International Association of Geoanalysts

http://geoanalyst.org

PRESIDENT'S SPRING REPORT

The beginning of 2009 has brought notable milestones for our Society, and *Elements* magazine offers me the perfect vehicle by which to update both IAG members and the broader geoanalytical community.

Mireille Polvé to Step Down as Editor-in-Chief of GGR

Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research (*GGR*) has been the official journal of the IAG ever since our Society was established in 1997. And ever since that time Mireille Polvé has been one of our journal's two editors-in-chief. Although Mireille retired last year from her research position at the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, she elected to continue her role with *GGR* until the completion of the current three-year cycle on which our organization is based. Everyone associated with *GGR* was naturally pleased with her ongoing commitment to the journal.

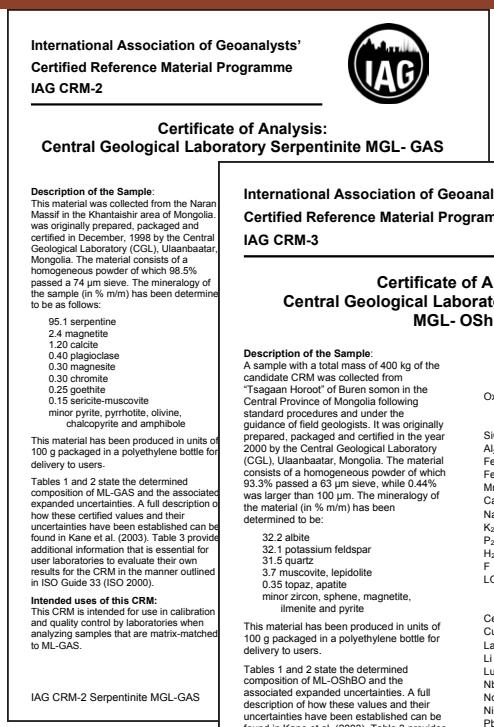
With the approach of the Geoanalysis 2009 conference in September, the leadership of *GGR* is now preparing for the transition to a new editorial structure. Envisioned is an expanded staffing of the editor-in-chief's department, leading to further reductions in the duration of the submission-to-press cycle. With Mireille's departure from the *GGR* leadership, special attention is also being focused on assuring the high scientific quality of the journal, maintaining *GGR*'s impressive impact factor (currently 3.00) and further expanding its readership. On behalf of all of us associated with *Geostandards*, I wish Mireille all the best for the future and say "THANKS !!" for the 35 outstanding issues produced under her leadership.

In Situ Proficiency Testing Scheme Becomes Routine

For the past decade the Geo-PT proficiency testing programme has been a cornerstone of good laboratory practice for bulk rock analysis laboratories. This well-established programme is now joined by "G-Probe", the IAG's second PT scheme, which supports laboratories active in the discipline of geochemical microanalysis. Managed by Steve Wilson of the U.S. Geological Survey's Denver office, G-Probe organizes twice-annual distributions of materials specifically tailored to the QA (quality assurance) needs of the in situ microanalytical community. Initially it is planned that sample distribution will alternate between synthetic glasses and specially produced pressed powders. Such materials can be used for the QA needs of both major (e.g. EPMA) and trace element (e.g. LA–ICP–MS) analytical methods. Further information on both G-Probe and Geo-PT, including participant application forms, is available from http://geoanalyst.org/.

IAG Releases Two New Certificates of Analysis

In March 2009 the IAG completed work on its latest round of ISO-compliant sample certifications. Two new Certificates of Analysis have now been released, representing the second and third whole rock powders to have achieved the highest metrological status. Both MGL-GAS (serpentinite) and MGL-OShBO (alkaline granite), with 11 and 28 certified element concentrations, respectively, are now available for purchase from our partner organization, the Central Geological Laboratory (www.cengeolab.com). This certification round, led by Jean Kane, who stepped down as chairperson of the IAG's sample certification committee in 2007, demonstrates the IAG's ability to respond to the growing demand for high-quality reference materials. As a result of this latest certification round, and in conjunction with the increased personnel resources of our certification committee, the IAG has now established a structure for the routine production of new Certified Reference Materials. The ultimate goal of our efforts is the production of one or two carefully selected CRMs over a given 18-month interval.



International Association of Geoanalysts'
Certified Reference Material Programme
IAG CRM-2

Certificate of Analysis:
Central Geological Laboratory Serpentinite MGL- GAS

Description of the Sample:
This material was collected from the Naran Massif in the Khantaishir area of Mongolia. was originally prepared, packaged and certified in December, 1998 by the Central Geological Laboratory (CGL), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The material consists of a homogeneous powder of which 98.5% passed a 74 µm sieve. The mineralogy of the sample (in % m/m) has been determine to be as follows:

