



# Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

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

## EXCITING LINE-UP OF MEETINGS

In recent months the Society has been busy planning for several meetings, which will all happen in the next 18 months. Details of these are given below.

### *Nature's Treasures: Minerals and Gems*

Natural History Museum, London – Sunday, 7 December 2008



This is a one-day meeting, co-organized by Gem-A (the Gemmological Association and Gem-testing Laboratory of Great Britain), the Russell Society and the Mineralogical Society. It will provide a day of short talks of interest to an audience comprising members of all three organizations and to others who have not previously had an association with any mineral/gem society. Students from schools and universities will be welcome. A morning of short talks will be followed by lunch and, in the afternoon, by a series of mineral displays.

An exciting group of talks is planned:

- **ROY GILL**, University of Edinburgh: 'Minerals and their growth, shapes and colours'
- **JACK OGDEN**, Gem-A: 'Minerals to gems, and ancient uses'
- **JEFF HARRIS**, Glasgow: 'Smashing diamonds'
- **ANDY RANKIN**, Kingston: 'Fluid and solid inclusions in minerals and gems; guides to their origin'
- **KATHRYN GOODENOUGH**, British Geological Survey, Edinburgh: 'Mapping and mineral exploration in Africa'
- **KAREN HUDSON-EDWARDS**, Birkbeck College, London: 'Environmental mineralogy'
- **CHRIS STANLEY**, Natural History Museum, London: 'Industrial applications of minerals'
- **BOB SYMES**, Devon: 'Minerals in the field: where to find them, and how to collect responsibly'
- **BRIAN JACKSON**, Edinburgh: 'Agates'
- **ADRIAN FINCH**, St. Andrews University: 'Mineral luminescence: the brilliance of imperfections'

Register online at

[www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature/nature.html](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature/nature.html)

### *New Views of the Earth's Interior*

Burlington House, London – 12–13 February 2009

This is a cross-disciplinary meeting organized jointly by the British Geophysical Association and the Mineral Physics Group of the Mineralogical Society. The aim is to present new developments on the structure, composition, dynamics and evolution of all parts of the Earth's interior. This includes subduction zones, the transition zone, the lower mantle and D'', and the Earth's inner and outer cores. Scientists who have agreed to give presentations are: Dr Arwen Deuss (Cambridge, UK), Dr Dan Frost (BGI), Prof. Alex Halliday (Oxford, UK), Prof. Thorne Lay (University of California Santa Cruz, USA), Dr Carolina Lithgow-Bertelloni (UCL, UK), Prof. Graham Pearson (Durham, UK), Prof. Andreas Rietbrock (Liverpool, UK), Prof. Paul Tackley (ETH, Switzerland), Dr Lidunka Vočadlo (UCL, UK), Prof. Don Weidner (SUNY-Stony Brook, USA).

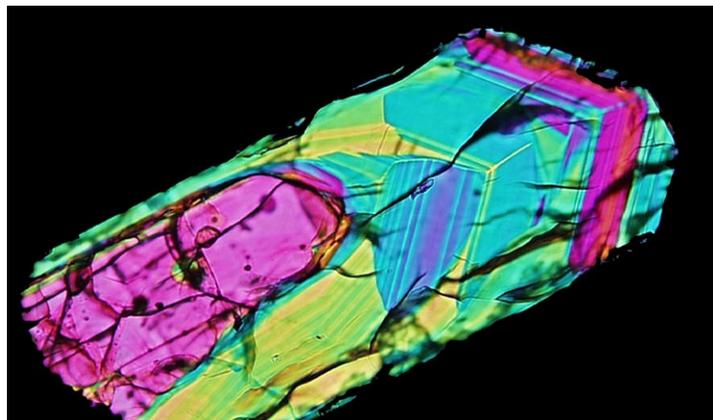
Dr Sebastian Rost will also present the Bullerwell Lecture of the British Geophysical Association at the meeting.

