

**WHAT'S NEW WITH ELEMENTS?**

We will use this space to keep you informed on new developments concerning *Elements*.

**Welcome to the SFMC**

Members of the Société française de minéralogie et cristallographie voted unanimously to participate in *Elements* at their most recent business meeting. We welcome them and look forward to their contribution to *Elements*, starting in 2006.

**Multi-Society Catalogue**

You will find enclosed with this issue of *Elements* our first "Mineralogy/Geochemistry Societies Annual Catalogue." Please keep it, or forward it to a colleague, a student, or your library. If each of you encouraged a colleague or a student to join one of the participating societies, the mineralogy-geochemistry-petrology community would double instantly. Imagine our impact! Membership to any of the participating societies includes a subscription to *Elements*. The idea of a multi-society catalogue is not new. It was first put forward by Kevin Murphy of the Mineralogical Society several years ago. At that time, even though interest was expressed, the idea did not move forward beyond the discussion stage. Since *Elements* offers participating societies a way to promote their publications to a wider audience than their own membership, all the societies embraced the idea and "bought" pages of the catalogue. We plan to produce such a catalogue once a year.

**Elements meeting**

Several *Elements* meetings were held during the Goldschmidt Conference. The editors had a full-day meeting prior to the conference. Alex Speer joined us for part of the meeting to discuss financial details. At the first face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee, Kathryn Nagy (CMS), Chair, Eric Oelkers (EAG), John Hughes (MSA), Russell Harmon (IAGC), Norm Halden (MAC), Jeremy Fein (GS), and Mark Hodson (standing in for Peter Treloar, Min Soc) unanimously endorsed the nomination of Bruce Watson as incoming principal editor. Bruce will start his term of office officially on January 1, 2006. However, unofficially, he is now copied on all our e-mail exchanges and he participated in our recent conference call to choose the final two thematic topics for 2006. Rod Ewing, the driving force behind the creation of *Elements*, will stay closely involved in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee. He will also be the principal editor in charge of the thematic issue "Water on Mars" and will be guest editor for the December 2006 issue "Environmental Impact of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle."

The Executive Committee also approved the concept of affiliated societies. The International Mineralogical Association and the European Mineralogical Union have both been granted this status, and we publish the first EMU news in this issue (p. 243). The affiliated status reflects the fact that some societies, like IMA and EMU, do not have individual members but rather are umbrella organizations for several societies.

**Libraries and Elements**

Currently, in 2005, corporate subscribers to *American Mineralogist*, *The Canadian Mineralogist*, and *Clays and Clay Minerals* receive *Elements*. Starting in 2006, subscribers to *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals* will also receive *Elements*. If a library subscribes to one or several of these journals, it is entitled to one copy of *Elements* (it might receive multiple copies in instances when we are not able to eliminate duplicates). The societies producing these journals pay a fee per subscriber so that libraries get *Elements*. Make sure your librarian knows about *Elements* and ensure it is prominently displayed. If your library does not receive any of the journals mentioned above, it can subscribe to *Elements* at a cost of \$125 a year in 2006 (\$100 in 2005). We hope that small colleges and community libraries will subscribe to *Elements* to enlarge their mineralogy and geochemistry content.

**A Few Numbers**

The June issue of *Elements* was mailed to 4167 non-US addresses (521 libraries, 3520 members, and 126 complimentary copies) and 3717 US addresses (815 libraries, 2882 members, and 20 complimentary copies), plus 54 additional copies bulk mailed to book agents for libraries. Thus, a total of 7938 copies were sent to 94 countries.

Rod Ewing, Mike Hochella, Ian Parsons,  
and Pierrette Tremblay



Basalt mountains of the Blossville Coast, East Greenland, part of the Tertiary North Atlantic large igneous province (see below). Photo: Danish Lithosphere Project.

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE, READ ABOUT****Large Igneous Provinces**

Andrew D. Saunders (University of Leicester),  
Guest Editor

Large igneous provinces record major outpourings of igneous rocks, both on the continents and in ocean basins. Their origin is still vigorously disputed, with models invoking mantle plumes, thermal effects of the lithosphere, and meteorite impacts. The environmental consequences are also hotly debated: some argue that voluminous flood basalt volcanism triggered catastrophic changes to the global climate and mass extinctions, whereas others believe their effects to be much less significant. Six contributions by experts in their respective fields outline the various models for the formation of LIPs and summarise the ideas about the environmental consequences of such massive and prolonged volcanism.

**Large Igneous Provinces and the Mantle Plume Hypothesis**

Ian H. Campbell (The Australian National University)

**Large Igneous Provinces and Fertile Mantle**

Don L. Anderson (California Institute of Technology)

**Meteorite Impacts as Triggers to Large Igneous Provinces**

Adrian P. Jones (University College London)

**Gas Fluxes from Flood Basalt Eruptions**

Stephen Self (The Open University), Thorvaldur Thordarson  
(University of Hawai'i at Manoa) and Mike Widdowson  
(The Open University)

**Oceanic LIPs: The Kiss of Death**

Andrew C. Kerr (Cardiff University)

**The Link Between Large Igneous Provinces Eruptions  
and Mass Extinctions**

Paul Wignall (The University of Leeds)