



Mineralogical Society of America



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This is my last letter as 2016 MSA President, and, in thinking back on the past year, my strongest impression is how much I've learned about all the ways that the Mineralogical Society of America—through its members and various programs—contributes so substantially to the vibrancy and growth of mineralogical research and education.

It has been a privilege to serve as President and see up close how the numerous MSA programs positively affect our community. MSA's outreach and education programs, which include Mineralogy 4 Kids, the MSA Distinguished Lecturer Program, the Crystal Structure Database, the Collector's Corner and MSA-Talk, are popular and strongly utilized. So too are the short courses that we sponsor, together with the associated publication of a *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* (RiMG) volume. As reported in my last letter, the MSA has initiated a new Workshop Committee to encourage the organization of workshops that either highlight a single area of expertise or offer expert training in particular experimental or theoretical/computational techniques. Needless to say, these workshops are expected to be of particular value to students, who are the future of MSA. Another new student program mentioned in my last letter is the Student Travel Grant program for the Centennial Celebration, which will take place in the summer of 2019 in Washington, D.C. This new travel grant augments our other student programs, which include the MSA Undergraduate Award and our research grants in crystallography and mineralogy/petrology.

In addition to our outreach and education programs, over the past year I've come to especially appreciate the vital role that MSA plays as one of the few remaining society-based publishers. As I noted in a previous letter, the fact that MSA publishes its own scientific journal, *American Mineralogist*, allows our members to provide feedback directly to "management", including on the range and type of scientific content that is published. We also have the ability to publish special volumes of variable length and topic and exert control on costs because MSA does not publish for profit, all of which explains why our RiMG volumes are so popular and successful.

An exciting new publishing initiative that MSA is currently exploring is a new electronic-only data journal, which is greatly needed to complement numerous efforts across the Earth, planetary, and environmental sciences to create repositories for various datasets. For example, the Crystal Structure Database, familiar to MSA members, includes every structure published in the *American Mineralogist*, the *Canadian Mineralogist*, *European Journal of Mineralogy* and *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, as well as selected datasets from other journals. The physical "housing" of the Crystal Structure Database is being transferred to the new NASA Planetary Materials Database (housed at NASA's Ames Research Center supercomputer facility) together with the IMA Mineral List, among other datasets. As efforts to create data repositories increase, there is a commensurate need to have a journal where a description of these data can be published. This will enable the data housed within these datasets to be citable and searchable. Stay tuned to future issues of *Elements* for updates on this MSA publishing initiative.

In closing, if there is one message I'd like to convey in my final letter, it is this: please become a member of MSA if you are not already one! Please encourage your students and colleagues to become a member, if they are not already one! For anyone who values any of the MSA programs and publications, and/or whose research includes the use of minerals in extracting critical information that advances the Earth, planetary, and environmental sciences, your membership and intellectual engagement with MSA is very much needed.

Finally, let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the members of MSA for providing me the opportunity to serve as 2016 President. It has renewed my commitment to the "cause" of research and education in mineralogy. I have greatly enjoyed serving with incoming-President George Harlow, outgoing Treasurer Howard Day, Secretary Bryan Chakoumakos, and Past President Steve Shirey, as well as our 2016 councilors (Ed Grew, Wendy Panero, Abby Kavner, Matt Kohn, Raj Dasgupta, and Peter Nabelek). Their collective commitment to the MSA is an inspiration to me. I also want to thank David Vaughan (2014 MSA President) for his help and encouragement in helping launch the new student travel grant and workshop committee. A special thanks is reserved for Executive Director Alex Speer, who made the job of MSA President infinitely smoother and more effective through our weekly chats, which I will miss. I join a long list of Past Presidents who cannot say enough about Alex's inspiring commitment, vision, attention-to-detail, and the sheer hard work that he brings to the Mineralogical Society of America. Thanks to all again, and I look forward to continuing to serve the MSA in any way I can in the coming years.

Rebecca Lange
2016 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- **2016 election results.** The 2017 President of the MSA is George E. Harlow, the Vice President is Michael Brown, and Past President is Rebecca Lange. Thomas Duffy was elected Treasurer. Bryan Chakoumakos remains in office as Secretary. New Councilors are Sarah Carmichael and Sarah C. Penniston-Dorland, joining continuing councilors Abby Kavner, Matthew J. (Matt) Kohn, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and Peter Nabelek. Our outgoing councilors are Edward Grew and Wendy Panero. The outgoing Treasurer is Howard W. Day.
- **MSA 2017 membership renewals** started the end of August with notices sent electronically. This will be followed by several electronic reminders before a paper copy is sent to those who do not renew online by the end of October. Members who renew and pay online before 31 October 2016 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.
- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Gems & Gemology*, *Journal of Petrology*, *Mineral News*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogy and Petrology*, or *Rocks & Minerals*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to those publishers before your subscription runs out.

