



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

CHANGES AFOOT AT THE MINSOC

The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc) has been working hard at its finances during 2014 and 2015. Library budgets are shrinking and, as money from this source is the mainstay of our micro-economy, we need to find ways to continue to serve the community without drawing down on our endowment. Several changes have been implemented, including a minor reduction in staffing, a change in our office accommodation, some cost-saving measures in relation to book and journal publishing, and we have hired a marketing agency to help retrieve lost journal sales.

Council took the decision in November 2015 to publish its journals in online-only format, starting in 2017. A change in VAT (goods and services tax) law in the UK during 2015 means that we can now make this change without losing all the savings to the taxman. The number of those members and libraries taking paper copies of the journals has been shrinking anyway, and we feel that the time has come! For those who really do prefer paper journals, it will still be possible to purchase those, but it will no longer be at a subsidised rate – exact price details to follow. This means that from next year, for a modest increase in overall membership fees, all members will be able to access both MinSoc journals (*Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*) online, as well as the online version of *Elements*, through our membership portal. A paper copy of each issue of *Elements* will continue to be sent to all members.

We will continue to support our increasingly active Special Interest Groups, to run our student and senior bursary schemes, to have awards, to publish books in the European Mineralogical Union (EMU) series and all the other things we currently do today.

EMC 2016



The European Mineralogical Congress 'Minerals, Rocks and Fluids: alphabet and words of planet Earth' will take place on 11–15 September 2016 at the Palacongressi di Rimini (Italy). The national mineralogical societies of Europe will come together, for the second time, in Italy, and up to 1,000 scientists are expected to attend. This will be the Mineralogical Society's main meeting for 2016.

The society is supporting two sessions directly and encourages attendance by as many members as possible. The previous conference in this series, held in Frankfurt (Germany), was a huge success and the plans are that this one will be even better. The two sessions in question are:

- 'Biogeochemical Interfaces and Environmental Mineralogy', which will be led by the Geomicrobiology Network
- 'The Future of Critical Metals: Mineralogy, Metallogenesis and Geometallurgy', which will be led by the Applied Mineralogy Group

The society has nominated Dr Kevin Rosso, of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington (USA), as a Hallimond Lecturer who will present his work during the first of the two sessions listed above. Also in attendance will be Prof. Liane Benning (University of Leeds, UK), who is this year's winner of the Mineralogical Society Schlumberger Award. She will present a plenary lecture. The congress will cover areas such as mantle petrology and geochemistry, magmatism and volcanology, metamorphism, applied mineralogy and material science, thermodynamics, kinetics and mineral physics, and mineralogical crystallography. For a detailed list of sessions and more on registration and submitting an abstract, please go to emc2016.socminpet.it.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

By the time you read this information, several of the society's Special Interest Group (SIG) Research in Progress meetings (and other meetings) will have been held for 2016. The Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group had a very successful annual meeting in January 2016 in Trinity College Dublin (Ireland). The Metamorphic Studies and Geochemistry groups have events planned for late March. The Applied Mineralogy Group (AMG) is completing a period of reflection and will have appointed a new chair and a new secretary by the time this issue of *Elements* lands on your desk. Watch this space for announcements about AMG-style events.

BOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

All of these MinSoc-published titles are available from the society's online bookshop (www.minersoc.org), and also available via the Geological Society (London), the Geological Society of America, and via online retailers such as Amazon. All of the titles have also been included in the GeoscienceWorld E-book aggregate. Don't delay – get your copy today!



MEMBERSHIP

There are still some membership dues outstanding for 2016. Please pay immediately if you haven't already done so. Go to www.minersoc.org and click on Member Login. Thanks.

AND FINALLY



Council member Prof. Mark Tyrer asks: "I wonder if you could shed some light on the source of an often-used (mis-?) quotation, which runs something like: 'If you don't grow it or catch it, you must dig it out of the ground.'" One suggestion is that it paraphrases a statement by Carol Linnaeus, "Natural bodies are divided into three kingdoms of nature: viz. the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms. Minerals grow; plants grow and live; animals grow, live, and have feeling". This is taken from Linnaeus's 'Observations on the Three Kingdoms of Nature', Nos 14–15 from his *Systema Naturae* (1735), as quoted (translated) on pages 42–43 by Étienne Gilson in his 2009 book *From Aristotle to Darwin and Back Again: A Journey in Final Causality*.

Can any reader shed further light?