedication and support of the numerous individuals who keep our society vibrant and drive its evolution. Our members and their contributions to our publications and operations are responsible for the strength and vitality of our society over so many years. Scientific societies such as ours are increasingly intertwined with other societies, and we have had a long and productive interaction with the Geological Society of America (GSA). We also have a constructive relationship with the Geochemical Society through our participation in the Goldschmidt Conferences. This year we began discussions aimed at creating stronger ties with the American Geophysical Union, and I anticipate that we will hear more news from President Hochella about this exciting new opportunity for both societies. Speaking of the longevity of MSA, our 100th anniversary is coming up in 2019. Past anniversaries have been occasions for creating exciting new programs, such as our very popular lecture program, and I hope our members will put their heads together to suitably celebrate our first 100 years and the beginning of our second. In closing, I'd like to thank the business office staff, the editorial office staff, and the myriad of engaged MSA members for their constant support and guidance.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming GSA meeting in Minneapolis and participating in our MSA functions with you.

Dave Bish (bish@indiana.edu)
President, Mineralogical Society of America

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES F. OLMSTED – Senior Member–1965

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

■ Results of the 2011 election: The 2012 president of the society is Michael F. Hochella Jr.; the vice president is John M. Hughes. Andrea Koziol was elected secretary, and Darrell J. Henry remains in office as treasurer. The new councilors are Christine M. Clark and Kimberly T. Tait. They will join continuing councilors Wendy A. Bohron, Sumit Chakraborty, Pamela C. Burnley, and Guy L. Hovis.

■ The following short courses are planned for 2012:

Applied Mineralogy of Cement and Concrete (Maarten Broekmans, organizer), to be held in conjunction with the First International Congress on Durability of Concrete (17–21 June 2012; www.icdc2012.com) in Trondheim, Norway

Environmental Arsenic Mineralogy, Geochemistry & Microbiology (Rob Bowell, organizer), which will coincide with the International Geological Congress (5–10 August 2012) in Brisbane, Australia

Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy and Material Sciences (Grant Henderson, Daniel Neuville, and Robert Downs, organizers), which will be held immediately before the Goldschmidt Conference in Montreal, Canada, in June 2012

■ MSA members were contacted electronically in September to renew their membership for 2012. Members who renew and pay online before 31 October 2011 will receive a \$5 dues discount; the discount reflects cost savings to MSA from members who renew early online. There will be several electronic reminders before a paper copy is sent during November to those who do not renew online by the end of October.

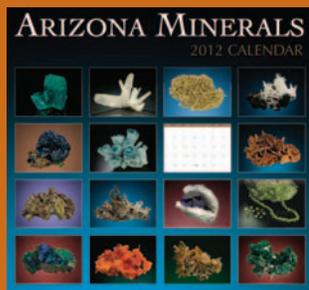
■ Members and fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.

Members qualify for senior member or senior fellow status if they have reached the age of 65, have retired from full-time 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, reduced rates on MSA products, etc.), but need not pay dues. They can subscribe to the paper or electronic versions 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.

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

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
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2012 CALENDAR: ARIZONA MINERALS

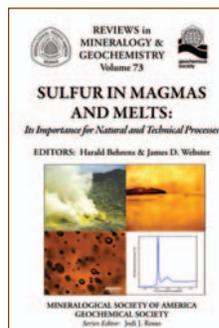


Arizona was granted statehood on February 14, 1912. This calendar is part of a community-wide Centennial tribute to Arizona's minerals and mines and to their champions.

Published by Lithographie, LLC, in cooperation with MSA and Martin Zinn Expositions, it is available from MSA, www.minsocam.org.

REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AND THE GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY



Volume 73 • Sulfur in Magmas and Melts: Its Importance for Natural and Technical Processes, Harald Behrens and James D. Webster, Editors. i–xiv + 578 pages, 2011 ISBN 978-0-939950-87-4, \$40 (\$30 for members of MSA, GS, CMS)

Following an overview in chapter 1, this volume is divided into 4 parts: (1) Analytical and Spectroscopic Methods – chapters 2 and 3; (2) Physical and Chemical Properties of S-Bearing Silicate Melts – chapters 4–7; (3) Constraints from Natural and Experimental Systems – chapters 8–11; and (4) Natural and Technical Applications – chapters 12–16.

For more description, a 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 20151-1110, USA; phone: +1 (703) 9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: business@minsocam.org.

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

EDITORS: Martin Kunz, Jennifer Thomson, and Ian Swainson

Call for Special Associate Editors

Of course, all *American Mineralogist* associate editors are special. They are hardworking and very generous of their time. A special associate editor would organize papers on a specific topic to create a collection—see the Amorphous Materials collection, for example, via GeoScienceWorld or the MSA website (<http://ammin.geoscience-world.org/misc/specialissuelist.dtl>).

We would like volunteers for the topics of:

- REE Mineralogy
- Mineralogy and the Nuclear Industry
- Deep Earth and Planetary Mineralogy—High-P and High-T Minerals
- Additional topic suggestions welcome!

All special collection papers go through the same peer review and editorial process as any other paper. They are published when ready and not held up waiting for slower papers to finish. But the collection also grows virtually over time via the web!

Would you like to be a special associate editor for one of these topics? In this capacity, you would:

- Organize a call for papers on your topic
- Find reviewers for submissions
- Create detailed revision instructions for authors
- Recommend acceptance (or rejection) to the editors
- Provide additional editing help as needed
- Write a preface or introduction to go with the first batch of papers

Inquiries are welcome about volunteering as an associate editor. Contact and other information: www.minsocam.org/MSA/AmMin/Special_Section.html.

Quick Facts

Average of recent 316 papers: submission-to-acceptance time: 137 days (~4.6 months) (s.d. 88 days) • Submission-to-publication: 293 days (~10 months) (s.d. 99 days) • See our list of most read and most cited papers via GSW: <http://ammin.geoscience-world.org>.

American Mineralogist
Founded in 1916