



THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

1707 L STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 202-293-1144

October, 1973

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

Thank you to all who wrote in response to the first newsletter. It is quite certain that it fulfills a definite need. Now to new and old business.

1. Coordination among mineralogical groups. Prior to the Council meeting in April, a useful meeting was held with members of the Friends of Mineralogy and the Mineral Museums Advisory Council (their final choice of name). Unfortunately, the Federation of American Mineralogical Societies did not send a representative. The discussions were frank and productive. The Editors of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST and the MINERALOGICAL RECORD will coordinate their activities to ensure the highest quality of papers in both journals. A meeting coordinated by Clifford Frondel (see Item 6 of NEWSLETTER NO. 1) led to the co-sponsorship by the University of Arizona, Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, FM, MMAC, and MSA of a meeting at Tucson, Arizona, to be held February 10 and 11, 1974. in conjunction with the 20th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, February 8 to 10. John W. Anthony is the local chairman, and he and Spencer Titley kindly agreed to organize the meeting which will have two invited symposia, Mineralogy and Paragenesis of Porphyry Copper Deposits, and Impact of Modern Analytical Techniques on Mineralogical Nomenclature, as well as general sessions on mineralogy for which abstracts are welcome. There will be a field trip to some famous porphyry copper deposits in Arizona. The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show attracts the cream of mineral collectors from many countries, and many marvelous mineral specimens will be on display (some at marvelous prices!). MSA is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Schupp and Mr. A. C. Thompson for the local business arrangements. Come along--there will be lots of fun, especially on the field trip. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such joint meetings. I am now trying to organize a meeting at a Detroit Mineral Show.

2. Mineralogical Abstracts. In July, the Editor of MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS (Prof. R. A. Howie), representatives of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain, and I met at London to discuss MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS. Perhaps a little history is worth recalling. The early volumes of MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS were issued as an integral part of MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE, and owed much to the brilliance and idiosyncrasy of the late L. J. Spencer. Since 1959 the volumes have been issued separately under the joint sponsorship of MSGB and MSA. Unlike CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, MA depends almost entirely on the generosity of many volunteer abstractors and particularly on the enthusiasm of several key people. My good friend, Bob Howie (well known for his joint authorship of ROCK-FORMING MINERALS, popularly called DHZed or DHZee), has sustained MA for many years with his enthusiasm and hard work--he is reputed to be able to write abstracts while relaxing in front of a TV set. Marjorie Hooker efficiently coordinates the North American abstractors. There are many others whose names and initials are listed in MA.

I regard MA as a publication of equal importance to THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST and am rather surprised that many members of MSA do not subscribe. I respectfully urge all members of MSA to subscribe to MA. I feel sure an increased awareness of the literature of mineralogy would result.

At the London meeting, new subscription rates were proposed to cover increased printing costs, increased number of abstracts, and need for a professional editorial assistant. The new rates are \$3.75 for members of MSGB (an integral part of the membership rate and mandatory for all members) and \$10 for members of MSA. For non-member subscribers, the new rates are \$14 and \$36, respectively. These rates would have been higher except for approval of a new printing process which saves \$3,000 per year. Preliminary discussions were held about preparation of a formal legal agreement of co-ownership of MA to replace the present informal arrangement.

The meeting in London was very cordial, and I think that MSA owes a great debt of gratitude to Bob Howie and to the staff of MSGB who have borne patiently with past problems in our office.

Do support MA by subscribing yourself at the preferential rate. New member-subscribers should fill in the appropriate box of the dues notice or write directly to the Washington office. Subscriptions are for the calendar year only. If the organization for which you work does not subscribe to MA, please suggest to the Librarian that a subscription be entered.

3. Charitable Fund. The Council authorized the first step of a plan to raise charitable funds for scholarships and grants-in-aid to university students. With the 1974 dues notice, all MSA members were invited to contribute to such a fund. The money is to be disbursed each year without any accumulation of capital. A good response from the membership will mean more scholarships can be awarded, and will also help in obtaining matching funds from industrial corporations and foundations.

In the last newsletter I proposed a target of several millions of dollars for endowment funds. Badly needed are funds to support monographs on classic mineral deposits, catalogs of important mineral collections (both public and private), short courses for refreshing mineralogists with the latest results, and so on. So far this year no angel has appeared, but we wait daily for the flutter of wings, either silver or golden.

4. Advancement of Minorities. MSA has been asked by the American Geological Institute what steps it has taken to assist minority groups. MSA membership is, of course, open to all interested in mineralogy. I have written to various members of MSA to ask if they had suffered discrimination, and if they had suggestions for encouraging minority group members to enter mineralogical societies. Opinions differed, but the unanimous feeling was that progress would be difficult. Perhaps the saddest experience was that of a college professor who tried to encourage black students to enter mineralogy; the reply was that there was no money in it--basketball and other sports paid much better. There clearly are some things we must try (particularly we are indebted to Bruce Doe for his enthusiasm): (a) minority members of MSA should talk to schools and colleges in order to provide an illustration that mineralogy is an "open" profession; (b) scholarships should be provided; (c) MSA should try to make sure that minority members are given roles in the Society.

