



Mineralogical Society of America



web

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Valediction



It does not seem a year since I sat down to write my first Letter as president of the Society, but in a few weeks from now I will hand over the Society to my successor, Steve Shirey. Although I use the term *valediction* in the title of this Letter, this word, derived from the Latin for 'goodbye', has too much of an air of finality. I believe the French term *au revoir* is more appropriate, as I will continue my involvement with the MSA as its past president and hope to continue to contribute to the pages of *Elements* magazine.

In the first of my Letters as president, I commented that "like nearly all new presidents...I aspire to do new things at the same time as keeping pace with a rapidly changing world." The latter objective, keeping pace at a time of rapid change, has been possible through the sterling efforts of my fellow officers, the members of our many committees, and those actually employed by the Society. As a result the financial health of the MSA is excellent and our publications go from strength to strength. The innovations introduced by our editors at *American Mineralogist* have enhanced the impact of this world-leading publication and led to substantially increased numbers of submissions from aspiring authors. We have also taken maximum advantage of electronic access to both the journal and the highly regarded Reviews series to support our members and subscribers, as well as engaging professional help to reach new markets in areas such as the Far East and South America. We are also keeping a close eye on the opportunities presented to mineralogists by making available large data sets ('big data') through new forms of electronic publication (such as data journals).

As regards new things, the details of many of these have been reported in previous Letters in this series. They include the launching of a new series of workshops, the first of which will be in Vancouver in October, just before the GSA/MSA annual meetings. The workshops are intended to have one or more experts introducing a 'hot topic' to an audience mostly of younger scientists (and generally lasting no more than one day). They aim to fulfill a need for a meeting that falls between a regular conference symposium and an MSA short course. Another development is concerned with international collaboration, where we have signed memoranda of understanding with two leading British learned societies – the Mineralogical Society and the Geological Society of London (UK equivalent of GSA). As well as planned collaboration over meetings and publications and the publicising of all our activities to new audiences, these links have led to discussions concerned with the regular presentation of MSA Distinguished Lectures in London where there are excellent facilities for the 'live streaming' or recording of lectures for future distribution. Lastly, few aspects of the activities of any organisation are more important than its Web presence. Over the past year, we have substantially modernised the MSA website, providing a 'shop window' worthy of our organisation and one where a wealth of information is available with a couple of clicks of the mouse.

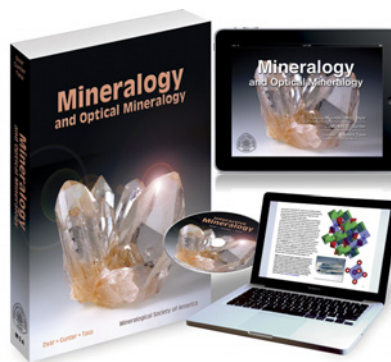
In closing, I should like to thank the officers and councilors of MSA for their support and help over the past year, and the fellows and members for the opportunity to serve as president of this most distinguished society.

David J. Vaughan (david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk)
2014 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- **2014 election results** - The 2015 president of the Society is Steven B. Shirey, the vice president is Rebecca Lange, and the past president is David J. Vaughan. Howard W. Day was reelected for a second term as treasurer, and Andrea Koziol remains in office as secretary. New councilors are Abby Kavner and Matthew J. (Matt) Kohn, joining continuing councilors Isabelle Daniel, Kirsten P. Nicolaysen, Edward S. Grew, and Wendy Panero.
- MSA members were contacted electronically in September to renew their membership for 2015. Members who renew and pay online before 31 October 2014 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 (jaspeer@minsocam.org)
MSA Executive Director



**Now available
for iPad
and Mac!**

Now you and your students can choose this dynamic mineralogy textbook either as a printed book with DVD-ROM or as an exciting new digital series of chapters available on iBooks for the iPad and Mac.

Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy by Melinda Darby Dyar and Mickey E. Gunter is specifically designed to take full advantage of digital media technology to empower students and teachers of mineralogy. Using color photographs, illustrations, movies, 3D models that can be rotated, interactive diagrams, and review questions, this series makes a challenging subject approachable. Each chapter in the digital series is available separately, allowing instructors to pick and choose only those chapters needed for their specific course.

Go to the **Mineralogical Society of America** website at www.minsocam.org for more information about the textbook, or to purchase the **printed version**, as well as find a link to purchase the individual chapters in the **digital version**.

The "**Mineral Database**" app is also available on the App Store.

