Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

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COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

Some 3400 pages of material for publication will pass through the Society this year, and part of the job that I do is to polish those pages so that they read a little better. As I write this, the June issue of *Elements* has just arrived and I have read the contributions by Bruce Yardley and Susan Stipp with interest. They talk about a subject which fascinates me. How do the things that we write or communicate to our colleagues and others add value to knowledge of the subject? This question applies in many areas of life.

I am interested in sport. Many analysts are employed on sports programmes to enhance our enjoyment of the game in question. Sometimes they manage to achieve this. How? For me, it's not by being controversial or argumentative or dogmatic but by providing insight – telling me things I didn't know already. Boris Becker is a wonderful person to listen to in tennis commentary. He tells me things that I, as someone with just a passing interest in tennis, didn't know.

In 1984 Nadeau et al. wrote about the "fundamental particle" in clay science. Real insight, but without an open-minded editor (David Morgan) and reviewers, it might not have passed through the editorial gates of MinSoc journal *Clay Minerals*. It's not just funders, but editors and reviewers also, who have an important say in what is published and so how science is advanced.

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director

Nadeau PH, Tait JM, McHardy WJ, Wilson MJ (1984) Interstratified XRD characteristics of physical mixtures of elementary clay particles. Clay Minerals 19: 67-76

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT BURSARY REPORT

Andreas Enggist, bursary winner

I would like to thank the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland for the bursary that allowed me to attend the Goldschmidt 2010 Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. It was a great experience and an excellent opportunity to present my research to a broad audience. Furthermore, it allowed me to network with fellow researchers from all over the world.

For me, the conference started on Sunday with a hike in the Smoky Mountains that was organized by the conference conveners. It was a perfect way to make new friends and contacts in different fields and disciplines while enjoying scenic views in the Smokies. The hike was followed by a reception at the conference center, where I met more attendees and saw many researchers again from my former university and from previous conferences and short courses I attended.

The sessions were organized such that on every day of the meeting I found interesting talks to attend. At the poster sessions, which were held late in the afternoon, I was able to discuss science with colleagues in front of their posters, and, later in the evening, everyone gathered there to meet up with old and new friends and go for supper together.

On Thursday, I gave my talk about the stability of phlogopite in the mantle in the presence of carbonate. The talk went well and I got some good feedback from members of the audience.

Andreas Enggist
University of Alberta, Canada

MEETINGS

Nature's Treasures 3 – December 12, 2010

Following on the success of Nature's Treasures 1 and 2 (see report with pictures and copies of the presentations at www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature/nature-archive.html and www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature2/nature2-archive.html), this is another one-day meeting, co-organized by Gem-A (the Gemmological Association of Great Britain), the Russell Society, the Mineralogical Society, and this year for the first time, Rockwatch, in association with the Natural History Museum, London.

The aim is to provide a day of short talks which will appeal to anyone with an interest in minerals and gems, including members of all four organizations. Students from schools and universities are welcome, and members of Rockwatch, in particular, are encouraged to participate.

The day will commence at 10 am with coffee and registration, followed by the first talk at 10.30 am. Lunch will be followed by some displays, with more talks in the afternoon.

Provisional Programme

Morning session: Analysis and Identification

Fred Mosselmans	Illuminating the sciences: The Diamond Light Source
Pete Treloar	Non-destructive techniques in the analysis of minerals and gems
Terry Williams	Micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) applied to mineralogical samples
Doug Garrod	And you thought it was natural!

Afternoon session: General

Ron Callender	Scottish gold
Maggie Campbell Pedersen	Gems from life
Caroline Smith	Meteorites
William Burgess	Nature's treachery: Arsenic in the Bengal basin

For registration information go to: www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature3/nature3.html

Frontiers in Environmental Geoscience 2011

The Frontiers in Environmental Geoscience 2011 meeting will be held in Aberystwyth, Wales, on 21–24 June 2011. The list of proposed sessions is as follows:

- Reactivity and toxicity of nano-et micro-particles in natural and contaminated environments
- Applied mineralogy of the critical zone: metal reactions at mineral surfaces
- Mine drainage – mineralogy, geochemistry, remediation
- Shining synchrotron light on the natural environment: metals, microbes and minerals
- Geochemical and biogeochemical behaviour of radionuclides and toxic elements in the environment
- Ash and aerosol emissions from active volcanoes: characterisations, processes and impacts
- Biologic mineralization: Paleoarchives, natural functional materials and bacterial mineralization processes

Professor Jill Banfield of the University of California, Berkeley, will deliver the 2011 Hallimond Lecture, and Prof. Georges Calas of the University of Paris will deliver a keynote talk at the meeting. Check www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/frontiers-2011/frontiers-2011.html for information.

Aberystwyth, Wales