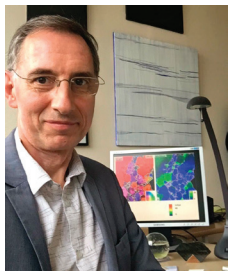




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BRINGING THE GLOBAL MINERALOGICAL COMMUNITY TOGETHER

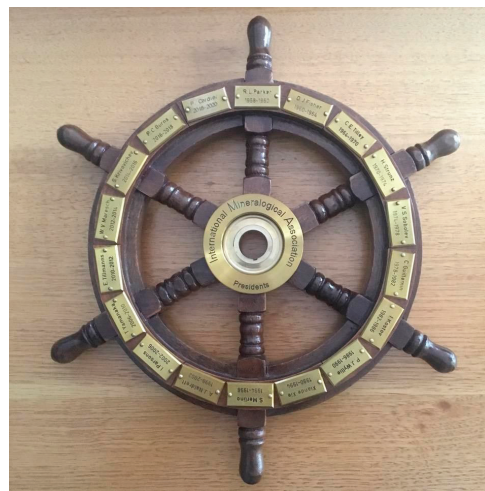


Patrick Cordier

The year 2018 was an important one for mineralogists. Every four years, all of us from around the world – in spirit if not in body – gather together for the General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). Melbourne (Australia) was selected to play host to the 22nd General Meeting of the IMA, which was held 13–17 August 2018. This meeting was a very important highlight in the life of our association: 600 colleagues from 38 different countries responded to the invitation of Stuart Mills, Chair of IMA 2018 (Mills and Missen 2018). In Melbourne, Peter C. Burns passed the symbolic wheel of presidency (Fig. 1) to me, and so I began my turn as the 18th President of the IMA for the now traditional two-year term. We held three council meetings and two, widely attended, business meetings where IMA affairs were discussed, the activities of the six existing IMA Commissions (<https://www.ima-mineralogy.org/comm-work.htm>) were reviewed, and a new working group on asbestos-related issues was launched. On this occasion, the new IMA Council was elected:

President	Patrick Cordier (France)
Past-President	Peter C. Burns (USA)
1 st Vice-President	Anhuai Lu (China)
2 nd Vice-President	Razvan Caracas (France)
Secretary	Hans-Peter Schertl (Germany)
Treasurer	David L. Bish (USA)
Comm. Officer	Anton R. Chakhmouradian (Canada)
Councillors	Jane A. Gilotti (USA), Catherine A. McCammon (Germany), Marco Pasero (Italy), Mark Welch (UK), Sergey Smirnov (Russia)

Emil Makovicky (Copenhagen University, Denmark) received the 2017 IMA Medal and presented a lecture on the mineralogy of thallium sulfosalts. The IMA Medal is awarded for excellence in mineralogical research, as represented by a career-long record of outstanding scientific contributions in the field of mineral sciences. It is considered one of the pre-eminent awards in mineralogical research and represents a lifetime achievement award. It is important to remember that an award not only benefits its recipient but also the mineralogical community as a whole. By highlighting the recipient's best achievements, awards are also an inspiration and set the bar for others to match and even to exceed. So, *please take the time to honor the accomplishments of your valued colleagues by nominating them*. With everyone's help, we can ensure that the Medal Committee will have a diverse and most deserving pool of candidates. Nominators can be either individual members of any mineralogical society or group, or their appointed National



The IMA 'Wheel of Presidency'.

Representative. Nominations for the IMA Medal must be submitted to the Committee Chair by 1 April 2020. Practical information on the contents of a nomination package and procedure can be found on the IMA website, at www.ima-mineralogy.org/Medal_nominations.htm.

Founded in 1958, the IMA is the world's largest organization promoting mineralogy. Thirty-nine national mineralogical societies or groups are presently members of the association. However, there are still many blanks on the world map that are outside of the IMA's reach, especially on the African continent, where mineral resources are so important. Promoting the development of a worldwide mineralogical community is one of the principal missions of the IMA. For a national mineralogical society, joining the IMA will provide the opportunity to gain international visibility and forge collaborations on a truly global scale. In some cases, there may be interest in joining the IMA but a national mineralogical society has not been established because a critical mass has not been reached. It is even more important for our colleagues from those countries to find a way to assemble, for instance, by creating a section, group, or a subgroup within a larger learned society. The current IMA membership includes several such groups (Novák 2016; Christy and Downes 2018). The IMA is willing to help initiate such groups in order to ensure the most inclusive representation possible worldwide.

The importance of mineralogy in the natural resource sector and environmental studies makes it a cornerstone of modern science. Every country is concerned. And we encourage those currently outside the IMA's orbit to join us and to contribute to the advancement of our discipline.

Patrick Cordier, IMA President

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