



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

This newsletter is being sent out to acquaint you with some of the activities of the Society and to invite you to help in various ways. At any one time only some hundred members are specifically involved in conducting the Society affairs, but all can help in some areas.

Before I give you these items, I regret exceedingly having to inform you of the great loss to our Society by three recent deaths. Our Honorary President, Dean Edward H. Kraus, died in February. He had celebrated his 97th birthday in December, 1972. William F. Bradley, a former President (1970) and current President of the Clay Minerals Society, was killed in a car crash January 16 in Gainesville, Florida, where he was attending the American Crystallographic Association winter meeting. Cecil Edgar Tilley, a Roebling Medalist in 1954, died in England in January. Memorials are being prepared for publication in THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST.

1. Our Past President, Hatten Yoder, started yet another membership drive last year. Examination of our membership roster showed that many scientists who work in mineralogy are not members of MSA. Some are members of related societies such as the Geological Society of America (annual dues, \$30) or the Geochemical Society (annual dues, \$15). However, I am convinced that the benefits of membership in MSA are well worth the yearly membership fee of \$20. In particular, THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST alone is worth the entire fee: compare what it provides with the charge made by private-enterprise journals. The student membership at \$6 is a real bargain. Each new member will get a letter of welcome signed with an autograph of dubious commercial value. If we could substantially increase the membership, we could greatly expand the services of the Society. Please check whether your friends are members, and, if not, take appropriate steps, stopping short of frog-marching them to our Washington office! Membership application forms are available on request at the business office (address above). Don't forget to remind a potential member that a subscription is deductible from the U. S. income tax. Particularly important is your contacting friends in other countries who might not think of joining.

2. The MSA Award and Roebling Medal Committees would welcome your suggestions. It is easy to overlook good candidates, especially for the MSA Award, and indeed there has been criticism concerning why X was passed over in favor of Y. Perhaps some criticism is justified, but did the critic send the vital statistics to the Society? So if you have a good candidate, please send sufficient documentation to the Secretary for transmittal to the committees. A detailed announcement appears in the March-April issue of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST. Note that, for the MSA Award, the candidate must be less than 37 years old in the year when the award is decided, and less than 35 years old when the chosen research was published.

3. Edward P. Henderson and his Financial Advisory Committee generously supervised the investments of the Society for many years. Perusal of the reports of the Committee, published annually in THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST, will show that the investments were managed wisely with considerable profit to the Society. The 1972 MSA Council under Hatten Yoder regretfully accepted the request of the Committee to lay down its burden. The Council decided that it must investigate the possibility of obtaining professional management for the portfolio, and Yoder agreed to head a new Financial Advisory Committee charged to examine the subject. Hopefully a final decision can be made at the next Council meeting in April.

4. For many years the Council has discussed the need of a greater endowment. Many members will recall the productive campaign led by Jerry Fisher. Particularly needed are funds to expand the publications of the Society, to give scholarships to students, to fund prizes, and to support research. Please write to me if you are willing to consider making a donation to MSA. I will be happy to discuss the best way in which the funds can be set up. May I suggest that all members of the Society, when they draw up or revise their wills, consider making a bequest? Especially important is consideration of a disaster in which you and all your immediate family might be killed (a rare possibility which occurs sometimes in car or plane accidents). Perhaps you might prefer that a considerable portion of your estate go to MSA rather than to some relatively obscure relations or to the state. Over the long term, I am anxious that scientists themselves support as much as possible of their research to permit flexibility. I would like to see a research fund with several millions of dollars to be used to finance young scientists with bright ideas, to encourage collection of important minerals, and so on. If all our members donated \$1,000 during their lifetimes or by bequest, the Society would be able to expand its activities along these lines. The next item below deals with The Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund and the Jewell J. Glass Legacy, both of which well illustrate the value of donations. For example, the societies of amateur mineralogists have collected well over \$150,000 to finance scholarships for graduate students.

5. An Ad-Hoc Committee on Endowment and Funds has been appointed to implement the objectives of the Kraus Fund, to find special use for the Glass Legacy, and to handle other such matters within its scope. As Chairman, I am pleased to announce that the Committee unanimously agreed that the money now available from accumulated dividends and interest in the Kraus Fund is sufficient for the first award. Accordingly, applications for a grant of \$1,000 to be used for research in crystallographic mineralogy are now open until October 15, 1973, and application forms may be obtained on request to the Secretary at the business office address on the first page of this Newsletter. Applicants must be not less than 25 years and not more than 35 years old. There are no other restrictions, and applicants need not be members of the Society. Announcements will soon be sent to mineralogy and geology departments of universities in this country and abroad. We are deeply indebted to our late Honorary President for making this fund available to the Society. The Jewell J. Glass Legacy now amounts to about \$4,500. The Committee has unanimously agreed to devote the income from this legacy to items connected with membership relations and services, subject to approval of such expenditures by the Executive Committee. The May-June issue of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST in 1969 (v. 54, no. 5-6) was dedicated to Miss Glass.

