

From the Managing Editor

NEWS FROM THE EDITORS

We have been busy lining up thematic topics for next year. We will start 2006 with an issue on user research facilities in the Earth sciences, under the guest editorship of Steve Sutton. Then an issue on arsenic assembled by Dave Vaughan will follow. Hap McSween promises us outstanding illustrations for the issue he is preparing about water on Mars. In August 2006, we will publish an issue on early Earth, assembled by John Valley. We remind you that we welcome proposals for future thematic issues. The proposal form is available on our website www.elementsmagazine.org. If there are topics you would like to read about, please let us know.

Thematic articles are now referenced in GeoRef, and Chemical Abstracts has found *Elements* suitable for abstracting and indexing. We have also requested that *Elements* be included in the *Journal of Citation Reports* of the Institute of Scientific Information. If our request is accepted, *Elements* will in due course have an impact factor and citations to articles would be counted.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS ISSUE?

We publish our first article by a British author. English is English, but there are several differences between British English and

American English, such as spelling and uses of hyphenation. As we are committed to the international nature of *Elements*, we accept both types of spelling. So in Cairns-Smith's article, "organized" and "color" have become "organised" and "colour".

You will notice several new advertisers in this issue. Advertising is a significant source of income for *Elements*. We encourage you to check the websites of

the advertisers; they often track "traffic" generated by an ad by including a specific web page address. If you have dealings with companies advertising in *Elements*, do not hesitate to mention to your representative that you appreciate their support of *Elements*. And of course, several of our current advertisers came to us after their customers mentioned us.

THANKS

Thanks to all who have contributed time and talent to this issue, to Robert Hazen, guest editor, and all the authors; to contributors Jay Bass, Ernst A.J. Burke, Seth Davies, Mel Gascoyne, Peter J. Heaney, Michael F. Hochella, Andrea Koziol, Adrian Lloyd Lawrence, Kathryn Nagy, Eric Oelkers; Robert F. Martin, Peter J. Mougins-Mark, and Leslie Shivers; and to copy editors Thomas Clark and Dolores Durant.

PARTING QUOTE

I ALSO LEARNED NEVER TO DEFEND ANYTHING I HAD WRITTEN AGAINST THE ACCUSATION THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR ENOUGH. IF A CONSCIENTIOUS READER FINDS A PASSAGE UNCLEAR, IT HAS TO BE REWRITTEN.

KARL POPPER



International Graduate School under the Elitenetzwerk Bavaria, Germany

Structure, Reactivity and Properties of Oxide Materials

We have obtained funding for an International Graduate School from the State of Bavaria, under its newly initiated Elite Network program. In this Graduate School we will perform interdisciplinary research on oxide materials in the Earth Sciences (e.g. mineral physics), Inorganic Chemistry, and Materials Research. We will investigate relationships between crystal chemistry and structure, microstructure, reaction kinetics, and physical-chemical properties. Research projects will involve material synthesis through unconventional paths, characterization with a wide array of analytical tools and simulation techniques.

Students in the School will be based at the University of Bayreuth (Bayerisches Geoinstitut or Institute for Inorganic Chemistry) or at the Fraunhofer Institute for Silicate Research in Würzburg, Germany. The Graduate School offers:

- Excellent research facilities
- Complementary expertise in basic and applied materials research.
- International contacts to leading research institutes all over the world.
 - A specially designed training program.
- A supportive international environment at the Institutes.
 - Competitive salaries.

We are seeking applications from excellent students with a Masters degree (or equivalent) who have a strong quantitative background in material sciences, physics, chemistry, the earth sciences or related fields. Students should demonstrate prior research experience. Starting dates for studentships are flexible, through to the end of 2005.

Ph.D. studentships available

More information on the Graduate School and the application procedure can be found on the website:

www.uni-bayreuth.de/elitenetzwerk/oxides



Bayerisches Geoinstitut, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany

Experimental Geophysics and Geochemistry

The Bayerisches Geoinstitut invites applications for postdoctoral research positions and visiting scientist fellowships in the fields of experimental and theoretical geosciences.

The Geoinstitut is a center for the study of processes and material properties in the Earth and planetary interiors using advanced technologies. Investigation is carried out primarily through experiments at high pressures and temperatures. Research topics include, but are not restricted to, physical and chemical properties of mantle minerals, crystal structure of minerals at high pressure, phase transitions, phase equilibria, kinetics, rheology and textural evolution during high-strain deformation, properties of silicate liquids and chemical and physical processes of planetary core formation as well as material sciences research under extreme conditions.

Postdoctoral appointments are usually made for an initial period of 30 months, with the possibility of subsequent renewal up to a total of five years. Applications for shorter periods and from senior scientists will also be considered. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, list of publications, details of three referees and a brief statement of research interests to:

Bayerisches Geoinstitut, The Director University of Bayreuth
D-95440 Bayreuth, Germany
e-mail: bayerisches.geoinstitut@uni-bayreuth.de

PostDoc positions available

The institute offers a unique range of state-of-the-art experimental and analytical facilities. Further information about the current research and facilities can be found at

www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de

The Bayerisches Geoinstitut is an equal-opportunity employer.