



Mineralogical Society of America



web

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



MSA: A Strange Year

This is my sixth and last message to you as 2021 Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) President. To say the least, it has been a strange year for me as president. All society business has been conducted by Zoom. No in-person meetings for me. No opportunities to meet and congratulate in person those honored by the society. No chance to thank and interact with

the myriad volunteers who keep the society on track through their diligent committee work, or with the excellent staff who keep the society functioning. The MSA purred along transforming its outreach activities—short courses, lecture series—to a virtual world, handing out honors and doing business as before, but via Zoom, trying its best to weather the storm. Were these efforts successful? I think largely so, but as the less-personal interaction that happens in the virtual world begins to dominate the affairs of the society, one wonders what the inevitable outcome will be? To my mind, the serendipitous interactions that arise during one-on-one unplanned conversations are the spark that fuels scientific advancement. And, isn't that kind of interaction why we join a society like the MSA: to seek out and associate with like-minded individuals for mental stimulation and intellectual growth? You don't get that kind of stimulation from a committee meeting, especially one on Zoom. You are unlikely to benefit in that way from a YouTube video presentation of an MSA lecturer, no matter how talented s/he is, in the same way as going out to dinner or lunch with that lecturer and just having a conversation about how science is done or your joint interests. Virtual short courses are great and reach a larger group of people, but they are no substitute for attending a short course in person, interacting one-on-one with the instructors and participants, and benefitting from the intellectual stimulation that arises from total immersion. The MSA has evolved over the past year to embrace the necessity of virtual interaction, and this has led to many positive outcomes, but when the present health crisis is finally over, we, as a society, must not let efficacy trump the reason for our existence. We must ensure that personal interactions prevail as the dominant expression of the contributions the MSA gives to its members and to the broader community of Earth scientists who prosper because of the generosity of the MSA.

The MSA was founded in the last month of 1919; curiously enough, just prior to the fourth wave of a virus that resulted in another raging global pandemic. Its first president, Edward Kraus, must have been affected by this public health situation. One wonders what the situation was like back then at the University of Michigan, and if travel restrictions prevented him from carrying out his duties as president? Was there a post-war optimism that prevailed over the specter of a fifth and permanent cycle of death and chaos? History demonstrates that the MSA arose from the metaphorical ashes of that pandemic and became an intellectual force in the Earth science community. As members of the MSA, let's all make sure that happens this time around with the same vigor as before.

My year as MSA President is over, and my only real regret is that I never found myself in a situation where some member could walk up to me and greet me as "El Jefe."

Mark Ghiorso
2021 MSA President

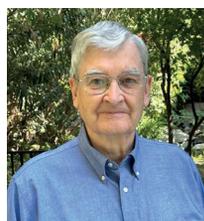
NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA 2022 membership renewals have begun with notices sent electronically, followed by several electronic reminders, before a paper copy will be sent 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 they 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, please renew early: MSA needs to forward your renewal to those publishers before your subscription expires. These journals include: *Gems & Gemology*, *Journal of Petrology*, *Mineral News*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogy and Petrology*, *Rocks & Minerals*, and the *Journal of Gemmology*.

CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO MSA

Many members contribute to the MSA by including a contribution with their annual dues and/or by responding to special appeals. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of the MSA Endowment Fund, the J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund, the MSA Mineralogy/Petrology Fund, the J.B. Thompson Fund, the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund, the F. Donald Bloss Fund, the General Operating Fund, or the new Peter R. Buseck Lecture Fund. The income of these funds is used to support MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; the MSA Undergraduate Prize; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award; the Dana Medal; the Roebling Medal; the website; and the Distinguished Lecturer program. If you have not done so previously, please consider contributing at the next opportunity.

MSA 2021 AWARDEES



Roebling Medal: Dr. George R. Rossman

Dr. George R. Rossman, Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology (USA) has been awarded the 2021 Roebling Medal. This is the highest award that MSA bestows each year and is a recognition of "scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy." Dr. Rossman has 345 publications listed on the Web of Science with an h-index of 66. For many years, he has studied how light elements are incorporated into minerals and has made vital contributions to research into the causes of color in minerals. His work in other areas of mineralogy and spectroscopy has influenced scientists, particularly planetary scientists, in a wide variety of disciplines. The MSA is proud to recognize Dr. Rossman's seminal achievements by presenting him with the Roebling Medal.

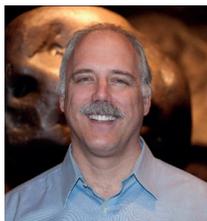


Dana Medal: Dr. Sergey V. Krivovichev

Dr. Sergey V. Krivovichev works at the Department of Geology at St. Petersburg State University (Russia) and is the recipient of the 2021 Dana Medal. This medal is "intended to recognize sustained outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career." Dr. Krivovichev's laboratory in St. Petersburg has become the primary center for experimental inorganic crystallography in Russia. Dr. Krivovichev's publication record (many papers, chapters,

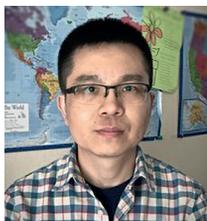


and books), as well as his influential work in both experimental and theoretical mineralogy, have earned him the recognition of his community. The MSA is pleased to present him with the 2021 Dana Medal.


