

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

For centuries, philosophers and scientists had proposed the existence of planets outside of our own Solar System. Yet, it wasn't until late 20<sup>th</sup> century that scientists first confirmed the existence of exoplanets. How does one study planets that are thousands of light years away from Earth? Exoplanet studies are not purely within the domain of astrophysicists. As you will discover in the articles of this issue, exoplanet research requires an interdisciplinary approach. Along with astrophysicists, scientists and engineers from the geosciences, biosciences, and more are contributing to the



identification and characterization of exoplanets. If you are unfamiliar with the topic of exoplanets, we encourage you to read the opening article by guest editors Oliver Shorttle, Natalie Hinkel, and Cayman Unterborn. There, they have provided an excellent overview of this rapidly growing and exciting area of our science.

**John Eiler, Richard Harrison, Becky Lange, and Jodi Rosso**

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

## JOURNAL EDITOR RETIRES: PROFESSOR MILAN RIEDER



For those of us who have sat in rooms where a society council or a governing body meets, there are many heroes, people who take the time to ensure that societies can function. Societies' have to organise or administer journals, books, conferences, the membership, awards, student grants, outreach, and more.

Sometimes, the work of the most committed is sometimes overlooked, or at least understated. Journal editors, in general, are incredibly hard-working. Journal publishing is an unrelenting source of things to do! Manuscripts are always being submitted, reviewed, revised, edited, prepared, typeset, proofed, published, and promoted. Behind the scenes, the editor might have two or three issues in various stages of preparation, dozens of manuscripts at various stages of submission and, oh yes, a day job to do also. Professor Milan Rieder is one of those tireless heroes of the publishing world. Since 1977, Milan has been Editor of *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, published by Springer Nature, and now, in 2021, he has finally decided to retire.

Milan Rieder was born in 1940, did his undergraduate studies 1957–1965 at Charles University (Czech Republic), his graduate studies 1965–1968 at Johns Hopkins University (Maryland, USA), became a candidate for Doctorate of Sciences in crystallography at Leningrad State University (USSR) between 1987 and 1989, and was named a full Professor of Mineralogy in 1992.

He has held the following positions (all in what is now called the Czech Republic):

- Researcher at the Geological Survey of Czechoslovakia, now called the Czech Geological Survey (1962–1965, 1968, 2010)
- Researcher and professor at Charles University, Faculty of Science (1968–2004)
- Researcher and professor at VŠB-Technical University Ostrava (2004–2010)
- Teacher of select courses at Masaryk University Brno (since 2010)

With regards teaching, he was responsible for courses on phase equilibria, crystallography, and X-ray powder diffraction. In addition, he tutored students, including Lukas Palatinus, who went on to become a world-leading scientist on structure solution from electron diffraction, and he ran the X-ray laboratory, getting excellent data from ancient instruments (including a precession camera that used traditional film).

Milan is a rare example of a researcher who can do excellent research without the need for state-of-the-art instrumentation, largely because of his knowledge and passion for thorough data analysis. Milan submitted his first paper in 1960 (Čech and Rieder 1960) and his most recent offering appeared in 2020 (Rieder 2020), a 60-year publishing career that included many publications on his beloved micas (e.g., Rieder 1968; Zdeněk et al. 1992) and on X-ray diffraction instrumentation (Rieder 1980).

His interest and proficiency in micas qualified Milan to serve as the chair of the important Mica Subcommittee of the International Mineralogical Association (1976–1998), resulting in the new nomenclature of micas published in several journals (e.g., Rieder et al. 1998).

To honour Milan's contribution to mineralogy, in 2018 a new mineral was named after him: milanriederite (IMA2018-041), which is a vesuvianite-group mineral discovered in Namibia (Chukanov et al. 2019).

Like so many journal editors, Milan operated quietly in the background, claiming little credit for the work that he did. He is neither dramatic nor flamboyant but prefers to take the subtle, quiet approach. He has more than earned his retirement.

Thank you, Milan, for your enormous contribution to our science.

**Kevin Murphy**  
Mineralogical Society  
**Mariana Klementov**

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