Go to [www.minersoc.org/pages/groups/minphys/minphys.html#views](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/groups/minphys/minphys.html#views) for more information or to register; contact the convenor, Prof. J. Brodholt, University College London, at [j.brodholt@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.brodholt@ucl.ac.uk) for information.

### *Micro-Analysis, Processes, Time (MAPT)*

Edinburgh, 31 August to 2 September 2009

Numerous updates to the proposed sessions for this meeting have been published on the MAPT website. Please visit [www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/MAPT/MAPT.html](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/MAPT/MAPT.html) for details about this exciting meeting.



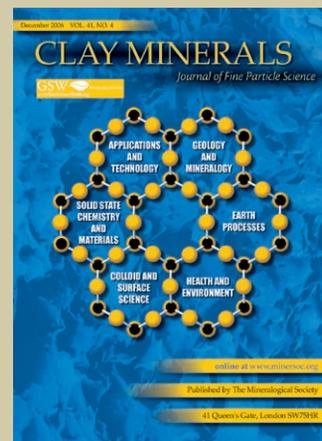
## PUBLICATIONS NEWS



### *Mineralogical Magazine*

The editors of *MinMag* have been working hard to catch up on the delay in publication of the journal. At the time of writing, the June 2008 issue is in press. The February 2008 issue comprises extended abstracts from the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface 8 conference held in London in August 2007. This is available on an open-access basis at

[www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsocmag/2008/00000072/00000001](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsocmag/2008/00000072/00000001). Feel free to visit and download copies of the abstracts free of charge!



### *Clay Minerals*

We are delighted to announce that Prof. D. Bish (University of Indiana) has become an Associate Editor of *Clay Minerals*. Welcome Dave.

## MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS TO CEASE PUBLICATION AFTER 88 YEARS

*Minabs Online*, formerly *Mineralogical Abstracts*, will cease publication at the end of 2008 after nearly 90 years of operation. At its peak in the late 1980s, *Mineralogical Abstracts* had a circulation of some 600 library subscribers, as well as many more individual subscribers who were members of the joint publishers, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Mineralogical Society of America. From the outset, part of the *Mineralogical Abstracts* ethos was to make geochemical, mineralogical and petrological data available worldwide and, in particular, to help those who could not afford to subscribe to the growing number of published journals. This ethos was continued in recent years when *Minabs Online* was made available at nominal cost, or free in many cases, to colleagues in more than 100 developing nations. A feature of both *Mineralogical Abstracts* and *Minabs Online* has been to list the more important data and the conclusions along with the abstract. Also the original title has always been quoted exactly as in the original paper (inclusive of any spelling variants), but the correct or IMA-approved spelling of mineral names was used in the text of the abstracts. This feature has been particularly appreciated by students completing their theses and by authors of papers for publication.

*Mineralogical Abstracts* first appeared in March 1920 as a supplement in *Mineralogical Magazine*. Its first editor was L.J. Spencer, Keeper of Mineralogy at what is now the Natural History Museum, and he continued as Editor for 36 years. It started with just a few abstracts in each issue, but by the time Spencer's reign as Editor ended in 1956 and he was succeeded by Norman Henry, the number of abstracts had increased considerably. To cope with the increasing output, Spencer recruited colleagues from all over the world to act as abstractors, and he appointed sub-editors to take charge of the editing and arrangement of 18 sub-sections.

The steady increase in the number of abstracts necessitated a change in page size, leading to *Mineralogical Abstracts* being published as a separate journal from the *Mineralogical Magazine* in 1958, when James Phemister took over as Editor. Over the next few years, the growing number of abstracts reflected the upsurge in research papers resulting from innovations such as the electron microprobe, X-ray spectrometry, X-ray fluorescence, etc. Around this time more abstractors were recruited from universities, museums, and geological surveys around the world. Individuals who assisted valiantly include such people as P. Bayliss, A.C. Bishop, R.I. Gait, R.K. Harrison, C.M.B. Henderson, R.A. Howie, B. Lindqvist, B. Mason, D.J. Morgan, R.F. Nafziger, A. Pabst, I. Parsons, G.W. Robinson, N.C.N. Stephenson, I. Sunagawa, M. Weibel and J. Zeeman.