6. There have been rumblings that MSA neglects amateur mineralogists and is run by an elite of snobbish professionals. To some extent, this must be true because of the complexity of modern mineralogical research. The primary concern of MSA must be the scientific aspects of mineralogy, for there is no other U. S. organization concerned with this subject. Thanks to the efforts of a number of our members, among whom are included Clifford Frondel, Arthur Montgomery, George Switzer, John White, and Joel Arem (and many others--probably it is invidious to mention those names, but they happen to be the ones I know best), a considerable effort has been made to meet the needs of scientifically inclined amateurs. An organization known as the Friends of Mineralogy has been formed (President, Richard A. Bideaux) which is engaged in various useful activities. Their publication medium is THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD, reasonably priced at \$6 annually for six issues (USA; \$7 overseas); I urge you to publicize this periodical and to send in your own subscription if possible. Subscriptions can be sent to The Mineralogical Record, P. O. Box 783, Bowie, Maryland 20715.

Many discussions are now going on to associate MSA formally with these various activities. I have received helpful letters from Clifford Frondel and Arthur Montgomery, copies of which have been sent to the MSA Council. I expect to see the mineralogists from the Smithsonian Institution in April. At the Tucson Mineral Show there were informal meetings between Clifford Frondel and others to prepare a list of specific activities with which MSA can aid amateurs. This past month I received many helpful ideas from Russell McFall and Paul Moore. Probably all these activities will lead to specific actions at the next Council meeting.

7. The MSA Council has voted \$200 to support postage and mailing expenses of the newly formed Mineral Museums Council. D. V. Manson, American Museum of Natural History, New York, is its first President and our current Representative. The MSA Council has strongly endorsed the attempt of the new organization to improve conservation of minerals. I hope that over the next decade there will be strong cooperation between MSA and MMC.

8. The first issue of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST in its new format has now appeared. Your comments and suggestions on both the format and the general contents of the journal will be welcome. In the first issue, some plates slipped in press; this error has been called to the printer's attention. Better quality paper has been ordered starting with the May-June issue. Please send any comments to our Editor: Prof. F. Donald Bloss, Department of Geological Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

9. For most of us, the principal activity of the Society is the annual meeting which is held together with the Geological Society of America and its other affiliated societies. Your suggestions for additional meetings that can be held alone or with related societies will be carefully considered and should be sent to me at the Chicago address given at the end of this Newsletter. The 1973 annual meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas, November 12 to 14. Watch for the announcements and pre-registration forms in the August issue of GEOTIMES. Any ideas for special symposia in the technical sessions are welcome and should be sent as soon as possible to our Representative to the Joint Technical Program Committee of GSA: Thomas L. Wright, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. 20244. At the 1973 meeting, the Roebling Medal and the MSA Award will be presented to George Tunell and Paul Moore, respectively. Please plan to attend our single annual social event, the Society luncheon at which the awards will be given. I promise to keep the luncheon price as low as is feasible and to close the ceremonies ahead of the starting time for the afternoon scientific sessions.

10. For very many years, the business activities of MSA were run by the devoted efforts of various people. About a decade ago, it was obvious that the work load was becoming too great and professional operation was needed. Initially, operation of the MSA office was undertaken in cooperation with the American Geological Institute. The arrangement proved unsatisfactory, and so the MSA Council voted in 1972 to transfer the office to the auspices of the American Geophysical Union. The change was supervised by Daniel E. Appleman, Chairman of the Committee on Management, and he and the AGU staff worked long hours to effect the change. The MSA Council has been well pleased with the new operation and voted a commendation for the AGU staff.

11. The Penrose Conference Committee of the Geological Society of America is soliciting proposals. Former Penrose Conferences have been written up in GEOTIMES; for example, one on ophiolites is described in the December, 1972, issue, p. 24-25. Proposals for future conferences are welcomed by the Geological Society of America. If you have a possible topic and are willing to act as a convenor, the guidelines for submissions can be obtained from Dr. Edwin S. Eckel, Executive Secretary,

The Geological Society of America, 3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, Colorado 80301. I would appreciate receiving a copy of any proposal involving MSA. The closing dates for GSA semi-annual consideration of proposals are March 1 and September 1.

In conclusion, I want to thank all those who have kindly accepted Committee assignments (see any 1973 issue of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST). Hatten Yoder worked hard last year to solve many business and professional problems, thereby easing my duties. Bill Bailey's Ad-Hoc Committee on the Constitution and By-Laws did a thorough job, and the results have gone to you on a ballot for your vote. Dan Appleman and E-an Zen labored manfully over the management of the business office and the transfer of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST to a new office and a new publisher. Our sincere thanks go to Bill Holser and a cordial welcome to Don Bloss, retiring and present Editors, respectively. Joan Clark is working manfully and womanfully as Secretary, and I am most grateful for all her help and guidance. Thanks go also to Van Valkenburg, retiring Treasurer, and welcome to Phil Bethke, our new Treasurer.

And to all of you who loyally support the Society and make possible its contributions to mineralogy, my special thanks and appreciation!

Yours sincerely,

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President

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