I think that we must decentralize activity to the ground-roots of the Society. Bruce Doe suggested that we begin a pioneering movement in Chicago, and I have pledged to do so next year when present duties terminate. Would those members interested in activity at Chicago and elsewhere please write to me? Particularly I would like to see volunteers to take young students on field trips; this is an activity in which amateur mineralogists could take a major role.

5. Public Affairs Committee. At present MSA does not have such a Committee and the Council, at the November meeting, will be considering initiating one. Some possible activities of such a Committee in the near future are: encouragement of minorities of all types to enter mineralogy; to supply information to political bodies concerning the availability of minerals and of mineralogists; to prepare publicity and educational material, including films, on mineralogy; to evaluate the present status of mineralogical research with a priority listing of needs for future financing of research; and to consider the status of employment opportunities.

Please write to me with your ideas about such a Committee and its role. Suggestions will be circulated to the Council to assist them with future discussion on these difficult matters.

6. The American Mineralogist. At the April meeting, the Council voted that data tables which are an integral part of a paper shall be included in the article published in THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST. The Council believed that careful preparation of tabular material would permit economical printing on a reduced, but still legible, scale. Please help the Editor by preparing high quality tables; he will gladly supply advice on how to prepare them. Your comments on the policy are welcome, and its effects and ramifications will be studied further.

7. Annual Meeting at Dallas, Texas. The annual meeting of the Society will be held November 11 to 14 with the Geological Society of America and related societies at Dallas, Texas. Forms for advance registration and hotel reservations can be obtained from the Geological Society of America, 3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, Colorado 80301. A page describing the events sponsored by MSA is included with this newsletter, together with a form for ordering tickets in advance for the Society's luncheon at which George Tunell will receive the Roebling Medal, and Paul Moore, the Mineralogical Society of America Award. Your comments before and after the meeting are welcome, and I should particularly like to know whether you favor the use of time for a Symposium, such as the one arranged by Deane Smith and Larry Finger on Instrumental Techniques in Mineralogical Analysis, or whether you prefer sessions composed solely of volunteered papers.

The Council voted unanimously to ban smoking at all technical sessions sponsored by the Society at this and other meetings, and thanked G. V. Gibbs for bringing the matter to its attention.

8. Short Courses on Mineralogical Sciences. In the last decade, I organized three Short Courses for the American Geological Institute on Feldspars, Pyroxenes and Amphiboles, and Sheet Silicates. They are not presently able to do this, and I would like to see the Short Courses started again under MSA auspices. A questionnaire is enclosed for you to indicate your interest in this proposal. It would probably be necessary to charge a fee of from \$30 to \$60 for such a course; funds to support some students might be sought. A review of the literature would be prepared in a duplicated book to be placed on sale. I still use the earlier books in teaching graduate courses and wonder whether other university teachers also find them useful.

9. Review of Status of Mineralogical Sciences. The U.S. National Committee on Geochemistry commissioned a review on future needs for research in geochemistry. The resulting report involved mineralogical sciences to a moderate degree but omitted many important mineralogical topics. I think that it would be useful for MSA to prepare a similar report on the Status of Mineralogical Sciences. It should be valuable to grant administrators. May I solicit comments on the value of such a report, and suggestions for names of potential members of a committee? This item will be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

10. Geotimes. Without advance notice to the Society, the American Geological Institute removed some of our members from the mailing list for GEOTIMES. A strong protest was made, and an apology was received explaining that the removals were in error. We deeply regret any inconvenience caused our members, all of whom are to receive GEOTIMES according to the Society's current agreement with AGI. However, because of AGI's increasing financial difficulties, the future of GEOTIMES is in question. The Council is keeping a watchful eye on this situation and will act to assure equal rights for all our members.

Finally, thank you to all Officers, Councillors, and Committee members of the Society for your hard work on behalf of MSA. In particular, I want to thank Phil Bethke, Don Bloss, and Joan Clark for their efficient and cheerful work as Treasurer, Editor, and Secretary, and Dave Stewart for attending the meeting of the Governing Board of the American Geological Institute. The effective, continuing assistance of

our staff at the business office is greatly appreciated. To all members of the Society who have written with ideas, my sincere thanks, and, to every member of the Society, thank you for the privilege and pleasure of being President for this year.

Good luck to Bill Bailey for his term beginning in November.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph V. Smith

QUESTIONNAIRE ON SHORT COURSES IN MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY

Please return to J. V. Smith, HGS, University of Chicago, Illinois 60637

I do ☐ do not ☐ recommend establishment of Short Courses by MSA.

I would like to see Short Courses on the following topics:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

I would be likely to attend Short Courses on the following subjects (use numbers in your list above): _____

I would purchase a lecture review book on Short Courses on the following subjects (use numbers in your list above): _____

I would use the lecture review book as a required test for courses on the following subjects: _____

I would attend a Short Course at the 1974 MSA meeting (Miami Beach): Yes ☐ No ☐

It depends on the topic chosen: ☐ Preferred topic (use no. above): _____

Please give your comments on suggested locations, times, lecturers, etc.