



# Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### *MSA at a Crossroads: The Next Generation of Mineral Scientists*



John Hughes

I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as the 94<sup>th</sup> president of the Mineralogical Society of America. The Society is one of the most respected scientific societies in the world, and its list of past presidents includes many of the giants of our disciplines of mineralogy, petrology, and crystallography. Thanks to the past leadership, as we approach the centennial celebration of the Mineralogical Society of America in 2019, the Society is as relevant to those disciplines as ever. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank immediate Past President Mike Hochella for the leadership he showed during his tenure.

Mike's efforts and accomplishments, particularly the cooperative agreement that he and the leaders of AGU have forged, as well as his guidance in the search for the new executive editor of *American Mineralogist*, will bring great benefit to the Society in the years to come.

When I joined the MSA in 1980, it was a different time in science. Desktop computers were essentially nonexistent, and those who used mainframe computers for scientific functions generally wrote their own code. Our instruments were several generations removed from those of today. We simply could not make the measurements that we are currently capable of, and some modern instruments, such as the atomic force microscope, had not even been developed. Virtually every university department had an economic geologist on staff, but few had a geomicrobiologist. Our manuscripts were typed with a typewriter and put in the mail to editorial offices. Copies of our proposals were assembled by hand, put in boxes, and shipped to our granting agencies.

As our science has evolved since I joined the MSA, so has the Society. The very medium in which you are reading my remarks, *Elements*, is but a few years old, and is widely hailed as an outstanding vehicle for communicating highlights of the mineral sciences. Our programs to support young scientists have expanded, and a medal to recognize mid-career scientists, the Dana Medal, has been added to the stable of MSA awards. In addition, many MSA outreach activities have been initiated or expanded, reaching a far wider population. The MSA Crystal Structure Database, accessible through the Society website, has had an astonishing 157 million downloads since its inception in 2003, providing instant information on the atomic arrangements of minerals to scientists around the world.

But for all the innovations and additions to MSA activities, the Society must continue to evolve. In his inaugural *Elements* column last year, then President Michael Hochella noted that this is a particularly exciting time in the discipline; he said that mineralogy is a science that is highly relevant and, by any measure, interdisciplinary and in the early stages of development. As I noted in my presidential statement, mineralogists, crystallographers, and petrologists have recently freed themselves from the investigation of traditional discipline-bound problems and moved to more integrative problems in geology, medicine, the environment, materials science, biology, and even the origin of life. It is indeed an exciting time in the MSA disciplines, and it is up to all of us to enhance the relevance of the Society.

One area that I hope to address with Society colleagues this year, and which will ensure the continued vibrancy of our Society, is making MSA more relevant to our student and early-career members. Because the Society markets the textbook *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*, we have gained a large number of student members—students quickly

learn it is cheaper to join the Society at the discounted student-member price and then purchase the textbook with the attendant discount than to purchase it as a nonmember. With this luxury of an increased student membership, it is imperative that we examine ways to make the Society more relevant to student and early-career members, and we must demonstrate to them the value of continuing their membership in the Society when they become professional scientists. These members of the Society are its future, and we must listen to their voices as we chart that future. To that end, I invited advanced graduate students who are members of the Society to attend the first 2013 Council meeting of the Society to begin that discussion, a discussion that I hope continues throughout the year. I do hope that all Society members will talk with their students and early-career colleagues to show them how the Society can be more relevant to them. Please feel welcome to communicate any such ideas to me at the address below. I look forward to hearing from you and to serving the Society over the next year.

**John M. Hughes** (jmhughes@uvm.edu)  
2013 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA announced its 2013 award recipients at the October 2012 annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. The Roebling Medal is awarded to **Frank C. Hawthorne** of the University of Manitoba, the Dana Medal (for 2014) to **Patricia M. Dove** of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the MSA Award to **Wendy Li-Wen Mao** of Stanford University, and the Distinguished Public Service Award to **Pierrette Tremblay**, managing editor of *Elements*. The new fellows of the Society are Alan J. Anderson, Pamela C. Burnley, Sun-Lin Chung, Jane A. Gilotti, Keiko Hattori, Francois Holtz, Abby Kavner, Monika Koch-Mueller, Charles E. Lesher, Tim K. Lowenstein, Shigeaki Ono, James A. Van Orman, and Hongwu Xu.
- The 2013 recipients of the research grants in mineralogy and petrology from MSA's Mineralogy/Petrology Research Fund are **Christopher James Spencer**, University of St. Andrews, for "Generation and Preservation of Continental Crust in the Grenville Orogeny: Constrained by U-Pb, Hf and O Isotopes of Zircon"; and **John G. Warden**, University of Texas at Austin, for "Microbial Calcification in Modern Thrombolites." The 2013 recipient of the research grant in crystallography from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund is **Arianna Elizabeth Gleason**, Stanford University, for "Dynamics of Structural Transitions in Amorphous and Crystalline SiO<sub>2</sub>."
- All 2011 and 2012 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2013. 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 any time.

