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Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Science Council and Chartered Scientist

Since the last issue of *Elements*, there has been intense activity preparing a dossier of papers in support of the Society's application to become a Licensed Body of the Science Council with the right to award the Chartered Scientist designation. These were submitted to the Registration Authority of the Science Council in early June but whilst the papers and procedures were generally well received at a meeting of the Registration Authority on 9 June, two outstanding matters required further input. It is hoped that these items can be satisfactorily addressed in the next month or so and that the Society can obtain its licence. I hope to be able to invite applications from members before the end of the year for the Chartered Scientist CSci designation.

The Society Honours its Founder

It was gratifying that so many colleagues and representatives from Cornish societies and heritage interests turned out on Friday 10 June at Charlestown parish church near St. Austell to honour the memory of the Society's founder Joseph Henry Collins and unveil a plaque in his name (see separate account). Our grateful thanks are owed to Colin Bristow the local organiser of the memorial and to all those that took part in the event making it a special day in the Society's history.

The Mineralogical Society becomes an Associated Society of GSA

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the Society has become an associated society of the Geological Society of America. Benefits of this association are that Mineralogical Society members can attend the GSA annual meeting at GSA member rates and that our publications can be promoted at that meeting at the GSA stand.

In addition it is hoped that in due course the two societies may work together on joint meetings and publications. The next GSA annual meeting will be held in Salt Lake City from 16 to 19 October 2005.

MINABS Online Offered to Developing Countries at Fraction of Normal Rates

The Society has joined the Programme for Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) based in Oxford, UK. PERI is a programme to support capacity building in the research sector in developing and transitional countries by strengthening the production, access and dissemination of information and knowledge. The Society now offers access to MINABS Online to signed-up institutions in these countries at a fraction of the cost of a full institutional subscription. Further information on PERI is available from Carol Priestly at inasp@inasp.info or at www.inasp.info

G. David Price, President

THE SOCIETY'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS—THE GEOCHEMISTRY GROUP



As an introduction to the Society's special interest groups we aim to present each of the Society's seven special interest groups in the next few issues of *Elements*. This month Phil Leat of the British Antarctic Survey and Group Chair of the Geochemistry Group kicks off with a short piece about the Group, originally founded by the Society and now a Joint Group with the Geological Society of London.

Specialist groups are a vital part of the structure of the Earth sciences in Britain. They exist to promote disciplines within the Earth sciences mainly by organising, sponsoring and providing financial backing for a variety of meetings, workshops and field trips. They also provide small travel bursaries to allow individuals to take part in scientific activities. The Geochemistry Group is one of the few groups to be based around a technology rather than a subdivision of the Earth's spheres. As a consequence the group covers a much wider range of science than most of the other groups. My

background is in magmatism, but it is thrilling to be in a group that covers a wide range of science from mantle processes to biogeochemistry, environmental geochemistry and ocean chemistry.

Recent meetings where we have participated include a highly successful one on the theme Speciation and Toxicity, in London, September 2004; sessions on environmental geochemistry at the Mineralogical Society's annual meeting in Bath, January 2005; and a joint meeting with the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group in Milton Keynes, December 2004. Upcoming meetings we are sponsoring include the International Association of Geoanalysts, Young Scientist Meeting in July in Egham and the meeting on Biogeochemical Controls on Palaeoceanographic Proxies in October 2005, London.

Each year we need to recruit new committee members. If you want to serve on the committee and increase your involvement in any geochemical topic please contact the group secretary, Kym Jarvis (kym.jarvis@kingston.ac.uk) or myself (p.leat@bas.ac.uk)

Phil Leat

WINNERS OF THE 2005 SOCIETY MEDALS

The Schlumberger Medal 2005 to Reinhard Boehler



This award is given to recognize excellence in the mineral sciences. This year it is awarded to Dr. Reinhard Boehler, head of the High Pressure Group at the Max Planck Institute in Mainz, Germany. Reinhard Boehler's work over 25 years has revolutionised the field of high-pressure research as applied to the Earth's deep interior. His innovative research has produced a very wide range of different types of data which have been fundamental to our understanding of the lower mantle and core. He has measured equilibrium phase relations and melting temperatures of silicates, oxides and metals under extreme pressures and temperatures, and much of the data currently available on the properties of these materials under conditions relevant to the lower mantle come from Boehler's laboratory.

The Max Hey Medal 2005 to Paul Hoskin



This medal is given to recognize existing and ongoing research of excellence carried out by a young research worker (normally under 35 years of age at the time of the award). The Max Hey Medal is this year awarded to Dr. Paul Hoskin, assistant professor of mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry at Central Washington University. Paul Hoskin has successfully integrated techniques to solve problems in mineralogy notably in the field of zircon and other accessory minerals research. The excellence of his research is demonstrated by the fact that one of his papers has been selected for inclusion in a forthcoming Landmark Series book concerned with zircon. This paper on the quantification of internal zoning patterns of zircon by fractal statistics is highly innovative.

