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## Mineralogical Society of America

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Publications News from MSA



Some of the most exciting MSA news comes from the ever-active publications front. The MSA Monograph series is the proud parent of a major new addition: *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*, with text by Darby Dyar and Mickey Gunter and graphics by Dennis Tasa. Weighing in at 708 pages plus a 2.7 Gb DVD, this book was many years in gestation and represents a triumph of creativity and perseverance by the authors. The text breaks with tradition in many ways. The chapters are flexibly modular so that instructors can tailor the book to their curricula rather than being forced to do the reverse. Later chapters return to and reinforce earlier concepts in greater depth, consistent with the “spiral learning curve” by which most students absorb ideas. Most important, the DVD that accompanies the book contains interactive graphics that test student understanding and are integrated into the learning experience.

In one sense, MSA has been in the textbook business for many years. For example, we continue to reprint Don Bloss’s books *Optical Crystallography* and *Crystallography and Crystal Chemistry* as well as Frank Spear’s “Blue Book” *Metamorphic Equilibria and Temperature-Pressure-Time-Paths*. Similarly, many of the *RiMG* volumes are used in classes. However, these books are appropriate for upper-level undergraduates and even graduate students, whereas the Dyar-Gunter-Tasa (DGT) text is our first foray into the introductory mineralogy market inhabited by many stalwarts, including the longest continually revised science text of all, *The 23rd Edition of the Manual of Mineral Science*, written by two past presidents of MSA, Cornelis (“Kase”) Klein and Barb Dutrow. Given the panoply of mineralogy courses offered around the world, there is plenty of room for all of these texts, and MSA has been eager to provide a

high-quality candidate for adoption. If you teach an undergraduate mineralogy course, take a careful look at DGT to see whether it suits your needs. We are proud to publish this new text, and we have priced it for student affordability.

The *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* series saw three additions since spring 2007: *Fluid-Fluid Equilibria in the Crust* (vol. 65), edited by Axel H. Liescher and Christoph A. Heinrich; *Paleoaltimetry: Geochemical and Thermodynamic Approaches* (vol. 66), edited by Matthew J. Kohn; and *Amphiboles: Crystal Chemistry, Occurrence, and Health Issues* (vol. 67), edited by Frank Hawthorne, Roberta Oberti, Giancarlo Della Ventura, and Annibale Mottana. MSA is grateful to the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei for sharing half the printing costs of volume 67—another example that our societies are strengthened through international collaboration. Although *RiMG* short

courses devoted to mineral groups have had to share the stage with texts focused on instrumental techniques and planetary processes to an increasing degree, mineral-group issues have averaged about one per year over the last 15 years. The *Amphiboles* text revisits a topic treated in two *RiM* volumes (9A and 9B) in 1981–1982, just as *Sulfide Mineralogy and Geochemistry* (vol. 61), edited by David Vaughan (2006), reprised the first member of the *RiM* series published in 1974. Likewise, *Natural Zeolites* (vol. 45), edited by David Bish and D. Ming (2001), returns to the subject of *RiM* volume 4 (1977). One might surmise that the effective lifetime for volumes devoted to mineral groups is on the order of 25 to 30 years, which seems about right. To see the full list of the *Review* series, please visit <http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/RiM/>. Some others of these early volumes are ripe for a modern spin. As always, MSA members owe a big thanks to editor Jodi Rosso for her tireless efforts in bringing the *RiMG* series to life.

Finally, members of MSA should know that Council is taking a hard look at the future of the

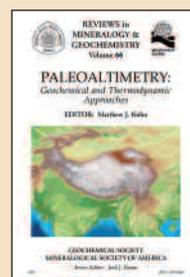
paper version of *American Mineralogist*. The number of institutional subscribers to *Am Min* has been decreasing steadily for over a decade. On the flip side, the percentage of new members who select only web access to the journal has increased regularly. At some point, the production of the paper edition of *American Mineralogist* (as currently printed) will become financially untenable. We know that such changes are unnerving to some segments of our membership, and no one wants to rock the boat for a publication that ranks fourth among all geoscience journals in terms of citation impact (as reported in the July/August 2007 issue of *ScienceWatch*). Fortunately, Alex Speer, Rachel Russell, and Bob Dymek have been monitoring these trends for some time, and they will serve on an ad hoc committee headed by vice president Nancy Ross that will provide a timeline and a mechanism offering the smoothest transition possible. Stay tuned for more on this topic next fall.

Peter J. Heaney  
President

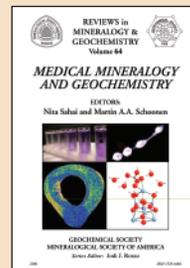
### NEW TITLES

#### Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry

Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society



VOLUME 66  
**Paleoaltimetry: Geochemical and Thermodynamic Approaches**, Matthew J. Kohn, editor. ISBN 978-0-939950-75-1 \$40



VOLUME 67  
**Amphiboles: Crystal Chemistry, Occurrence, and Health Issues**, Frank C. Hawthorne, Roberta Oberti, Giancarlo Della Ventura, Annibale Mottana, editors. ISBN 978-0-939950-79-9 \$45

VOLUME 64  
**Medical Mineralogy and Geochemistry**  
N. Sahai and M.A.A. Schoonen, editors  
ISBN 978-0939950-76-8 \$40