Distinguished Public Service Medal:

Dr. Denton S. Ebel

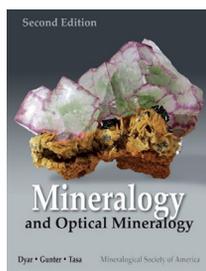
Dr. Denton S. Ebel, Curator of Meteorites at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), is the 2021 recipient of the Distinguished Public Service Medal. This award is awarded by MSA “to individuals or organizations who have made important contributions to furthering the vitality of the geological sciences, especially, but not necessarily in the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and crystallography.” The award recognizes and celebrates Dr. Ebel’s work in public education at AMNH through lectures, innovative museum exhibitions, scientific meetings, and ground-breaking outreach programs. The MSA is delighted to recognize Dr. Ebel’s many contributions to geoscience education.


MSA Award: Dr. Chenguang Sun

Dr. Chenguang Sun of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences at Rice University (Texas, USA) has been awarded the 2021 Mineralogical Society of America Award. This award “is intended to recognize outstanding published contributions to the science of mineralogy by relatively young individuals or individuals near the beginning of their professional careers.” Dr. Sun’s research has contributed significantly to knowledge in quantifying trace element distributions in major rock-forming minerals, deducing the thermal history of mafic and ultramafic rocks, and clarifying carbonatite melt and peridotite interactions. For his many achievements, MSA is pleased to award Dr. Sun the 2021 MSA Award.

MINERALOGY AND OPTICAL MINERALOGY

Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy (2019, Second Edition, by Dyar, Gunter, and Tasa) is now in full color. It is available in both hard copy through the MSA Bookstore and as a pdf version (individual chapters and the entire text) through MinPubs.org. All the illustrations and animations that accompany the text are on the MSA website for free. You can find them at http://www.minsocam.org/msa/DGT_Figures/. Please contact the MSA Business Office at business@minsocam.org for more information.


2022 CALENDAR

The title for this year’s calendar from Lithographie is *Minerals of Mexico*. This stunning 16-month calendar, published by Lithographie Ltd., is available through the MSA Bookstore for only \$12.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are a variety of videos on MSA’s YouTube channel. These include those from the Centennial Symposium, Minerals Day, Short Courses, and others. Just a few of the titles are “The Mineralogy of Mars”, “Gems and Gemology”, “Triple Oxygen Isotope Geochemistry”, “Wire Silver and Gold Formation”, and many others. Videos for Minerals Day 2021 (October 11) will feature career opportunities in mineralogy and petrology.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SFMC

The General Assembly of the French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography (i.e., Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie, or SFMC) was held in a hybrid form 16 June 2021. Members either participated in person at the association’s headquarters or remotely by video conference. The general assembly followed the presentations of the 2021 Haüy–Lacroix Prize for the best thesis, which went to David Bekaert (see below), and the 2020 SFMC Merit Award to Georges Calas (citation published in *Elements* v16n3). As part of the emc²⁰²⁰ awards ceremony, Georges Calas gave a fascinating lecture entitled, “Looking at Minerals and Glasses at a Molecular Scale”.

The 2021 Haüy–Lacroix Prize

The French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography committee awarded its 2021 Haüy–Lacroix Prize to David Bekaert.

David Bekaert completed his PhD thesis, entitled “Isotopic Constraints on the Origin and Nature of Primitive Material in the Solar System and on Early Earth”, at the Centre de recherches pétrographiques et géochimiques (Université de Lorraine, France) under the supervision of Bernard Marty and Laurent Tissandier. During his PhD, David studied the origin of volatile elements in the Solar System and the primitive Earth and the processes that govern their distribution. This work is based on the geochemistry of rare gases (He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe) which have been used as tracers of these processes. David’s approach combined experimentation with observation of natural samples. A web-seminar given by David at the SFMC General Assembly is available on the SFMC’s website.


THE SFMC TRAVEL GRANTS

Each year the SFMC offers several grants to help young researchers participate in schools/workshops, symposiums, and conferences. The following are this year’s recipients:

Goldschmidt2021 conference (4–9 July, virtual meeting)

Five grants: Maxime Bertauts, Sarah Figowy, Julie Jonfal, Clément Laskar, Salomé Pannefieu.

emc²⁰²⁰ conference (29 August–2 September, virtual meeting)

One grant: Camille Muller.

BULLETIN DE MINERALOGIE NOW SCANNED!

The entire contents of the *Bulletin de Minéralogie* (and its former title incarnations from 1878 to 1988) is now available in digital version and is free access on the Persée portal: see <https://www.persee.fr/>. This has been made possible thanks to the conscientious validation work of Anne-Marie Boullier, François Guillot, and Christian Chopin. This platform is maintained with the support of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research and hosts mainly French-language scientific journals in the spirit of open-access. Browsing through the many back issues gives one the opportunity to witness the changes of mineralogy from goniometers to the advent of the petrographic microscope to X-ray diffraction and the electron microprobe. This is also the place where contributions to the first edition of the Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry (EMPG) Symposium can be found, as can, at last, the proceedings of first International Eclogite Conference. Happy reading!