

Thank you very much for the excellent first issue of *Elements*. The choice of theme was excellent, and the articles were very well done. I felt the level of detail was just right for the target audiences described in the initial editorial, "*Elements: Building a New Bridge*". The quality of the production and especially the graphics were outstanding. The authors and all the editorial staff are to be congratulated on a first rate production. If you "will get better and better", my mouth is watering.

Mark J. Logsdon, Geochimica Inc., USA

I arrived back from AGU to find the first issue of *Elements* in my mailbox. What a great first issue! The issue is packed with information, the articles an exciting mix of data, facts, and description of the "state of the field" as it is now. If you go upwards from here, and I am sure that you will, *Elements* will rapidly become a seminal important journal. What a great improvement over the much-too-dry society newsletters (and I know whereof I speak, having produced some of those dry *Geochemical Society Newsletters* in early 1990s!). To mix all that society information with exciting science and to make it available to the seven societies is a master-stroke. My congratulations to all involved in this new journal.

Steven B. Shirey, Carnegie Institution of Washington, USA

The inaugural issue of *Elements* is excellent! My only critique is that the four columns per page used in a couple of items was distracting (and difficult to read because too many rapid eye motions are required). I think two columns per page is best looking and easiest to read. Otherwise, congratulations on a well-designed layout and high-quality content.

Neil Sturchio, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

It is just great. The color figures are quite nice and helpful for the readers to understand the papers. All figures should be with color if possible. The problem here in Japan is that few students are members of MSA, GS, and so on. They cannot read *Elements*. Copies should be delivered to university libraries so that they have a chance to read *Elements*.

Takashi Murakami, University of Tokyo, Japan

Wow, what a fantastic magazine. For the first time in months if not years, I can see myself reading a magazine from cover to cover. Congratulations on a job well done!

Gregory M. Dipple, University of British Columbia, Canada

In general I heartily approve, although I will definitely miss Canadian-locality articles like Dan Kontak's in the recent MAC Newsletter. I have two suggestions, one positive and one negative; on the positive side: continue the "2005 Preview" page as a rolling item—lets get them anticipating things. On the negative, discontinue the use of bold text for initial figure references; it breaks up the flow of the text since one automatically goes to look to see what was so important.

Douglas Scott, Timmins, Ontario, Canada

I know you all worked really hard on *Elements*, from developing the concept to the final product and it really shows! Really, really good! If we can keep the momentum, I cannot see why *Elements* should not be a sizable force in improving the profile of our fields! Thanks for your hard work.

Susan L. Svane Stipp, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS: We are happy to share some of the "flowers" we received following the inaugural issue of *Elements*. Several suggestions from our readers are implemented in this issue or will be in future issues.



The managing editor received real flowers from her fellow editors to celebrate the launch of *Elements* at the GSA meeting. PHOTO BARBARA DUTROW.

I am very impressed! I enjoyed the scientific articles, and I think that the way you laid it out, with a couple of pages for each member society's "news", works very well. I am looking forward to subsequent issues!

Congratulations on a great new geo-science magazine! And best wishes for its successful future.

Sandra Barr, President,
Geological Association of Canada

I have just received (and read) the first issue of *Elements*. What a brilliant publication! It really does illustrate how relevant mineralogy and geochemistry are and in a manner that is completely accessible. Congratulations! I will look forward to the next issue on diamonds.

Philippa Black, University of Auckland, New Zealand

My congratulations to you and the rest of the editorial group. I'm very pleased and excited that the societies have a common forum for timely technical and society news. I have two suggestions: (1) Include a section on new web pages that include recent URLs for special reports, technical summaries, activities etc. I suggest you solicit these from readers who want to promote their web-based compilations, typically submitted by individuals and non-profit organizations. (2) Highlight a special graphic from a society member at the very end of the issue. The graphic choice should be selected on aesthetics and not necessarily on technical quality... just a pretty picture. It could include photos of real minerals, molecular models of minerals, phase diagrams, TEM, SEM photomicrographs, field images, etc. Label them "Parting Shot", "Geoimage", "Last Glimpse" etc.

Randall T. Cygan, Sandia National Laboratories, USA

IN THE NEXT ISSUE, READ ABOUT

Genesis: Rocks, Minerals, and the Geochemical Origin of Life

Robert M. Hazen, Guest Editor

Few scientific questions so capture the public imagination, or provoke such lively debate, as how life on Earth emerged. In the next issue of *Elements*, four of the most creative minds in origins research present their original insights on the geochemical origins of life. Each author has studied the field in depth, and each has come to an inescapable conclusion: rocks and minerals must have played a pivotal role in the transition from the blasted, prebiotic Earth to the living world we now inhabit. Rocks and minerals catalyzed the synthesis of key biomolecules; they selected, protected and concentrated those molecules; they jump-started metabolism; and they may even have acted as life's first genetic system.

Rocks and minerals as protective environments for life's origin
JOSEPH V. SMITH (University of Chicago)

Minerals and the assembly of biopolymers
JAMES P. FERRIS (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

The geochemical evolution of metabolism
GEORGE D. CODY (Geophysical Laboratory)

Sketches for a mineral genetic material
A. GRAHAM CAIRNS-SMITH (University of Glasgow)

COMING UP

IN SEPTEMBER Toxic Metals: Role of Surfaces

IN DECEMBER Large Igneous Provinces and Environmental Change