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## Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

### NOTES FROM LONDON

#### *Frontiers in Mineral Sciences 2007*

At the time of writing, the stage is set for our joint meeting with MSA, MAC and SFMC in Cambridge. This meeting has attracted an unprecedented amount of interest with over 400 delegates registered. Sessions will range from applications of synchrotron and neutron radiation in mineralogy to the mineralogy, structure and dynamics of the Earth's mantle. The meeting will feature sessions on environmental themes and a special session on feldspars in memory of the late J.V. Smith of the University of Chicago. We hope the British weather will be kind to us so that delegates can enjoy the social programme of outdoor activities, including a banquet in the Magdalene College Fellows' Garden and punting on the river Cam. The Society would like to record its thanks to the meticulous organisation provided by Michael Carpenter and his team from the Earth Sciences Department in Cambridge.

#### *Distinguished Lecturers' Programme*

In 1994 Professor Andy Rankin of Kingston University, then president of the Society, suggested that the Society inaugurate a Guest Lecturer Programme. In the spring of 1996 Professor Eugen Stuppfl of the University of Leoben gave the first lectures at one Irish and five UK universities. This was followed by another successful series of lectures in the autumn of 1997 by Professor D. Kohlstadt of the University of Minnesota. Since then the programme has been dormant. Last year Professor Ben Harte suggested reviving the tradition and re-naming it the Distinguished Lecturers' Programme. It is with pleasure that we now report that the first two lecture series will be given in 2007–2008 by Professor Jon Blundy of Bristol University and Professor David Vaughan of the University of Manchester.

#### *New Principal Editor for MINABS Online*



Dr Harry Shaw

The Society is delighted to welcome Dr Harry Shaw as the new Principal Editor of *MINABS Online*, succeeding Dr Jim MacDonald who has done a magnificent job bringing the printed journal *Mineralogical Abstracts* into the electronic age. Jim MacDonald has provided the community with a first-class electronic database of mineral-science abstracts which is easily searchable and provides access to over 125,000 abstracts. This is an important research tool for all those carrying out research in the mineral sciences. Harry Shaw takes over the

baton from a distinguished line of previous Principal Editors which include Professor Bob Howie, James Phemister and L.J. Spencer, and we wish him every success with the journal.

### VALEDICTION

This is my last contribution as News Editor of the Society's pages in *Elements* as at the end of August I shall be retiring from the Society after nearly nine years in the post of Executive Secretary. I would like to thank everyone in the Society and also all those in the international mineral science community who have contributed to the Society and supported me in this work during that time. In particular I would like to thank my colleagues Kevin Murphy and Russell Rajendra who put in a tremendous effort to make sure the Society runs smoothly. I also owe a debt of gratitude to Frances Wall and Mark Hodson as General Secretaries for their unstinting efforts and enthusiasm which have made my job so rewarding. It has also been a

pleasure to work with several distinguished presidents in our field: Bernard Leake, Dave Morgan, Bernie Wood, David Price and last but by no means least Ben Harte. After over 40 years working in Earth science, space technology and remote sensing, I'm now off for some relaxation cruising the inland waterways in my narrow boat. I hope I shall keep in touch with many of you. I leave the Society in good hands as Kevin Murphy takes over from me in September in the role of Executive Director of the Society. The London office will be managed by Russell Rajendra as Finance and Operations Manager. I wish both Kevin and Russell all the very best in their new posts.

**Adrian Lloyd-Lawrence**

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## Landmark Papers

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2

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## MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE UPDATE

*Mineralogical Magazine* continues to be published bimonthly and reports original research in mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry and petrology to an international audience. It publishes around 70–80 regular papers (750–1000 pages) each year. In most years, one of the six issues is a special issue on a topical subject. Recent special issues have included “Environmental Mineralogy” (2003), “Protons in Minerals” (2004) and “Speciation and Toxicity” (2005); papers included in them are highly cited. A special issue entitled “Synchrotron and Neutron Methods in the Earth Sciences”, arising from the *Frontiers* meeting in Cambridge (June 2007), is planned for 2008.