MSA AWARDS

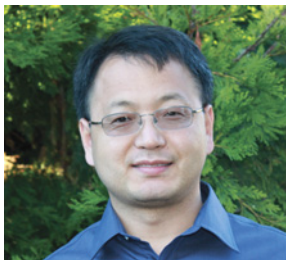
ROEBLING MEDAL TO BERNARD J. WOOD



At this year's MSA annual meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada, Dr. Bernard J. Wood will receive the 2014 Roebbling Medal, given for a lifetime of outstanding original research in mineralogy. Dr. Wood is a research professor at the University of Oxford, UK. His research specialties are experimental and theoretical petrology and mineralogy, and applying modern concepts of

physical chemistry and solid-state physics to minerals and fluids. These include pioneering work on the geobarometry and geothermometry of metamorphic and mantle rocks, the characterization of the oxygen fugacity in the Earth's mantle, the phase relations in the Earth's mantle, the nature of seismic discontinuities at depths of 410 km and 660 km, the electrical properties of mantle minerals, element partitioning and mantle melting, the properties of fluids in the mantle, fluid flow and the kinetics of hydrothermal reactions, the origin of carbonate melts, and the origin and composition of the Earth's core.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARD TO FANG-ZHEN TENG



The Mineralogical Society of America Award is given for outstanding contributions by a scientist beginning his or her career. Dr. Fang-Zhen Teng, associate professor in the Department of Earth & Space Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, is the 2014 MSA Award recipient. Dr. Teng investigates non-traditional stable isotope geochemistry (e.g. Mg, Li, Fe) of natural samples in order to understand magmatic, meta-

morphic, and weathering processes in the Earth. Using both empirical observations and theoretical explanations, he illuminates the causes of intermineral mass fractionation due to bond distances and coordination.

DANA MEDAL TO MARC M. HIRSCHMANN



The Mineralogical Society of America's Dana Medal is given for sustained outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career who has not been previously recognized as a recipient of the MSA Award. Dr. Marc M. Hirschmann, the George and Orpha Gibson Chair of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA, is the 2015 Dana medalist. He will be

presented with the award during the American Geophysical Union's 47th annual Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California, on 15–19 December 2014. Dr. Hirschmann's research emphasizes critical aspects of the generation of melt in rocks and the role of volatiles in the mantle. His combination of thermodynamics and experimental petrology has repeatedly given new insights in theoretical phase equilibria, experimental studies of melting, and volatile partitioning and recycling in the mantle.

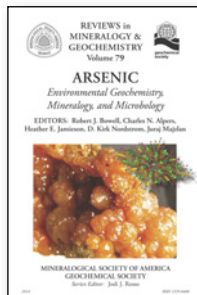
NEW TITLE

Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry

The Mineralogical Society of America
and the Geochemical Society

Volume 79: **Arsenic: Environmental Geochemistry, Mineralogy, and Microbiology**, Robert J. Bowell, Charles N.

Alpers, Heather E. Jamieson, D. Kirk Nordstrom, and Juraj Majzlan, editors. i-xvi + 635 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-94-2



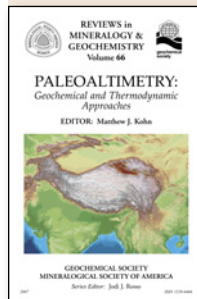
This volume covers arsenic from a variety of perspectives, including mineralogy, geochemistry, microbiology, toxicology, and environmental engineering. It features the following contents: an overview of arsenic geochemical cycles; the paragenesis and crystal chemistry of arsenic minerals; arsenic in natural waters; the thermodynamics of arsenic species; arsenic speciation in solids using X-ray absorption spectroscopy; arsenic speciation in environmental media: sampling, preservation, and analysis; microbial arsenic metabolism and reaction energetics; arsenic toxicity and human health issues; the methods used to characterize arsenic bioavailability and bioaccessibility; the characterization of arsenic in mine waste; the management and treatment of arsenic in mining environments; case studies of the geochemistry and mineralogy of legacy arsenic contamination in historical mining environments (Giant gold mine in Canada and the Sierra Nevada Foothills gold belt of California), and the hydrogeochemistry of arsenic in the Tsumeb polymetallic mine in Namibia.

For more description and to order online, go to 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. The cost is \$45 (\$33.75 for members of MSA, GS, and CMS).

EARTH'S SURFACE COSMOGENIC NUCLIDES PUBLICATION

Volume 66: *Paleoaltimetry: Geochemical and Thermodynamic Approaches*

Matthew J. Kohn, editor



Thematic Contents:

- Geodynamic and geomorphologic rationale. The first chapter (Clark) provides the broad rationale behind paleoaltimetry, i.e., why we study it.

- Stable isotope proxies. Four chapters cover theory of stable isotopes in precipitation and their response to altitudinal gradients (Rowley), and stable isotopes systematic in paleosols (Quade, Garzzone and Eiler), silicates (Mulch and Chamberlain) and fossils (Kohn and Dettman).

- Proxies of atmospheric properties. Four chapters cover temperature lapse rates (Meyer), entropy (Forest), and atmospheric pressure proxies, including total atmospheric pressure from gas bubbles in basalt (Sahagian and Proussevitch), and the partial pressure of CO₂ (Kouwenberg, Kürshner, and McElwain). Note that clumped isotope thermometry (Quade, Garzzone and Eiler) also provides direct estimates of temperature.

- Radiogenic and cosmogenic nuclides. Two chapters cover low-temperature thermochronologic approaches (Reiners) and cosmogenic isotopes (Riihimaki and Libarkin).

For more description, table of contents, and ordering online visit 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.