



www.ima-mineralogy.org

International Mineralogical Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEXT STOP KOBE

This issue of *Elements* will be the last before our 19th General Meeting in Kobe. It is a matter of great sadness that one of our longest-serving and most distinguished Councillors, Werner Schreyer, has recently died. A fitting tribute to Werner by Walter Maresch is published on this page.

The Kobe programme will, as usual, include two meetings of the council and two business meetings at which national representatives will be able to make their views known on the performance and future of IMA. Even in the four years since the last general meeting in Edinburgh, enormous changes have occurred in the way communication occurs between the members of scientific organizations. Scientific publishing is in a state of considerable turmoil. For IMA, *Elements* presents an unprecedented opportunity. Council has had preliminary discussions, by e-mail, on a number of initiatives to strengthen IMA in this fast-changing world. Some of these ideas are listed below, and we would welcome the input of IMA members in general.

A new position of Communications Officer should be created in Council, responsible for providing copy to *Elements* and for obtaining news material from member societies, commissions and working groups.

An IMA medal recognizing distinction in mineralogy should be instituted, with the aim of becoming the most prestigious international mineralogical award.

Commissions and working groups have contributed to the mineralogical community mainly by sponsoring sessions at meetings. Currently they are composed solely of individuals nominated by the national societies. We should consider opening membership to all members of IMA and making them in part international, electronically active newsgroups.

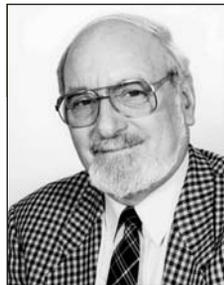
We need to consider co-organization of meetings with other mineralogical and geochemical organizations and to have a long-range meetings plan.

We must solve our problems with setting and collecting membership dues, a topic I discussed at length in *Elements* in February 2006.

In the long term, after our 2010 meeting in Budapest, we need to break the tradition that the chairman of the organizing committee of the general meeting automatically becomes president. The four-year period of presidency is too long. Before the meeting the president-elect is very busy and has little time to learn the ways of IMA. Afterwards, the new president relaxes, exhausted. I speak with personal experience here. The president of IMA should be a distinguished mineralogist, elected by the international community, and the position should not simply be an outcome of the success of a national bid to run a general meeting.

Please let me have your views on any of these topics. If IMA is supported by your national mineralogical organization, *IMA is your society*. I look forward to meeting some familiar faces in Kobe, and I wish the organizers the best of success in what promises to be an outstanding meeting.

Ian Parsons
President



IN MEMORIAM

Werner Schreyer (1930–2006)

IMA councilor Werner Schreyer passed away on February 12, 2006, after battling a particularly virulent type of cancer for a number of months. Werner calmly accepted the reality and the consequences of his illness. He drew solace from the fact that his life had been filled to the brim with the excitement of science, the pleasures of classical music and the company of his family, his friends and his colleagues he enjoyed so much. Werner is survived by his wife, Marianne, and their two sons, Andreas and Christoph.

From the very beginning of his professional career, Werner Schreyer viewed mineralogy from an international perspective. He was the first German fellow to join the Carnegie Institution in Washington after the war. His key role some 20 years later in the establishment of the Bayerisches Geoinstitut in Germany can be viewed as his tribute to this institution and its importance in the geosciences. Werner was a member of the IUGS Commission on Experimental Petrology at High Pressures from 1971 to 1992 and its chairman from 1971 to 1984. He was a member (1972–1984) and chairman (1976–1984) of the German National Committee for IUGS and IMA national representative for Germany (1990–1994). Werner took on the role of IMA councilor in 1994.

Werner Schreyer was an outstanding scientist of international stature. The presentation of the Roebling Medal by Peter J. Wyllie and the acceptance by Werner Schreyer (*American Mineralogist* 88: 936-939, 2003) provide wonderful and eloquent testimony to this. Originally trained in Munich as a hard-rock petrographer in the classical German tradition, Werner became one of the pioneers of experimental petrology in Germany after his fellowship at the Carnegie Institution. Big hammers, big samples and astute observation were his trademarks in the field. He combined his uncanny powers of perception and intimate knowledge of field relationships with precisely planned laboratory experiments to open new avenues of research. His approach must be considered the optimum marriage of field and laboratory work. Werner's impressive list of more than 250 publications spans a wide spectrum, including classical field work in structural geology and petrography, theoretical and experimental aspects of metamorphic petrology, and detailed crystal chemistry and mineral physics of a wide range of minerals and their experimental analogs. Many of these articles are seminal introductions to new directions in these fields. Those who read "Mr. Cordierite's" early papers on this mineral will note concepts of geospeedometry far ahead of their time. His early work in the MASH system later evolved into the foundations of ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism.

Werner Schreyer was a respected, effective and exciting teacher. With determination and energy, he and his team made the Institute of Mineralogy in the newly created Ruhr-University of Bochum one of the world's most distinguished departments. Werner expected hard work from those around him but led the way himself. More than ten of his graduates and co-workers have gone on to professorships elsewhere. Above all, Werner Schreyer was not only an exceptional scientist and teacher, but also a friend and a stimulating colleague.

Over the years, Werner's outstanding work has been recognized by many. He was particularly proud of the Roebling Medal awarded to him in 2002 by the Mineralogical Society of America, and considered this award to be a crowning tribute to his career. Prior to this, the German, Austrian and Belgian mineralogical societies had bestowed their corresponding highest honour on him as well. Honorary doctorates were awarded by the Universities of Hanover and Liège. Werner Schreyer was a member of six scientific, learned academies and Honorary Fellow of five international geoscience societies.

Werner was in the midst of a prolific and successful second career as emeritus professor. We will miss his youthful enthusiasm and his eagerness to learn. Mineralogy has lost one of its most prestigious post-war scientists.

Walter Maresch
IMA National Representative for Germany