



[www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)

## Mineralogical Society of America

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

#### Farewell to a Master of New Minerals



Pete Dunn

1984 seems like a long time ago. It was the year the first Apple Macintosh was sold. *Terms of Endearment* won the Academy Award for best picture. The Soviet Union boycotted the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. And Ronald Reagan beat Walter Mondale by a landslide. 1984 also started a 23-year mineralogical streak that came to an unexpected close in December 2007. Dr. Pete Dunn, museum specialist at the National Museum of Natural History, announced his retirement as the United States' voting member on the International Mineralogical Association's Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification (CNMNC).

To appreciate the extent of this achievement, you may need some background information. The CNMNC is universally recognized as the final arbiter for issues involving mineral taxonomy; it was founded in 1959 with "the purpose of controlling the introduction of new minerals and mineral names, and of rationalizing mineral nomenclature." Worldwide, the communities of professional researchers and amateur collectors have come to rely on the expertise of this group to bring order to our mineralogical vocabulary. The workload is heavy and never ending. Every month, each member receives a mailing of between five and eight proposals to review, and the documentation in each package is daunting.

The work of the CNMNC flies under the radar screen of many MSA members for two reasons. The first involves the status of mineral nomenclature as a science in the United States. The *American Mineralogist* has carried a regular section entitled "New Mineral Names" since 1917, and until the 1990s, U.S. authors contributed routinely to this effort. Over the past 15 years, however, the declining American participation in the identification of new minerals has been steep and unambiguous. Nevertheless, it is an activity that continues to thrive outside the United States. Second, Pete Dunn performed his duties so ably and steadfastly that the challenges were resolved with little fuss or fanfare. His extraordinary aptitude for this work should not be surprising. Pete himself has identified more new minerals than any other person; to date he has published over 133 new minerals, representing ~3% of all those known.

We are lucky that Dr. Anthony Kampf, curator at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, has agreed to succeed Pete. Tony has a long and distinguished history with IMA, and he has authored many publications on new minerals. We all wish Pete a long and happy retirement, with sincere thanks for his enduring service to MSA and the field of mineralogy.

Peter J. Heaney

### NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

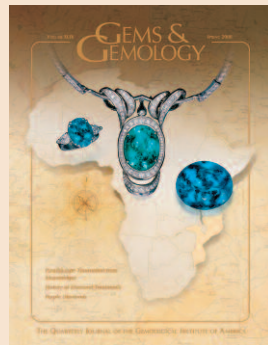
- Regular member dues were last increased in 2004 by \$5 to \$55, but this was offset by a \$5 discount for early renewal. Because of the considerable time lapse since that increase, MSA Council voted at its 2008 Spring Meeting to increase regular member dues in 2009 by \$10 to \$65. Members who renew online before October 31, 2008, will receive a \$5 dues discount; the discount reflects cost savings for online renewal. Student dues remain at \$10 because they were raised to that level only last year. Sustaining membership will remain at \$150 + regular dues.

Domestic and foreign member subscription rates to *American Mineralogist* will continue to be different in 2009 to reflect actual costs of mailing and in order to shift a portion of first-copy costs from institutional subscribers to individual subscribers, as was begun last year. The U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) will be \$70 (currently \$60), and foreign member subscription price will be \$80 (currently \$70). Member electronic-only subscription will remain at \$30. The U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) will be raised to \$825 (from \$775), and foreign institutional subscription will be raised to \$850 (from \$800). Included with the institutional subscription are all the current-year issues of *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Elements*, as well as access to the electronic journal on the MSA website.

- Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are also sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but they are sent notices because this is the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.

- MSA 2009 membership renewals will start by October when membership renewal notices will be sent electronically. This will be followed by electronic reminders, and then a paper copy will be sent to those who do not renew online by the end of October.

- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA (*Journal of Petrology*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogical Record*, or *Rocks & Minerals*), please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to these publishers before your subscription runs out.



- MSA will offer another journal to its members at a reduced rate on the renewals: *Gems & Gemology*. This is the quarterly journal of GIA (The Gemological Institute of America), which presents up-to-date technical information about diamonds and colored stones—where they are found, their special characteristics, simulants and synthetics, treatments, and identification techniques.

J. Alex Speer

[j\\_a\\_speer@minsocam.org](mailto:j_a_speer@minsocam.org)

### IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD J. MARCIN

(Life Fellow – 1947)

EVEN IF YOUR INTERESTS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE AROUND YOU, THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN MSA.  
JOIN MSA ONLINE AT [WWW.MINSOC.ORG](http://WWW.MINSOC.ORG)