The above medals will be awarded on 5 January 2006 at the Society's winter conference banquet in the Pump Room complex at Bath.

THE SOCIETY HONOURS ITS FOUNDER



Bob Symes (left) and Canon Warner (right).

On Friday 10 June 2005 over 40 people attended a memorial service and dedication of a plaque in St. Paul's Church, Charlestown, Cornwall to honour the founder of our Society Joseph Henry Collins. J.H. Collins was a remarkable man as he not only founded the Mineralogical Society in 1876 but went on nine years later to found the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy (now part of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining). He was not just an avid founder and officer of societies but someone with a real passion for minerals and mining. He published a number of books and pamphlets on Cornish geology and minerals, several of which have stood the test of time. He was also involved in a practical way in mining, managing both tin mining and china clay operations in Cornwall as well as working as a chemist and public analyst. On founding the Society he immediately launched the *Mineralogical Magazine* and was its first editor. The journal is now an international journal of scientific repute in its 129th year of publication.

The service of dedication was taken by the Rev. Canon Michael Warner, and a fascinating eulogy was given by Dr. Bob Symes of the Natural History Museum in London (see photo). The plaque was unveiled by the Queen's representative in the area, the Mayor of Restormel, Councillor Marilyn Wellman. Our sincere thanks must go to Colin Bristow who has worked so hard to bring this excellent project to fruition. He has brought the Society home to its roots in an area of great mineralogical importance and soon to become a world heritage site.

Adrian Lloyd-Lawrence



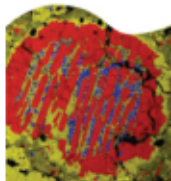
Mineralogical Society Winter Meeting 2006

Micro- to Nano-geosciences:
Developments and Applications

Bath Spa University, Bath 5–6 January 2006



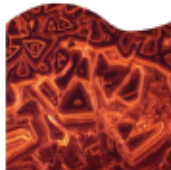
Bath Spa University
Campus



X-ray map of chondrite



Roman bath, Bath



Cathodoluminescence
image of calcite

This meeting will focus on recent developments in techniques for imaging, chemical, isotopic and microstructural analysis at micrometre to nanometre scales which have opened up many new avenues for research on Earth and planetary materials.

MEETING THEMES

- Organic-mineral interfaces, biomineralization and mineral surfaces
- High spatial resolution isotope techniques
- Mineralogy, microstructure and chemistry of finely crystalline materials
- Extraterrestrial mineralogy and astrobiology

PLENARY LECTURES

Hallimond Lecture —
Colonel Alexander (Carnegie Institution Washington)
Probing the origins of the solar system

George Brown Lecture —
Alain Manceau (Grenoble)
Probing the structure of natural nanoparticles with micrometre-sized X-ray beams

Abstract and Early Registration Deadline
30 September 2005

Conference Convenor: Martin Lee (Glasgow)

Information and Registration details:

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E-mail: info@minersoc.org

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PRINCIPAL EDITOR OF MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland seeks nominations for the position of Principal Editor of *Mineralogical Magazine*. The job will officially commence in June 2006 and will be for a fixed-term period of three years, with the possibility of a second three-year term if agreeable to the Society and the individual. The Society may consider appointing two joint editors for the role.

Mineralogical Magazine – Journal of Mineral Sciences has been published without a break since the foundation of the Mineralogical Society in 1876 and is one of the most highly respected titles in the Earth sciences. It is a bimonthly journal circulated to more than 50 countries around the world. The journal has been published online since 2000 and is also included in the recently launched GeoScienceWorld Earth science e-journal aggregate. It has an editorial board of international repute and seeks an Editor of high scientific profile to help lead the journal in these times of change in the publishing world.

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing all scientific aspects of the journal. The Principal Editor will work in conjunction with the journal's Production Editor who will manage all aspects of

publication, and with the Society office which will deal with all matters relating to billing and sales. The successful candidate(s) will also be expected to report to the Society's Publications Committee and to the Society's Council, and where possible, to attend scientific meetings and conferences where the journal might be promoted.

There is no salary for this position, but the Society does award a nominal honorarium and will pay reasonable travel and other overhead expenses. Nominations or self-nominations are acceptable (CV plus covering letter are required) and should be received by the Society's General Secretary, Dr M.E. Hodson, at the Mineralogical Society office, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR, UK (info@minersoc.org), no later than 30 September 2005. Applicants from all countries are welcome but the candidate must be entirely fluent in English. Queries may be directed to the present Principal Editor, Dr. Simon Redfern (satr@esc.cam.ac.uk) or to the Production Editor, Kevin Murphy (kmurphy@iol.ie); tel. +353 (0)23 45401. Interviews will be conducted in London. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.