For descriptions and tables of contents of these books, and online ordering, visit [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org) or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1125, USA phone: +1 (703) 652-9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951 e-mail: [business@minsocam.org](mailto:business@minsocam.org)

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- The results of the 2007 MSA election are as follows: president – Peter Heaney, vice president – Nancy Ross, secretary – Mickey Gunter, councilors – Peter Burns and Carol Frost. A total of 1047 ballots (45.2% of the 2316 members eligible to vote) were received by the August 1, 2007, deadline, up from 898 ballots last year. This is the fourth highest number of voters since the first election in 1920; only 1982 with 1149 members voting and 1967 and 1966 with 1069 ballots were higher.
- Accepting the recommendations of the respective award committees, the MSA Council selected Bernard W. Evans of the University of Washington as the 2009 Roebling Medalist. James Badro of the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, Paris, France, is the 2009 MSA Awardee, and Ronald E. Cohen of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, DC, is the 2008 Dana Medalist. The next Distinguished Public Service Medal will be presented in 2009.
- The 2008 Kraus Crystallographic Research Grant recipient is Daniel R. Hummer, Pennsylvania State University, for the study “Nucleation and Growth of Titanium Oxide Nanoparticles in Aqueous Solution.”
- New Fellows of the Society are Lawrence M. Anovitz, Bryan C. Chakoumakos, Giancarlo Della Ventura, Daniel E. Harlov, Raymond L. Joesten, Matthew J. Kohn, Helen M. Lang, David W. Mogk, John F. Rakovan, Mark David Welch, and Ru Y. Zhang.
- Reports by the MSA secretary and the MSA treasurer containing more details on these and many other society events of the past year are available on the MSA website by selecting “Officer Reports” under “The Society.”
- *American Mineralogist*, from volume 1, number 1 (1916) through volume 84, number 11/12 (1999), is free to anyone online at [www.minsocam.org/MSA/ammin/toc/](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/ammin/toc/). The articles are scanned pdf files with OCR text behind the page images. This means you can search both the complete journal run (by using the Google Search box on the MSA home page and selecting the “Search minsocam.org” radial button) and individual articles that you download.

The pdf files were created by the RRUFF project, with additional funding from the National Science Foundation EAR-0622371 towards development of the American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database ([www.minsocam.org/MSA/Crystal\\_Database.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Crystal_Database.html)). MSA appreciates the support through Bob Downs that allowed this to happen, as well as the efforts of the webmaster, Gordon Nord, in posting these on the MSA website.

- All 2006 and 2007 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2008. If you have not renewed your MSA membership, please do so. If you have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA business office. You can also renew online at anytime.
- The membership for 2007 is 2363, up from 2006, and is the largest since 1992 (2414). The institutional journal subscriptions for 2007 total 645; this is 44 less subscribers than in 2006. This number of subscribers does not include the 229 subscribers who have access to the *American Mineralogist* through GeoScienceWorld (GSW). Of those GSW subscribers, 28% are current (2007) MSA (paper + electronic) journal subscribers, 11% were 2006 subscribers, 17% were 2005 subscribers, 10% subscribed sometime before 2005 (and before there was a GSW), and 34% were never MSA subscribers. Some, but not all, of the subscribers lost in 2006 cancelled because of GSW, and there is a good chance that most of the 2007 subscribers will eventually do so. The other 60% were lost as (or never were) *American Mineralogist* subscribers for reasons unrelated to GSW. It seems that GSW is fulfilling its goal of reversing the loss of subscribers, even bringing new ones, though not to the paper version.

**J. Alex Speer**  
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## MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT THE 2007 MSA AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 88<sup>th</sup> annual awards luncheon of the Mineralogical Society of America was held on October 30, 2007, during the 2007 Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, Colorado.



From left to right, Simon Redfern, citationist, Richard Harrison, MSA Award winner, and Barb Dutrow

Outgoing president Barb Dutrow recognized the MSA lecturers for this past year, Jane A. Gilotti, Tim K. Lowenstein, and Stephen Parman, as well as outgoing secretary George Harlow. Moreover, J. Alex Speer and Rachel Russell were recognized for their 10+ years of service to the Society. These latter awards were not listed in the official printed program and were a pleasant surprise for the awardees and attendees.

Richard John Harrison received the Mineralogical Society of America Award, which is granted for outstanding research early in one's research career. His research explores the magnetism and microstructure of minerals and the relationships to their macroscopic properties.

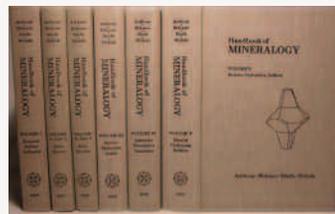


Gordon Brown being presented the Roebling Medal by Barb Dutrow. Gerald Gibbs (right) and Michael Hochella (left) were citationists.

Gordon E. Brown Jr. was awarded the Roebling Medal, the Society's highest honor, in recognition of lifetime scientific achievement. His research has ranged from atomic-level structure and chemical bonding of minerals to molecular-level studies of environmental contaminants. Over the past 30 years, applications of synchrotron radiation to problems involving Earth materials have been a major focus of his research.

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- Vol. V Borates, Carbonates, Sulfates** \$130  
813 p., 2003 (ISBN 0-9622097-4-0)

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