



Mineralogical Society of America

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

American Mineralogist – Our Journal



John Brady

One of the principal motivations for the founding of the Mineralogical Society of America was the creation of “a journal to be devoted exclusively to the publishing of mineralogical papers” (Phair 1969). Ninety years later, *American Mineralogist* remains a cornerstone of MSA, prominently serving the international community as a prestigious journal in the fields of mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, and geochemistry. We are fortunate that we are able to publish our own journal and to ensure that it evolves with MSA, its members, and the times. Many scientific societies are not so fortunate, either not having a journal or sharing control of their journal with a commercial publisher.

The emergence of electronic publishing has provided many opportunities and challenges to *American Mineralogist*, and continues to do so. Since electronic subscriptions became available, subscriptions to the print version of *American Mineralogist* have declined steadily. The majority of members who subscribe are now electronic subscribers. And many members have dropped their subscriptions altogether because they have electronic access through an institutional subscription. Direct institutional subscriptions have also declined, down to 572 (in 2009) from 912 ten years ago. However, subscriptions to GeoScienceWorld (GSW), which include access to *American Mineralogist*, have increased to 336 (2009). Thus the total number of institutions with access to the journal is almost as large as a decade ago. GSW appears to be one of the futures for *American Mineralogist*, and we hope it will be a bright one.

MSA is a not-for-profit organization and *American Mineralogist* is a not-for-profit journal. As discussed in my April letter about “open access,” journal costs (about \$250 per page) are paid principally by subscription income, with some help from those authors who contribute “page charges” (\$75 per page) or for color figures. As the number of direct subscriptions declines, income from GSW must increase to pay expenses, or some other solution must be found. You can help keep *American Mineralogist* strong in several ways. (1) If your institution has a GSW subscription, download *American Mineralogist* articles from GSW. The

income that MSA receives from GSW is determined by how many *American Mineralogist* or *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* articles are downloaded from the GSW site. (2) Submit research and review papers to *American Mineralogist*. The more good papers that appear in *American Mineralogist*, the more downloads there will be from GSW and the greater the income MSA will receive. (3) If you have a paper accepted in *American Mineralogist*, pay the page charges or open access fee if you have grant or institutional funds to do so. (4) Make sure that your institutional library subscribes to *American Mineralogist* directly or to GeoScienceWorld. (5) Continue your personal electronic subscription to *American Mineralogist* or resubscribe, even if your institution has a subscription. Think of your subscription as a donation to ensure the future of *American Mineralogist*.

American Mineralogist is our journal, dedicated to serving the membership of MSA. In response to requests from MSA members, two important changes to *American Mineralogist* were approved at the MSA Council meeting at Goldschmidt 2010 in Knoxville. (1) Online versions of papers now can have color figures at no cost to authors who are MSA members. (2) Preprints of accepted manuscripts will now be posted immediately on the *American Mineralogist* website with a DOI that will match the final edited paper, providing “publish-before-print” access. If you have suggestions for other improvements to our journal, please send them to the editors or to Council.

My institutional library must cut journal subscriptions on a regular basis because of costs rising faster than our periodicals budget. Most of that budget goes for expensive, commercially published, for-profit journals. Society-published, not-for-profit journals like *American Mineralogist* are comparative bargains that benefit both libraries and the scientists who use them. Consider all the times you have accessed electronic versions of older issues of *American Mineralogist* for free. You are not likely to find a similar benefit with a for-profit journal. *American Mineralogist* is worthy of your support. Please do your part to keep our journal strong. With your help, *American Mineralogist* will continue to be the signature product of MSA.

Phair G (1969) The founding of the Mineralogical Society of America. *American Mineralogist* 54: 1244-1255

John Brady (jbrady@smith.edu), 2010 MSA President

2010 GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition
Reaching New Peaks in Geoscience

31 Oct. – 3 Nov. 2010
 Colorado Convention Center
 Denver, Colorado, USA

Abstract Deadline: 10 August 2010

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®

Right, top to bottom: Gardens of the Gods, Flatirons Golf Course, Civic Park and downtown Denver, and Colorado Sand Dunes.
 Photos used with permission from: Visit Denver, the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

www.geosociety.org

Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy
 by Darby Dyar and Mickey Gunter
 Illustrated by Dennis Tasa

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- DVD-ROM has demo versions of CrystalMaker software to view mineral structures and simulate their power and single crystal diffraction patterns.
- Ordering info, book and DVD-ROM content at www.minsocam.org/MSA/DGT.txt
- Non-member price: \$90, member price: \$67.50
- ISBN 978-0-939950-81-2

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Regular member dues for 2011 will remain at \$65, offset by a \$5 discount for members who renew online before 31 October 2010, reflecting cost savings to MSA for members who renew promptly online. Student dues remain at \$10. A sustaining membership will remain at \$150 + regular dues.

