

I have just finished reading the second issue of *Elements* and I am greatly impressed, as I was with the first issue, by the quality of the scientific papers, the very informative discussions of the various contributing societies' activities, and the beautiful page layout, with lots of color. Congratulations to you and your co-editors for this great contribution to our sciences.

Malcolm Ross, Washington, USA

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS: We received several similar congratulatory letters. We are glad you enjoyed the diamond issue. We thank once again Guest Editor George Harlow for assembling such a fine line-up of papers and all the authors and contributors to that issue.

It was great to be able to download the full first issue. I am using some of the figures for teaching. I noticed that for the March 2005 diamonds issue, only the first 10 pages are available in the PDF version. Will there be a full PDF available?

Carl B. Agee, University of New Mexico, USA

I received the latest issue of *Elements* focusing on diamonds and was impressed. I would like to be able to use some of this material for teaching. In your future negotiations with the other participating societies, I urge you to try to make the articles available in html or some other format (perhaps with a password for society members) so that the pictures and figures can be downloaded. If this is already possible, please let me know; I didn't see any links to the articles on the *Elements* web page.

Robert Linnen, University of Waterloo, ON, Canada

Issue 2 of *Elements* is fantastic. So good in fact that I could use it in teaching my third year class in "Topics in Mineralogy" when we cover diamonds. Are there extra copies so that I could give each of the 13 students one? If not, I can photocopy what I need, but your colours are so good!

Ron C. Peterson, Queen's University, ON, Canada

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS: If *Elements* is used in the classroom, one of our key objectives has been met. Our main emphasis has been to get *Elements* up and running. However, we will now turn our attention to the electronic version of *Elements*. At our next editorial meeting on May 20, we will discuss the feasibility of putting *Elements* online and how best to make the electronic version available to members. In the meantime, we have decided to post a PDF file of each issue we will publish in 2005 shortly after most members receive their printed copy ([www.elementsmagazine.org](http://www.elementsmagazine.org)). We see this as a way to publicize *Elements* and to get people outside of our scientific communities to use it.

After getting several requests for additional copies, we have decided to offer additional copies at the following rates:

Number of copies	Price each (US\$)
1-4	\$20
5-10	\$15
10 or more	\$12

The pricing reflects the cost to process and ship an order.

I receive duplicate copies of *Elements*, with one sent to "Dr. J. William Miller Jr." and another to "J. William Miller Jr.", with virtually the same address. The journal is wonderful, but I cannot read two any faster than one.

J.W. Miller, University of North Carolina at Asheville, USA

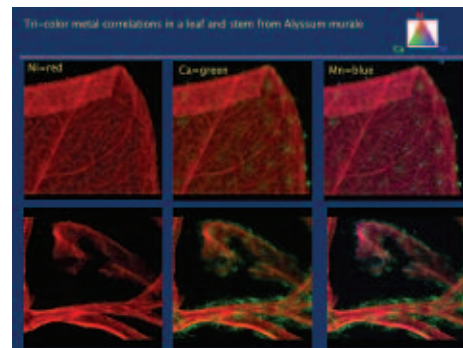
NOTE FROM THE EDITORS: We try to eliminate duplication as much as possible, and in fact the routine that Alex Speer and Gordon Nord use at MSA eliminates all but 1% of the duplicate addresses. If you do receive several copies, please let us know. We also encourage you to use your extra copy to promote *Elements*: give it to a deserving student or to a colleague who should belong to one of the participating societies, put it in the student lounge, send it to a funding agency or put it to any other good use.

We recently received the first two issues of *Elements*. Apparently they have come with our subscription to *Clays and Clay Minerals* and *The Canadian Mineralogist*. I note from the inside cover that we will receive free issues for 2005; however before I go ahead and have them catalogued, it would be useful to know what is to happen after that i.e., will we need to enter a subscription for 2006 or will we continue to receive complimentary issues as long as we maintain our other subscriptions?

Sue Watt, University of Auckland Library, New Zealand

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS: Institutional subscribers to *American Mineralogist*, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, and *The Canadian Mineralogist* receive complimentary copies of *Elements*. It is the intention of the societies publishing these journals to keep offering complimentary copies of *Elements* to their corporate subscribers, for 2006 and beyond.

Leaf and stem micro synchrotron x-ray fluorescence images taken at the advanced light source Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (ALS-LBNL), Berkeley, California



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE, READ ABOUT**

**Metals in the Environment**

Donald L. Sparks, Guest Editor

Metals are prevalent in the environment. They are derived from both natural and anthropogenic sources. Certain metals are essential for plant growth and for animal and human health. However, at excessive levels they are toxic. Metals undergo an array of processes, including sorption/desorption, precipitation/dissolution, and oxidation/reduction, with reactive natural surfaces such as clay minerals, metal oxides, humic substances, plant roots, and microbes. These biogeochemical processes control the solubility, mobility, bioavailability, and toxicity of the metals. This issue of *Elements* will explore research frontiers in the areas of metal mobility and reaction mechanisms on natural surfaces. These advances will be explored at multiple scales, using state-of-the-art analytical techniques.

**Earth's Nano-Compartment for Toxic Metals**

Michael F. Hochella Jr. and Andrew S. Madden (Virginia Tech, USA)

**Metal Retention and Transport on Particles in the Environment**

Ruben M. Kretzschmar (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH, Zurich) and Thorsten Schäfer (Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany)

**Shining Light on Metals in the Environment**

David H. McNear Jr., Ryan Tappero, and Donald L. Sparks (University of Delaware, USA)

**Synchrotron X-ray Investigations of Mineral-Metal-Microbe Interactions and their Effects on Metal Transformations**

Kenneth M. Kemner, Edward J.O. O'Loughlin, Shelly D. Kelly, and Maxim I. Boyanov (Argonne National Laboratory, USA)

**Trace-Metal Sorption on Biogenic Manganese Oxides**

Mario Villalobos (National Autonomous University of Mexico), John Bargar (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, USA), and Garrison Sposito (University of California at Berkeley, USA)