Robert Howie

The initials R.A.H. (representing Prof. R.A. Howie) first appeared beneath an abstract in 1958; the number of RAH abstracts increased steadily year by year, and during the last year of publication, there will be more than 1700 RAH abstracts. Bob Howie was appointed Editor in 1966 (designated as Principal Editor in 1971) and served on the Mineralogical Society Council continuously for more than 40 years. During that time, he has contributed some 60,000 abstracts to *Mineralogical Abstracts* and *Minabs Online*. In 1999 Jim MacDonald was appointed as Deputy Principal Editor, and in

2002 he became Joint Principal Editor with the specific remit of overseeing the creation of the online version of *Mineralogical Abstracts*. Bob Howie retired as Principal Editor in 2003.

January 2004 saw the launch of *Minabs Online*, whose database included all the abstracts published in *Mineralogical Abstracts* since 1982, and during that year the print version was phased out. Due to ill health, Jim MacDonald stood down as Principal Editor in 2007 and was succeeded by Harry Shaw. A key member of the editorial staff whose contribution to *Mineralogical Abstracts* and *Minabs Online* also needs to be acknowledged is Robert Preston. Robert provided expertise in the areas of printing and scientific publishing as well as helping editorially in many, many abstracts.

Although the creation of *Minabs Online* achieved very significant savings in production costs, the institutional subscription base continued to shrink with increased competition from both subscription-based and free searchable databases. In addition, increasing pressure on academics and others worldwide has made it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteer abstractors to provide the quality of abstracts required, and the problem could not be rectified by employing paid abstractors because of the need to minimise production costs. Most significantly, perhaps, the recent disappointing usage of the database has made it difficult to justify the very considerable effort made by the editors and our worldwide team of volunteer abstract writers. The combination of these factors has led us to the decision to discontinue publication at the end of 2008. The Mineralogical Society intends to retain the 132,000 abstracts (1981–2008) as a 'free-to-all' resource, as long as demand exists.

The Mineralogical Society Council and membership say a very big 'Thank you' to all those who have worked on *Mineralogical Abstracts* and *Minabs Online* over the years. Your enormous contribution has helped many generations of scientists deal with the increasingly huge volume of literature available to them. We hope that you will be able to continue to serve the Society in other ways.

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FOR PURCHASE FROM THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Landmark Papers

### Metamorphic Petrology

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The key benefit in the Landmark series is the commentaries by guest editors. Bernard Evans, in this case, places in context the chosen works and describes how they contributed to the advancement of the science. He weaves a fascinating tale. "Many metamorphic rocks are attractive in appearance, in hand specimen and in thin section under the microscope. Their aesthetic appeal touches senses beyond the merely scientific, a pleasure that most geochemists forego. Added to this is the satisfaction we derive as they reveal each new instance of nature's fidelity to scientific laws. But the aesthetic appeal comes at a cost. Metamorphic petrologists need to be adept in very many things: crystal chemistry, physical chemistry, phase equilibria, microscopy, textural analysis, regional geology, structural geology, geodynamics and geochronology."

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## AND FINALLY

It's coming close to annual subscription time again. We have introduced a small increase in the membership fee for this year. Members and fellows will be asked to pay £32, i.e. an increase of £1. Students are still entitled to one year's free membership. Students renewing will be billed at the bargain rate of £10. Optional extras include paper journals and/or e-journals. Please visit [www.minersoc.org/pages/msinfo/membership.html](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/msinfo/membership.html) for details about the charges for these. This year, for the first time, members will be able to pay their dues online. A message will be sent to all members in early November, inviting them to do so.

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