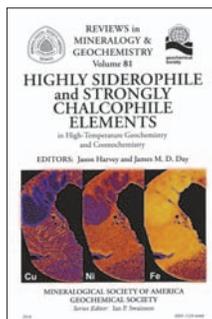
J. Alex Speer
MSA Executive Director
jaspeer@minsocam.org

IN MEMORIAM

THEO HAHN – Fellow (1953)
GEORGE E. RAMBO – Senior Fellow (1973)
KARL HANS WEDEPOHL – Senior Fellow (1956)

New title: Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry

Volume 81: **Highly Siderophile and Strongly Chalcophile Elements in High-Temperature Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry**, Jason Harvey and James M.D. Day, editors. i-xxiii + 774 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-97-3



In this volume, a number of key areas are reviewed in the use of the highly siderophile elements (HSEs) and strongly chalcophile elements to investigate fundamental processes in high-temperature geochemistry and cosmochemistry. The volume is divided into five parts. The first part concerns measurements and experiments. The second part concerns the cosmochemical importance of the HSEs and the strongly chalcophile elements. The third part concerns our understanding of the Earth's mantle from direct study of mantle materials. The fourth part focuses on important minerals

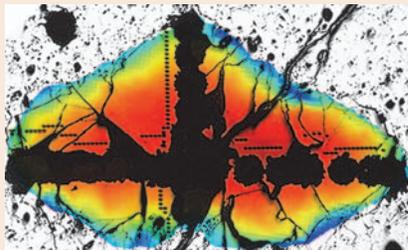
present in the mantle and crust. The fifth part considers the importance of HSEs for studying volcanic and magmatic processes.

Description and ordering online at www.minsocam.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 Cost is \$45 (\$33.75 members MSA, GS, CMS).

SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Non-traditional Stable Isotopes

ORGANIZERS: Fang-Zhen Teng, Nicolas Dauphas, James Watkins, and Donald J. DePaolo



10–11 December 2016, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Berkeley, CA.

Given the public's interest and concern over the impact of atmospheric greenhouse gases since the 2004 publication of RiMG 55, analytical techniques have significantly improved and new research directions have emerged in non-traditional stable-isotope geochemistry. The goal for this course and volume is to review the current status of non-traditional isotope geochemistry, from analytical methods and theoretical and experimental studies to the analysis of natural samples. In particular, important applications to cosmochemistry, high-temperature geochemistry, and low-temperature geo-biogeochimistry will be discussed. The volume will provide the most comprehensive review on non-traditional isotope geochemistry designed for high-level undergraduates, graduates, and junior researchers who are interested in both the theory and the application of non-traditional stable isotope geochemistry.

Description and registration online at www.minsocam.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.



Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy, by M. Darby Dyar and Mickey E. Gunter. Now available in an electronic version, under "textbooks"

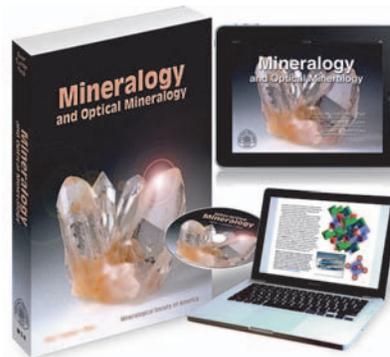
Out-of-print Review (RiMG) volumes. You can purchase the entire volume of your favorite, previously out-of-print, Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry volumes in electronic or print form. Now available are: v1 *Sulfide Mineralogy*, v2 *Feldspar Mineralogy*, v3 *Oxide Minerals*, v4 *Mineralogy and Geology of Natural Zeolites*, v5 *Orthosilicates*, v6 *Marine Minerals*, v7 *Pyroxenes*, v9A *Amphiboles and Other Hydrous Pyriboles*, v12 *Fluid inclusions*, and v17 *Thermodynamic Modeling of Geologic Materials: Minerals, Fluids, and Melts*. An added advantage – you can word search the electronic versions.

And all the rest. You can also purchase single chapters from all RiMG volumes [v1 (1974) to present] and use chapters from any Reviews volume for course packs and add to them articles from the *American Mineralogist* [v1 (1916) to present], and *Elements* [v1 (2005) to present].

For more description and ordering instructions, visit 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



2017 MSA membership renewal now online



Now
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book with DVD-ROM

Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy by Melinda Darby Dyar and Mickey E. Gunter is specifically designed to take full advantage of digital media technology. Each chapter in the digital series is available separately on iBooks for the iPad and Mac, allowing instructors to pick and choose only those chapters needed for their specific course.

See www.minsocam.org for more information about the textbook, and how to purchase individual chapters in the digital series, or the print version. The "Mineral Database" app is also available.