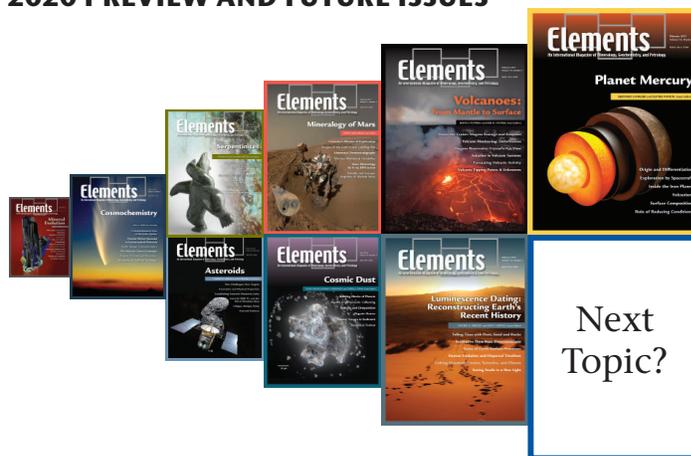


## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

You have probably heard or used the statement, “Diamonds are a girl’s best friend.” It draws its popularity from a song performed by Marilyn Monroe (a US actress) in the 1953 film *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Marilyn, or the song writers (Leo Robin and Jule Styne), likely had no idea that “These rocks [that] don’t lose their shape” were derived from the Earth’s mantle (>200 km deep) and were rapidly transported to the surface via a kimberlite magma. The resulting kimberlite deposits have been exploited by modern diamond-mining companies for well over 100 years. The multibillion-dollar diamond industry has been dependent on finding the next diamond-bearing deposit, and this has helped drive research on kimberlites. The authors of the articles in this issue of *Elements* explore the origins, evolution, transport, emplacement, and economic potential of kimberlites. And, if you want to read more about diamonds, check out the articles in the March 2005 issue of *Elements* (“Diamonds”), which can be found at [elementsmagazine.org](http://elementsmagazine.org).



## 2020 PREVIEW AND FUTURE ISSUES



The authors and editors are already hard at work preparing the articles that will be published in *Elements* in 2020. Some of the articles are almost complete, others are still in development. You can find a listing of those articles in our thematic preview on pages 370 and 371.

The principal editors will be meeting in early 2020 to review proposed topics for the 2021 lineup. If you have ideas for a thematic issue, contact one of our principal editors and submit a proposal for our consideration. More information about publishing in *Elements* can be found at [elementsmagazine.org/publish-in-elements/](http://elementsmagazine.org/publish-in-elements/).

## A JOINT ENDEAVOUR

The copy of *Elements* you are holding in your hands (or reading online) is the result of the creativity and expertise of our 18 participating societies, authors, editors, reviewers, graphic designers, business and administrative staff, print and shipping vendors, and advertisers. Every issue represents hundreds of hours of effort by many individuals working together for a common goal ... to deliver *Elements* to you, the reader. *Elements* is a joint endeavour. Each year, in our final issue, we take a moment to extend our appreciation to those that brought *Elements* to life. This year is no different.

We want to first thank the 18 participating societies and their members who support this magazine. Without them, *Elements* wouldn't exist. The *Elements* Executive Committee, with representatives from each participating society, provides financial oversight and guidance. They have kept *Elements* financially viable over the years, which has enabled us to produce a high-quality publication for our readership. The Mineralogical Society of America provides everyday business operations of the magazine: database management, finances, legal matters, tax audits, warehouse maintenance, computer support and *so much more*. And, Johanne Caron, of the Mineralogical Association of Canada, annually balances our finances for audit and tax reporting. The editorial team thanks these societies and individuals for their commitment to *Elements*.

We also like to thank the 13 guest editors and 81 authors who contributed thematic content to the six issues of volume 15 and our feature editors (Cari Corrigan, Andrea Koziol, Ian Parsons, Michael Wiedenbeck, and David Vaughan) who coordinate the *CosmoElements*, Meetings Calendar, Parting Shots, *Elements* Toolkit, and Mineralogy Matters. We also acknowledge the reviewers, our copyeditor Patrick Roycroft, and our graphic artist Michel Guay.



In addition, we appreciate our advertisers for their continued support. Please take the time to visit their websites or speak with their representatives to learn about their products and services. Those that advertised in 2019 were Analab, Cambridge University Press, CAMECA, Crystal Maker, Dr. Eduard Gübelin Association, Excalibur Minerals Corporation, Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Geochemist's Workbench, Geological Society of London, International Association of Geoanalysts, International Centre for Diffraction Data, Ionplus+,

Materials Research Society, ODLAB, ProtoXRD, Savillex, Scott-Smith Petrology Inc., Smart Elements, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Wisconsin.

Several international conferences also published print ads in *Elements* in 2019 to alert readers of upcoming events. Those that published ads were the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society, Euroclay2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> European Mineralogical Conference, 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Mineralogy and Spectroscopy, GAC-MAC-IAH 2019, GEOANALYSIS 2021, GeoConvention 2020, GEOMÜNSTER 2019, Goldschmidt2019, Joint Polish-German Crystallographic Meeting 2020, 1<sup>st</sup> IAGC International Conference, 12<sup>th</sup> International Kimberlite Conference, 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Biomineralization, Materials Research Society Spring/Fall Meetings, MSA Centennial Symposium, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Young Earth Scientists Congress.

Finally, we want to extend our appreciation to Allen Press (<https://www.allenpress.com/>) and APC Postal Logistics, LLC (<https://www.apc-pli.com/>). These companies print and/or ship *Elements* to you.

**Nancy Ross, Jon Blundy, John Eiler, and Jodi Rosso**