



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

2008 IN REVIEW

As another year in the life of the Society comes to an end, it is worth reflecting on the year that has passed, on the aspects of the Society that worked well, and on those which can be improved upon.

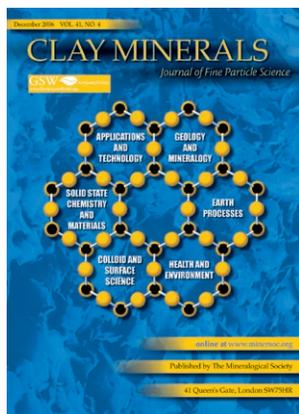
This year, the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface meeting (GES8), held in London during August, was a resounding success. Under the leadership of Mark Hodson, we welcomed 145 scientists to London for a week for a varied and fascinating programme of talks and posters. The feedback was hugely positive, and many delegates are already warming up for the next event (GES9) to be held in Boulder, Colorado, USA, under the stewardship of Suzanne Anderson. The ability of the Society's staff to handle much of the conference administration, including registration, financial management, website, abstract-volume production, etc., meant that the convenors could get on with the job of organizing the best scientific event possible.



Hallimond Lecturer Prof. Julian Gale (right) receives the formal certificate from Society President Prof. Michael Carpenter at the GES8 meeting.

The Society has ramped up its involvement in conferences, and next year we will help to run three meetings, including those of some of its constituent Special Interest Groups. We are happy to help and advise in the running of conferences of a mineralogical/geochemical nature. Contact Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org) for more information.

We have now launched the Online-First (GeoScienceWorld)/Fast-Track (Ingenta) services for *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*. This means that your



paper will now be published online shortly after it is accepted, rather than having to wait for the next full issue to be ready. This can mean a difference of several months in some cases. The online edition will be published complete with final page numbers and so will be fully 'citable'.



The editors of *Mineralogical Magazine*, in particular Mark Welch, have worked very hard this year to get the journal back on track, and we hope that by the time you read this, we shall be there or thereabouts. A temporary blip in the paper flow led to a delay in publication which persisted throughout 2008. On the positive side, the journal's impact factor increased to >1.2, its highest for a couple of years. We hope to build on that for 2009.

Our free student memberships have been very popular. *Elements* is universally popular amongst Earth scientists, and the opportunity to receive copies for a full year is snapped up eagerly by students, 135 of them this year. The Mineralogical Society is the only society offering free subscriptions to *Elements* to students, so if you, as a student, would like to sign up for a year, please contact info@minersoc.org or complete the online membership application form which you can find at www.minersoc.org. At the end of your free year, you will then be invited to pay £10, a bargain price for membership in the Society in subsequent years, and you will be offered the opportunity to apply for travel grants of up to £500 and invited to attend conferences at a much-reduced rate of registration (free in many cases). The MinSoc is a very student-friendly organization, and we welcome input from students. Please contact Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc.org) with ideas and suggestions for events or services which you think would benefit students.

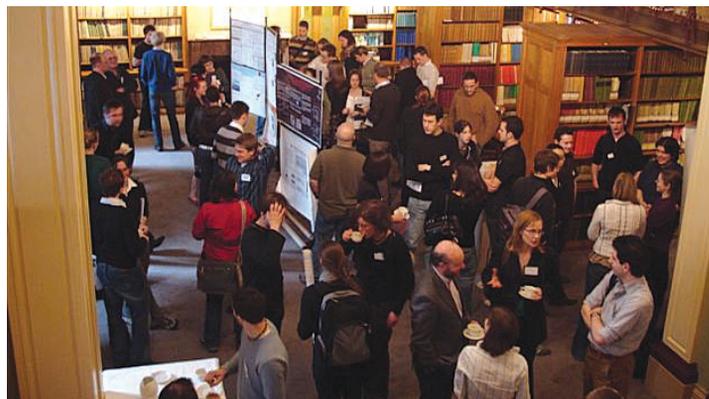
In December 2008 we held a joint meeting with the Russell Society (www.russellsoc.org) and Gem-A (www.gem-a.info): 'Nature's Treasures: Minerals and Gems'. There were 100 delegates, most of whom had not attended a Mineralogical Society event in the past. A morning of rapid-fire talks on a range of mineralogical/gemmological topics was presented, with emphasis on information for the non-specialist and with high visual impact. This was achieved admirably by all of the speakers.

Lunch was followed by a small display on mineralogical/photo-graphic/gemmological topics. We hope to repeat this event in coming years, as it is an ideal way to reach out to non-specialists in our subject, and to invite them to contribute to the society and to partake in what it has to offer. See report on page 427.

The Mineralogical Society student award winners for 2007/2008

- Jalal Al-Hinaai, Cardiff University
- James Banyard, University of Exeter in Cornwall
- Nicola Clark, University of Leicester
- Elizabeth Cramer, University of Liverpool
- Joan D'Arcy, University College Dublin
- Mitchell D'Arcy, Imperial College London
- Carol Dempsey, National University of Ireland, Galway
- George Evans, University of Reading
- Adam Grant, University of Brighton
- Caroline Jones, Keele University
- Paula Keogh, Trinity College
- Ericka Lukasevica, University of Aberdeen
- D.A. Neave, University of Cambridge
- Constantina Pierides, University of London
- Alehni Claire Simmonds, University of Leeds
- David Simpson, University of Manchester
- Kerrie Taylor-Jones, University of Edinburgh

Unlisted institutions in Great Britain and Ireland are invited to forward the name of their award winners to Martin Hughes (admin@minersoc.org).