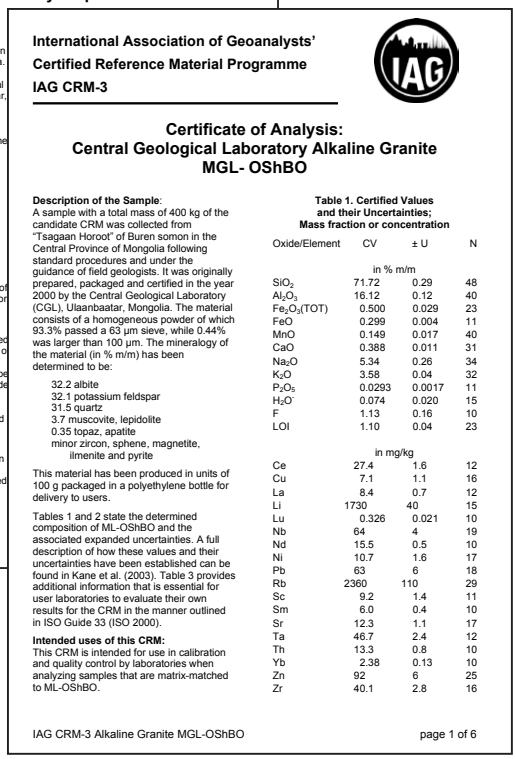
95.1 serpentine
2.4 magnetite
1.20 calcite
0.40 plagioclase
0.30 magnesite
0.30 chromite
0.25 goethite
0.15 sericite-muscovite
minor pyrite, pyrrhotite, olivine, chalcopyrite and amphibole

This material has been produced in units of 100 g packaged in a polyethylene bottle for delivery to users.

Tables 1 and 2 state the determined composition of ML-GAS and the associated expanded uncertainties. A full description o how these certified values and their uncertainties have been established can be found in Kane et al. (2003). Table 3 provide additional information that is essential for user laboratories to evaluate their own results for the CRM in the manner outlined in ISO Guide 33 (ISO 2000).

Intended uses of this CRM:
This CRM is intended for use in calibration and quality control by laboratories when analyzing samples that are matrix-matched to ML-GAS.

IAG CRM-2 Serpentinite MGL-GAS



International Association of Geoanalysts'
Certified Reference Material Programme
IAG CRM-3

Certificate of Analysis:
Central Geological Laboratory Alkaline Granite
MGL- OShBO

Description of the Sample:
A sample with a total mass of 400 kg of the candidate CRM was collected from "Tsagaan Horoot" of Buren somon in the Central Province of Mongolia following standard procedures and under the guidance of field geologists. It was originally prepared, packaged and certified in the year 2000 by the Central Geological Laboratory (CGL), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The material consists of a homogeneous powder of which 93.3% passed a 63 µm sieve, while 0.44% was larger than 100 µm. The mineralogy of the material (in % m/m) has been determined to be:

32.2 albite
32.1 potassium feldspar
31.5 quartz
3.7 muscovite, lepidolite
0.35 topaz, apatite
minor zircon, sphene, magnetite, ilmenite and pyrite

This material has been produced in units of 100 g packaged in a polyethylene bottle for delivery to users.

Tables 1 and 2 state the determined composition of ML-OShBO and the associated expanded uncertainties. A full description of how these values and their uncertainties have been established can be found in Kane et al. (2003). Table 3 provides additional information that is essential for user laboratories to evaluate their own results for the CRM in the manner outlined in ISO Guide 33 (ISO 2000).

Intended uses of this CRM:
This CRM is intended for use in calibration and quality control by laboratories when analyzing samples that are matrix-matched to ML-OShBO.

Table 1. Certified Values and their Uncertainties; Mass fraction or concentration

Oxide/Element	CV	± U	N
	in % m/m		
SiO_2	71.72	0.29	48
Al_2O_3	16.12	0.12	40
Fe_2O_3(TOT)	0.500	0.029	23
FeO	0.299	0.004	11
MnO	0.149	0.017	40
CaO	0.388	0.011	31
Na_2O	5.34	0.26	34
K_2O	3.58	0.04	32
P_2O_5	0.0293	0.0017	11
H_2O^-	0.074	0.020	15
F	1.13	0.16	10
LOI	1.10	0.04	23
	in mg/kg		
Ce	27.4	1.6	12
Cu	7.1	1.1	16
La	8.4	0.7	12
Li	1730	40	15
Lu	0.326	0.021	10
Nb	64	4	19
Nd	15.5	0.5	10
Ni	10.7	1.6	17
Pb	63	6	18
Rb	2360	110	29
Sc	9.2	1.4	11
Sm	6.0	0.4	10
Sr	12.3	1.1	17
Ta	46.7	2.4	12
Th	13.3	0.8	10
Yb	2.38	0.13	10
Zn	92	6	25
Zr	40.1	2.8	16

IAG CRM-3 Alkaline Granite MGL-OShBO page 1 of 6

Establishment of a Geochronology Special Interest Group

At its March 2009 meeting in London, the IAG Governing Council approved the establishment of a new geochronology special interest group. Though intended to support the needs of analysts active in the field of isotopic dating, this interest group will initially tackle key metrology issues affecting the U–Pb dating method. Recommendations for standardizing data reduction protocols and the organization and evaluation of round robin analyses are two possible areas of early activity. Details about this new IAG undertaking will be reported in forthcoming issues of *Elements*.

Best regards from Potsdam,

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