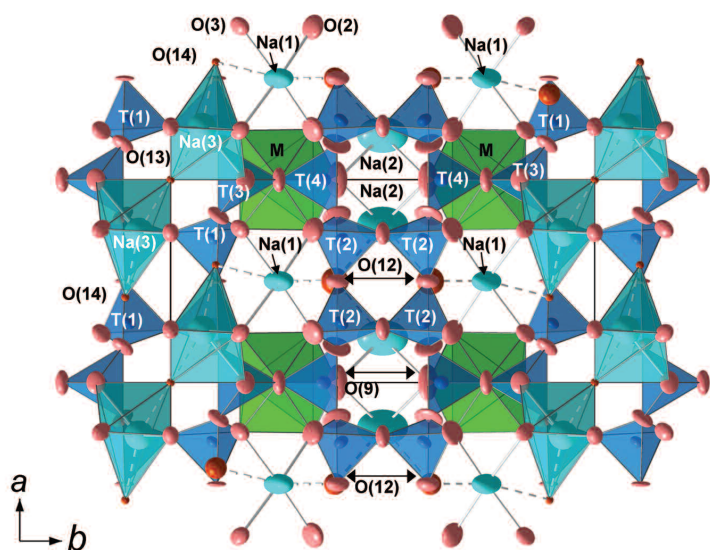
## Editorial Board

The board has nearly doubled in size in the last year and currently comprises a Principal Editor and eleven Associate Editors from the international geosciences community covering all the major research fields.

MARK WELCH (Principal Editor, Natural History Museum, UK)  
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PETER SCOTT (Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, UK)  
EVA VALSAMI-JONES (Natural History Museum, UK)

## Colour figures

Authors are actively encouraged to consider submitting colour figures where they feel this would benefit clarity and impact. We particularly encourage authors of manuscripts on crystal structures to prepare figures in colour in the expectation that these will be published in colour. Figure 1 is an example from a recent paper on sazhinite-(La) by Cámara et al. (2006) and is representative of the excellent colour reproduction that can now be achieved. Element maps, thin sections, geochemical diagrams and locality maps are other types of colour figures published recently by the journal. The Principal Editor will gladly advise authors on the use of color in their papers.



**Figure 1.** Crystal structure of sazhinite-(La),  $\text{Na}_3\text{LaSi}_6\text{O}_{15}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$ . Taken from Cámara et al. (2006) *Mineralogical Magazine* 70: 405-418

## GES8 CONFERENCE — 18–22 AUGUST 2008

Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface 8 (GES8) is a joint meeting of the International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC), the Mineralogical Society and the Natural History Museum (London, UK). The IAGC, formerly known as the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry, is affiliated with the International Union of Geological Sciences. The principal objective of the IAGC is to



Photo courtesy of the NHM

foster co-operation in and the advancement of geochemistry in the broadest sense. This meeting on the geochemistry of the Earth's surface will comprise keynote talks and poster presentations from the delegates and will be held at the Natural History Museum, London. The meeting, which will run from 18 to 22 August 2008, will be followed by a field trip.

The meeting is being convened by Mark Hodson (Reading); e-mail: m.e.hodson@reading.ac.uk. Further details on the meeting can be found on the meeting website at [www.ges8.com](http://www.ges8.com).

## CURRENT PLANNED SESSIONS AND PRESENTERS

## Mineral Weathering (Vala Ragnarsdottir and Steve Banwart)

- Anna Rosling (Uppsala) – Biological weathering
- Jonathan Leake (Sheffield) – Biological weathering
- Stefano Bersconi (ETH Geological Institute) – Weathering in glacial forefields in the Alps

## Use of Synchrotrons in Environmental Science

(Sam Shaw, Dave Polya and Eva Valsami-Jones)

- Jürgen Thieme (Göttingen) – X-ray microscopy, soil particles, clays, etc.
- Peter Heaney (Penn State) – Time-resolved synchrotron powder diffraction of mineral reactions
- Fred Mosselmans (Diamond) – TBA

## Contaminated Environments and Toxicology (Mark Hodson)

- Herb Allen (Delaware) – Biotic ligand model
- Susan Stipp (Copenhagen) – Ni in water, green rust: interface and particle interactions
- Susan Carroll (Lawrence Livermore) – Rad waste, concrete and water chemistry
- Alan Manceau (Grenoble) – Micro XAS, XRD, etc., speciation

## Biomineralisation (Vernon Phoenix and Martin Lee)

- Julian Gale (Curtin) *Hallimond Lecturer* – Computational mineralogy and biomineralisation
- Liane Benning (Leeds) – Silicification
- Jean Dominique Meunier (Aix-en-Provence) – Phytoliths
- Jan Veizer (Ottawa) – Environmental reconstruction
- Maggie Cusack (Glasgow) – Biomineral growth and reconstruction

## Environment and Human Health (Dr Kym Jarvis)

## Global Geochemical Cycles and Climate Change (Prof. Dr Klaus Wallmann)

- Klaus Wallmann (IFM Geomar) — TBA

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is being arranged in two residence halls at Imperial College. There will be single standard rooms available at Beit Hall for £32.00 per day and single *ensuite* rooms at South Side Hall for £43.00 per day. Taxes and full English breakfast will be included. Accommodation is limited and must be booked by 15 March 2008.

## REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES

Registration for this meeting will be online at [www.ges8.com](http://www.ges8.com) and will be open from 1 January 2008.

The deadline for early registration and abstract submission is **15 March 2008**.