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

## IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT A. HATCH – Senior Fellow, 1939

NIKOLAY P. YUSHKIN – Member, 2008

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2013 AWARDS

The **Roebbling 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 35<sup>th</sup> birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science.

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

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: [www.minsocam.org/](http://www.minsocam.org/).

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2013

## THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

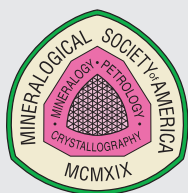
2014 Grants for

### 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

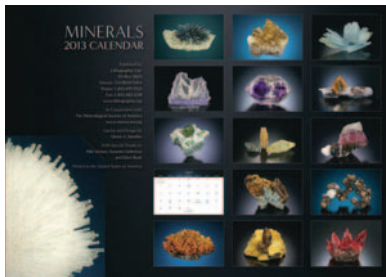


Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant; the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research as shown by a written proposal; and the likelihood of success of the project. There are three US\$5000 grants with no restrictions on how the funds may be spent, as long as they are used in support of research. Application instructions and online submission

are available on the MSA website, [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org). Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2013.

## 2013 CALENDAR

### Minerals



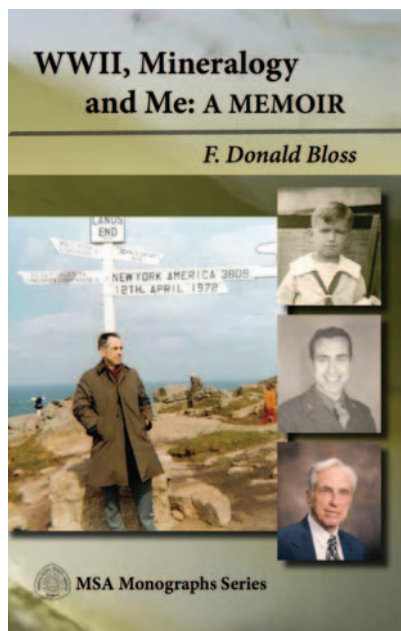
The 2013 calendar is a look at the wonderful world of collectible minerals. Some are gem crystals, some are native species, and some are rare; all are remarkable, fascinating, and beautiful, not only for their aesthetic value but also for their historic, cultural, and scientific importance.

Published by Lithographie, LLC, in cooperation with MSA, it is available from MSA, [www.minsocam.org/](http://www.minsocam.org/).

## NEW TITLE

### MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MONOGRAPH SERIES

### WWII, MINERALOGY AND ME: A MEMOIR

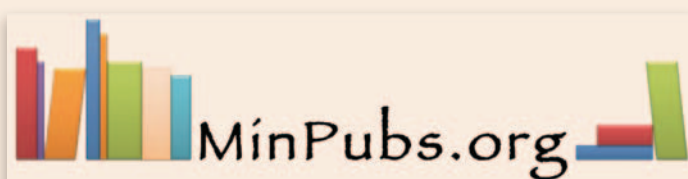


F. Donald Bloss, i-xxvi + 322 pages, 2012, ISBN 978-0-939950-89-8, \$25

*WWII, Mineralogy and Me: A Memoir* begins with Don growing up poor in Chicago before and during the Depression, weaves through his service as a Conscientious Objector during WWII, and follows his academic career from his early school days through his role in helping to establish perhaps the pre-eminent mineral sciences department in the world at Virginia Tech. Don traces his life through those things important to him, including family, students, colleagues, and, above all, Louise, his wife. As in most lives, there are triumphs and heart-breaking tragedies. Don also

provides a front-row seat to anyone wishing to see the evolution of optical mineralogy over the past half century.

For more description and a table of contents of this book and online ordering, visit [www.minsocam.org](http://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](mailto:business@minsocam.org).



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You can also purchase single chapters from these and all Reviews volumes [v1 (1974) to present], and you can use chapters from any and all Reviews volumes for course packs and add to them articles from the *American Mineralogist* [v85 (2000) to present] and *Elements* [v1 (2005) to present].

For more description and ordering instructions, visit [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org) or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA; phone: +1 (703) 652-9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: [business@minsocam.org](mailto:business@minsocam.org).