



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NOTES FROM LONDON

New Society Award, in Honour of Prof. R. A. Howie: The Mineralogical Society Best Paper Award

The R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture Award is named in honour of Prof. R. A. Howie (1923–2012), who was a distinguished professor of mineralogy at Kings College London and Royal Holloway University, London. The award will be made annually to “the lead author of the ‘best paper’ published (in English) in a mineralogical journal (*sensu lato*) within three years of award of his/her PhD”. The nomination process is outlined below.



The award will take the form of a bursary (£1000) to attend an international conference (to be agreed with the Society) to present a paper which will be entitled the R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture. The money will be paid on receipt of an official confirmation of registration for the conference.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any scientist (including a co-author) but not the nominee him/herself and must be supported by a fellow scientist familiar with the nominee’s work.

Nominations will be received by the Executive Director before the closing date of September 1 each year. The Society’s Awards Committee will consider the nominations and rank them. This ranking will then be passed to the Society’s Council (by mid-October) for a formal decision at the November meeting of that committee. Council will make a decision and inform the winner.

Nominations should consist of a letter of nomination together with at least one letter of support along with a copy of the paper being nominated and a copy of the nominee’s CV. The letter(s) should address the criteria outlined below and how any or all of them are met by the paper in question. Each nomination package should be submitted in electronic form (a single PDF file) and sent to the Society’s executive director, Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org).

Award Criteria

The Awards Committee will take into consideration the following points:

- Novelty
- Inter-disciplinarity
- Applicability
- How the science is advanced by the new work

Timing

The nominated paper must have been published in the calendar year before the nomination and within three years of the award of the candidate’s PhD and will remain on the slate for up to two years.



Some of the Society’s current Council at its March 2014 meeting: (back row, left to right) David Alderton, John Adams, Martin Lee, Russell Rajendra, Caroline Peacock, Geoff Bromiley; (front row, left to right) Frances Wall, Mike Widdowson, Brian O’Driscoll, Martin Hughes and Claire Corkhill (PHOTO BY K. MURPHY)

Society Council for 2014

The Society’s Council for 2014 is as follows:

President: F. Wall; General Secretary: K. Goodenough; Treasurer: J. Adams; Publications Manager: currently vacant; Principal Editors of *Mineralogical Magazine*: P. Williams; R. Mitchell; Principal Editor of *Clay Minerals*: G. E. Christidis; Public Relations Officer: A. Kerr;

Elements representative: M. E. Hodson; Editor of the Landmark Series: D. J. Vaughan; Ordinary Members of Council: J. Lloyd, M. Lee, B. O’Driscoll, C. Corkhill, C. Greenwell and M. Tyrer (co-opted);

Special Interest Group Chairs: D. Alderton, M. Anand, G. Bromiley, C. Greenwell, N. Harris, J. Lloyd, C. Peacock and A. Saunders.

The Council meets three times per year (March, June and November) and a subset consisting of Officers, or the Executive Committee, meets in February, May and September.

Bursary Awards for 2014

Senior Bursary Awards for 2014 were made to the following: J. Harvey, G. Pesce and E. Versteegh.

Student Bursary Awards for 2014 were made to the following:

M. Allen, A. Band, J. Bedford, M. Berg, S. Broom-Fendley, U. O. Chukwura, M. M. Daswani, L. Faggetter, E. Fallon, H. Hagi, H. Hughes, E. Hunt, A. Jeffery, X. Ke, A. Keatley, S. Martin, C. McLean, L. Newsome, C. Spencer and D. P. W. Tsang.

Congratulations to you all! We look forward to publishing reports of your travels on the Society site (www.minersoc.org/bursary-report.html) in due course.

Membership Survey

Our thanks to the many of you who completed the recent membership survey. We have compiled the responses and discussed them at council. All of the points raised will be borne in mind as we go forward. An executive summary of the report considered by Council follows.

- Members seem happy with the services offered by the Society and are glad, in most cases, to recommend membership to their students and colleagues. Responses about Chartered Status seem to suggest that many in academia have either not yet considered applying for CSci status or they have decided it is not relevant to an academic career or that we have not demonstrated clearly that it is relevant.

■ The journals are probably the most valued aspect of what we offer. About half of all who responded said they use library-provided e-access to the journals, but 40% still use their personal paper copy for access. Only 30% of those responding have published a paper in *Mineralogical Magazine* and only 8% in *Clay Minerals*. Interestingly, the most popular method of finding which content to read in our journals is by Google Scholar (67%), followed by Web of Science (56%). Between a quarter and a half of those who responded said they were aware of initiatives undertaken to improve the journals. Upwards of 80% of those who responded said they buy one or more books per year. Most purchase the books themselves and claim that the best way to improve sales to libraries is to send ads to the academics rather than librarians (though most claim to have no influence over library purchases). £30 seems to be the average upper price for books for students.

■ About a third of respondents appear to have attended a Society meeting in the last three years. The vast majority of people who attend Society meetings value them highly. The reasons for not attending are cost, travel, theme, etc. The most popular of the large international conferences are Goldschmidt Europe and EGU.

■ The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) vary in terms of the numbers of members they can claim from among the respondents, from 7% (MPG) to 44% (VMSG). There appears to be a reasonable level of satisfaction with group meetings and networking activities, with some suggestions that communication about events and initiatives could be improved. Many have offered to serve on SIG committees but some feel that they are too far away to be of use or have insufficient experience.

■ Two-thirds of respondents would like to attend a Society- or SIG-run course, with a wide range of topics suggested. Two-thirds also suggest that it is better to run these in association with a major conference.

■ There was a healthy level of response from amongst Society award winners. Many who responded suggested that they were not aware of how to go about making a nomination or felt under-qualified to do so.

■ All of the respondents feel that the Society is well run. There are some helpful suggestions about increasing the amount of interaction with members, and improving the appearance, content and timeliness of the website. Most believe the Society to be in a reasonable state of health. Respondents were very generous in terms of their offers to support the Society (though some clearly already do so) through serving on a group or Council, writing a (review) paper or being a lecturer.

A full copy of the report will be posted on the Society website in due course.

Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org), Executive Director

SPECIAL ISSUE OF *MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE* IN HONOUR OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY, APRIL 2014

On the occasion of the 2014 International Year of Crystallography, the Editorial Board of the *Mineralogical Magazine* has dedicated a special issue to commemorating the role crystallography plays within mineralogy and the mineral sciences. A set of papers by members of the Board, as well as by special invitees, will showcase the different crystallographic techniques used to characterize minerals. Several review articles will also explore the crystallography of several important mineral groups. We hope that this special issue will serve as a lasting tribute to the impact that crystallography has had on mineralogy.

Dr. Stuart J. Mills

Associate Editor, *Mineralogical Magazine*,
and coordinator of the special issue

Details of other IYCr events are given at www.iycr2014.org.



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