THE COLLINS MEDAL – A NEW SOCIETY AWARD

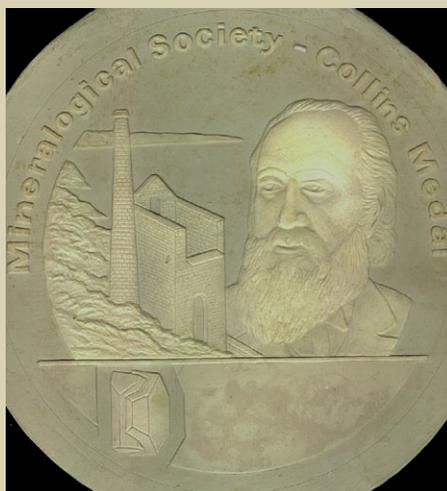
At its meeting in March 2008, the Society's Council finalized an agreement, initiated in 2007, to establish a new medal, named after Joseph Henry Collins (1841–1916), mining engineer, mineralogist and geologist, and one of the founding members of the Society.

The Collins Medal will be awarded annually to a scientist who, during a long and active career, has made an outstanding contribution to pure or applied aspects of mineral sciences and associated studies. Publications, teaching, outreach and other activities leading to the promotion of mineral sciences, in the broadest sense, will be taken into account in making the award. Nominees do not have to be members of the Mineralogical Society or nationals of Great Britain and Ireland.

Nominations for the first award of this medal should be made before 30 April 2009. The first presentation will take place at the annual Society meeting in 2010. For further details see www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html.

Collins was one of the founding members of the Society, and indeed, the minutes of the first meeting, chaired by the President, H. C. Sorby, suggest that the setting up of the Society was largely due to his efforts and enthusiasm. In the Society's early years, Collins acted as both Secretary and as Editor of the Society's journal, both of which posts he relinquished in order to take up an appointment with Rio Tinto Mines in Spain where he became the chief chemist and metallurgist.

Not content with having founded the Mineralogical Society, he became involved in the founding of the Institution of Mining



and Metallurgy, of which he was Vice-President at the time of its formation in 1892. Collins was at one time Secretary and, later, President of the three principal learned societies in Cornwall – the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, the Royal Institution of Cornwall and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. He received the Henwood Gold Medal from the Royal Institution of Cornwall and the Bolitho Gold Medal from the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Imperial Mineralogical Society of St. Petersburg. He also had terms of office as President of the Mineralogical Society and of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy.

Collins made an extraordinary contribution to the development and study of the Cornubian mining region and to the china clay industry. He also harboured a keen interest in systematic mineralogy. In a paper

from 1878 he said, "My own opinion is, that having established our *species* as definitely as possible, and having broadly arranged these species in a small number of primary *classes* according to the general character of their chemical constitution, it will be better in establishing the minor subdivisions or groups to give considerable weight to external characters. We shall thus sufficiently recognize these characters, and shall at the same time give a convenient practical aspect to our science without offending any reasonable scientific susceptibility." Read the full paper at www.minersoc.org/pages/Archive-MM/Volume_2/2-9-65.pdf. He was also a regular publisher on the subject of clays; indeed he pioneered exploration for china clay in the St. Austell area. In 1887, Collins read a paper on kaolinite, including the arguments for and against considering clays to be minerals at all!

In 2005, a plaque in honour of Joseph Henry Collins was unveiled at Charlestown Parish Church, Cornwall. It is fitting that this new award of the Society should be named in honour of such an important founding father of our Society and our discipline.

A more complete history of the life of Joseph Henry Collins, penned by Colin M. Bristow, is available on the Society's website at www.minersoc.org/pages/msinfo/collins.html, where the original paper by Dr Bristow is reproduced with permission from the Newsletter of the St. Austell China Clay Museum. The Society also acknowledges Dr Bristow's provision of photographic and other material used in the production of the medal.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

New Views of the Earth's Interior

MINERAL PHYSICS GROUP, IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE BRITISH GEOPHYSICAL ASSOCIATION

12–13 February 2009
Burlington House, London

This cross-disciplinary meeting is organised by the British Geophysical Association and the Mineral Physics Group of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The aim is to present new developments on the structure, composition, dynamics and evolution of all areas of the Earth's interior. This includes subduction zones, the transition zone, the lower mantle and D'', and the Earth's inner and outer core. Scientists who have agreed to give presentations are:

- Dr Arwen Deuss (Cambridge, UK)
- Prof. Guillaume Fiquet (Université Pierre et Marie Curie Paris 6, Université Denis Diderot Paris 7, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris)
- 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, who will also present the Bullerwell Lecture (of the British Geophysical Association) at this meeting

Abstracts for posters and oral presentations are now invited. Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/groups/minphys/minphys.html for further information, to register, and to submit an abstract. The meeting convener is Prof. J. Brodholt, Department of Geology, University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK (j.brodholt@ucl.ac.uk).