

WELCOMING



The Meteoritical Society becomes the sixteenth society to join *Elements*, and we wholeheartedly welcome its members. This is the first issue they will receive, and their first society news will appear in the October issue. The Meteoritical Society (MetSoc) promotes research and education in planetary science, with emphasis on studies of meteorites and cosmochemistry that further our understanding of the origin and history of the solar system. MetSoc was founded in 1933 and is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the state of California. It currently has 970 members from 38 countries. MetSoc publishes the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* (<http://meteoritics.org>) and cosponsors *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* with the Geochemical Society.

THIS ISSUE

In this issue, "Atmospheric Particles," Guest Editor Reto Gieré and his team of authors provide an overview of a topic of wide-ranging importance for our health, our well-being, and the climate of our planet. The subject is global as dust storms on one side of the world can affect people on the other side, thousands of kilometers away.

While working on this issue, two things happened that made this topic feel very close to home. On April 15, hours before leaving for a two-week vacation in Italy, I became aware that a volcano had started erupting in Iceland and that flights were cancelled in northern Europe. Our flight made it to Rome, but we witnessed the people stranded in Italy, the train stations packed with anxious travelers. A few weeks later, smoke from forest fires in Central Quebec created a "brown cloud" over Quebec City. People described it as being "an end-of-the-world" feeling. Fortunately, it lasted only one day!

GEORGES CALAS, PRINCIPAL EDITOR 2011–2013

Georges Calas has accepted our invitation to join the editorial team, starting officially in January 2011. He will replace David Vaughan, whose term ends at the end of 2010. We will welcome Georges formally in the first issue of 2011. In the meantime, he is being integrated into the team and participates in all discussions.

ELEMENTS AT GOLDSCHMIDT

On Sunday, June 13, the editors held their annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, just prior to the Goldschmidt Conference. Even though we exchange many e-mails and have regular conference calls, this yearly face-to-face meeting is invaluable. Barb Dutrow, the chair of the Executive Committee, attended

the first half of the meeting. The editors and members of the Executive Committee also met at the end of the day. An informal lunchtime gathering of the editors, members of the Advisory Board, and members of the Executive Committee was also held during the conference.

High on our agenda was slating topics for the remainder of 2011 and the first half of 2012. We reviewed a series of excellent proposals and tentatively scheduled topics for the second half of 2011; our tentative lineup for 2011 is as follows:

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| V7n1 | Cosmochemistry |
| V7n2 | Iron in Earth Surface Systems |
| V7n3 | Global Water Sustainability |
| V7n4 | When the Continental Crust Melts |
| V7n5 | Tourmaline: From a Gemstone to a Geochemical Indicator |
| V7n6 | Mine Wastes |

We also have given the go-ahead to proposals on the following topics: Impact Craters; Pegmatites; Minerals, Microbes, and Remediation; and Rare Earth Elements.

I recently attended the annual meeting of the Council of Science Editors in Atlanta, Georgia, where I was invited to present a talk entitled "Elements: A Copublishing Venture – Changing the Mineralogy-Geochemistry Landscape" in the session "Hot Topics and Cool Collaborations." Many things about this meeting were different from the scientific meetings I usually attend; watch for a report in an upcoming issue of *Elements*.

Pierrette Tremblay, Managing Editor

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Behind the scenes working on behalf of *Elements* is the Executive Committee (EC), composed of a representative from each of the participating societies. The division of labor is such that the primary task of the Executive Committee is the financial oversight and the operation of *Elements*. The EC approves the annual budget and cost allocation to the participating societies, makes decisions concerning the operation of *Elements* and new member societies, provides timely information to the societies and in turn returns society information to the EC, approves the appointments of the Principal and Managing Editors

of *Elements* and brainstorms ideas for the continued success of *Elements*. Business is conducted via a flurry of e-mails, two conference calls per year, and an in-person meeting at a major conference, typically Goldschmidt. Every attempt is made to come to agreement on decisions by consensus, and our committee spends hours deliberating important decisions. If no agreement is reached (which is rare), decisions are made by a simple majority of votes, allocated on the basis of society membership. Having an EC member from each society assures that every society is represented in the operation of *Elements* and has an advocate for that society.

Highlights from our meeting at Goldschmidt in Knoxville include several new features that will be introduced in upcoming issues: *Elements'* course packets, "The *Elements* Toolkit," and "Breaking News"!

If you have ideas or suggestions, or wish additional information about *Elements*, contact your Executive Committee member or send your ideas to any of us.

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Barb Dutrow, Chair



Your editors, hard at work but looking very relaxed. From left to right, Tim Drever, David Vaughan, Pierrette Tremblay, Hap McSween, and outgoing principal editor Susan Stipp. PHOTO: BARB DUTROW