



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



John M. Hughes

Since my last letter was submitted, the MSA Council met for a full day at the GSA 2012 fall meeting. At the fall meeting, the officers and councilors of the Society meet in an all-day session on the Saturday preceding the GSA conference to take up the affairs of the Society. It is usually a long but productive day, and the meeting in Charlotte was no exception.

Several issues of importance and interest to Society members were discussed. Perhaps the most important is the reincorporation of the Society, about which all members have received correspondence. At the fall meeting, the MSA

Council voted unanimously to prepare materials for domestication as a Virginia corporation and to ask the membership for approval. As you receive this issue of *Elements*, the voting has concluded; I will inform MSA members of the results of the membership vote shortly after the voting is complete. The reincorporation has been and will be a time-consuming task, but it is necessary and will lead to a more efficient Society in the long run.

Another matter that the Council spent time on, at my request, was the student membership of the Society. Currently, 832 of our 2765 members are student members. With this increased student membership, it is imperative that we examine ways to make the Society more relevant to student members, and demonstrate to them the value of continuing their membership when they become professional scientists; they are indeed the future of the Mineralogical Society of America. Two doctoral students joined the lively and fruitful discussion, and hopefully we as a Society will start some initiatives during this current year. Next summer, I intend to initiate a special appeal to our members for support of initiatives aimed at student members, and hopefully we will see those initiatives come to fruition soon. Please contact me with any ideas you have for making the Society attractive to our early-career members; I would love to hear them.

One other initiative that we discussed and that has succeeded remarkably is our new agreement with the American Geophysical Union (AGU). This initiative, led by Past President Michael Hochella, brought about an agreement with AGU wherein MSA can cosponsor sessions at AGU meetings, and will cosponsor the AGU VGP Section (Volcanology, Geochemistry, and Petrology) reception at fall AGU meetings. We will also present our annual Dana Medal at that meeting. At the recent fall AGU meeting, MSA cosponsored 20 theme sessions and presented the 2013 Dana Medal to Max W. Schmidt of ETH Zürich; we also cosponsored the joint VGP-MSA reception. This new agreement leaves our longstanding affiliation with the Geological Society of America unchanged, but allows those MSA members who regularly attend AGU but not GSA to propose MSA-related sessions and increase the scientific visibility of MSA at the fall AGU meeting.

The next MSA Council meeting will be held in May at the Society's office in Chantilly, Virginia. A lot of work goes on between the meetings, and I will keep you apprised of that as the year progresses.

With my sincere thanks for your support of the Society,

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

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will use electronic balloting for its 2013 election of MSA officers and councilors. Here is the slate of candidates. President: David J. Vaughan; vice president: Ian Parsons and Steven B. Shirey; secretary: Andrea Koziol; councilors (two to be selected): Cameron Davidson, Edward S. Grew, Philip S. Neuhoff, and Wendy Panero. Howard W. Day continues in office as treasurer. Continuing councilors are Christine M. Clark, Kimberly T. Tait, Isabelle Daniel, and Kirsten P. Nicolaysen.
- Guide to Thin Section Microscopy*, by Michael M. Raith, Peter Raase, and Jurgen Reinhardt, is now available in both German (*Leitfaden zur Dünnschliffmikroskopie*) and Spanish (*Guía de Microscopía para la microscopía de minerales en lámina delgada*) at the "Open Access Publications" link on the MSA home page.
- 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 anytime.



J. Alex Speer (jaspeer@minsocam.org)
MSA Executive Director

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Thermodynamics of Geothermal Fluids

23–24 August 2013 (prior to Goldschmidt 2013)

Florence, Italy

CONVENORS

Andri Stefánsson, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Thomas Driesner, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Pascale Bénézeth, CNRS, Toulouse, France

Crustal fluids play a fundamental role in the chemical and physical processes in the Earth system, and our understanding of their geochemical behavior and reactivity is largely based on thermodynamics. In the short course and accompanying Reviews volume, the thermodynamics of aqueous fluids over a wide range of temperatures and pressures and spanning scales from molecular to macroscopic will be summarized, revealing the power of thermodynamics in quantifying geochemical and geological processes in the Earth's crust.

Information and registration: <http://www.minsocam.org>



IN MEMORIAM

ALEXANDER R. HOELZEL – Senior Member – 1988

ICHIRO SUNAGAWA – Senior Fellow – 1956

RETURN OF THE MSA WORKSHOPS

After 10 years, the MSA workshop program has been “revived,” very successfully, if the feedback we have been receiving about the *Application of Diffusion Studies to the Determination of Timescales in Geochemistry and Petrology* workshop is any indication. Held 1–5 October 2012 in Bochum, Germany, this was the first joint venture of the German and American mineralogical societies in terms of hosting an event.



There was a great response and registration had to be closed early, with a long waiting list. From the originally intended 20 to 30 participants, we had to raise the limit to 50 and then say an absolute “no.” Of the 50 people accepted, 44 actually attended (the others had last-minute illnesses or other difficulties); they represented 17 countries, including places as far as Brazil, Australia, and New Zealand, not to mention many participants from North America. The group was very diverse scientifically (volcanologists, metamorphic petrologists, igneous petrologists, experimental petrologists, and crystallographers, for example) and in academic level (master’s students to professors). Participants enjoyed a week of intensive academic and social exchange in a very international milieu, and the hands-on exercises were particularly appreciated.

Although we in Bochum ended up spending a small bit of money from our (departmental) pockets, this workshop was run at a fraction of the cost it usually takes to run a short course. From feedback at the workshop, there was almost unanimous interest in seeing more activities of this type. If you have an idea for a workshop, let the MSA Short Course Committee know. Please contact Joanne Stubbs at stubbs@cars.uchicago.edu.

Special advantages for MSA members publishing in *American Mineralogist*

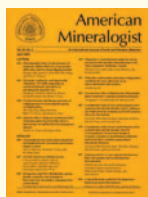
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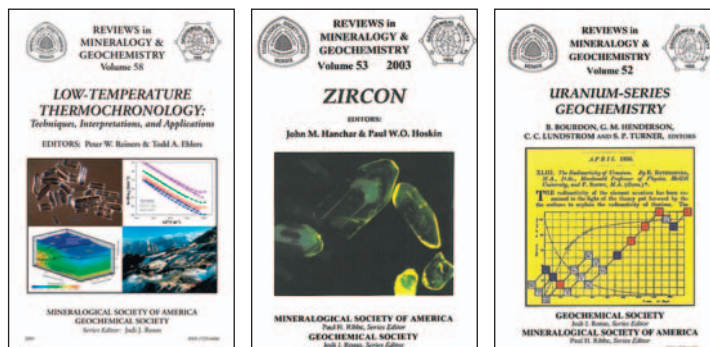
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For membership and author info:
<http://www.minsocam.org>

American Mineralogist
An International Journal of Earth and Planetary Materials



GEOCHRONOLOGY PUBLICATIONS FROM MSA



For more description and tables of contents of these books, and online ordering, visit www.minsocam.org or contact the 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.

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 35th 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.

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. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2013.