Member subscription rates to the 2011 *American Mineralogist* will differentiate between domestic and foreign destinations in order to reflect costs of mailing, include the cost of producing paper copies, and transfer a portion of first-copy costs from institutional subscribers to individual subscribers. The US member subscription price (paper and electronic) will be \$90 (currently \$80), and the foreign member subscription price will be \$100 (currently \$90). Member electronic-only subscriptions will remain at \$30. The US institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) will increase to \$900 (from \$875), and foreign institutional subscriptions will be raised to \$925 (from \$900). These changes represent increases of less than 3%. Included with the institutional subscription are all the current-year issues of *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry*, *Elements*, as well as access to the electronic journal on the MSA website.

- MSA 2010 membership renewals will start by October with membership renewal notices sent electronically. This will be followed by electronic reminders, before a paper copy is sent to those who do not renew online by the end of October.
- 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 as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.
- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Gems & Gemology*, *Journal of Petrology*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, or *Rocks & Minerals*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to these publishers before your subscription runs out.
- MSA Council approved a new policy statement entitled “Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks.” It is available on the MSA website, under “The Society,” then the “MSA Policy Statements” headings.
- In this issue MSA expresses its thanks to members and organizations that have contributed financially to MSA in the last year. MSA truly appreciates that support. These Fund contributions in almost all cases have designated purposes, for example research grants, lecture program, Bloss Fund, etc. The Funds also gain revenue in other ways, such as from the money received for life memberships. In either case, it is required that the income, and *only the income*, from the Fund investments be spent in those specific ways. This is a challenge, especially when investment income shrinks as during the current financial environment. Some have the misperception that MSA’s endowment is little more than a bank account containing a large slush fund and that all the money can be spent in any way, and in any amount. Another important consideration, given our finite resources, is to ensure that the amount spent for a program is sufficient to have an impact. Dividing a fixed sum into too many parts would provide the comfort of responding to many requests and avoid the awkwardness of having to say no. However, it is likely that the limited support would be marginal to the success of many of the requests received by the MSA office. MSA concentrates its support on a few programs, some of which may be unique among mineral-related societies: MSA Lecture Program, student research grants, AMU Awards, the outreach portions of the MSA website, and low-cost publications and short courses. These are successful and, because they are sufficiently funded, have a large impact. Other societies, with different interests and histories, have their focus elsewhere: student travel grants, public policy, scholarships, lobbying, meeting sponsorships, and professional certification. MSA could involve itself in all these as well, but likely to the detriment of what it does now.

J. Alex Speer
jaspeer@minsocam.org

CONTRIBUTORS AND BENEFACTORS

Many members contribute to MSA each year by including a contribution with their dues, and at other times in response to special appeals. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of the MSA Endowment, MSA Mineralogy/Petrology, MSA Outreach, Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research, Bloss, or General Operating Funds. The income of these funds are to support MSA’s research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; publishing of *American Mineralogist*; the American Mineralogist Undergraduate Awards; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award; the Dana Medal; the Roebling Medal; the website; and the lectureship program. If you have not done so previously, you might want to consider contributing at the next opportunity. We extend our gratitude to the individuals and organizations that have made contributions to MSA between June 10, 2009, and June 30, 2010. These are listed on the MSA website and can be found by selecting “Contributions to MSA” on the MSA home page (www.minsocam.org), under “The Society.”

JILL BANFIELD, DANA MEDALIST 2010



At the June 2010 Goldschmidt Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA, the Mineralogical Society of America awarded its **Dana Medal** to **Jillian F. Banfield** of the University of California, Berkeley, USA. This medal recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions to the mineralogical sciences through original research by an individual in the midst of her or his career. Dr. Banfield was recognized for her work in environmental mineralogy. Her work includes mineral reaction and transformation science (e.g. the oriented aggregation of nanocrystallites, reactions on the surface of Mars); nanoscience applied to mineralogy (e.g. the role of natural nanomineral particles in geochemical processes, reaction kinetics, crystal growth, and contaminant transfer); and microbe–mineral biogeochemistry (e.g. the atomic-scale chemical action of bacteria in the processes of weathering and oxidation-based pollution of the environment, the electronic workings of cell membranes, natural extremophile environments).

IN MEMORIAM

WALTHER M. BARNARD (Member – 1959)

*Mineralogical Society of America
and Geochemical Society*
Short Course Announcement

DIFFUSION IN MINERALS AND MELTS

December 11–12, 2010
Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa
Napa, CA, USA
(before Fall AGU Meeting)

Convenors

Youxue Zhang
University of Michigan

Daniele Cherniak
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute

The short course will focus on diffusion of all elements in minerals and melts at high to moderate temperatures. Topics include: theoretical background on diffusion, experimental methods and analytical techniques in diffusion studies, and summary and assessment of diffusion data in minerals and melts.

More information and registration: www.minsocam.org