



# Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

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## LONDON NEWS

### Mineralogical Society Awards for 2012

Following a close round of voting, the following persons have been selected as the winners of the Society's medals for 2012:

- Schlumberger Award: **S. A. T. Redfern** (Cambridge University)
- Max Hey Medal: **M. Humphreys** (Oxford University)
- Collins Medal: **J. B. Dawson** (University of Edinburgh)

This year saw a large response to the call for nominations, and many of these will roll over to next year's slate. However, you are encouraged to continue to make nominations. To ease the process of making nominations, a new form has been made available. Go to [www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html](http://www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html) to download a copy of the form. Nominations in the traditional way are still acceptable of course.

### EMU Notes in Mineralogy, Volume 9, Published

The ninth book in the EMU Notes in Mineralogy series, *Advances in the Characterization of Industrial Minerals* (G. E. Christidis, editor), co-produced by the Mineralogical Society, has been published.

The advancement of human civilization has been intimately associated with the exploitation of raw materials. In fact, the distinction of the main historical eras is based on the type of raw materials used. Hence, passage from the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages to the Bronze Age is characterized by the introduction of basic metals, mainly copper, zinc and tin, in human activities; the Iron Age is marked by the use of iron as the predominant metal.

The use of metals increased with time and culminated in the mid-eighteenth century with the Industrial Revolution, which marked the onset of the industrial age in the western world. Since then, metals have gradually been surpassed in importance by industrial minerals in the industrialized countries. Industrial minerals are raw materials used by industry for their physical and/or chemical properties. Characterization of industrial minerals is important for their assessment and can be demanding and often complicated.

This new volume is based on papers presented at an EMU-Erasmus IP School, which was held at the Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece. The aim of the school was to describe advances in some of the analytical methods used to characterize industrial minerals and to propose additional methods which are currently not used for this purpose. The book is now available from the Mineralogical Society bookshop. Follow the link to the online bookshop from [www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org).

### New Role on the Mineralogical Society Executive



The Society Council agreed at its annual general meeting in March 2011 to create a new job on Council, that of Public Relations Officer. The first person to hold the office is **Dr Andrew Kerr** of Cardiff University.

Andrew's job will be to deal specifically with promotion of the Society to potential new members, to interact with related societies, to coordinate responses to calls for submissions from government and other bodies, and to keep a watching

brief on how the Society is presented to the outside world by means of its website, its publications and its promotional material. Expect to see the effect of Andrew's work as these things change and improve over the coming months.

Welcome Andrew, and thanks.

### New Production Editor for Mineralogical Magazine



A year after the sad loss of Pete Hill, the Society has appointed a new Production Editor for *Mineralogical Magazine*. **David Green**, formerly of the Mineralogical Museum at the University of Manchester, started working with the Society on 1 June 2011 and will work part-time from his home. He will take care of the journal and work with the newly appointed Principal Editors, Pete Williams and Roger Mitchell.

David comes to the Society with a wealth of mineralogical experience and also considerable editorial experience, as he has edited the *UK Journal of Mines and Minerals* for several years. David's e-mail address is [green@minersoc.org](mailto:green@minersoc.org).

### Bursary Report

**Kate Dobson** attended the 2011 European Geological Union meeting, thanks to the help of a Mineralogical Society Senior Travel Bursary. Attendance enabled her to present her latest results to a large and diverse group of international researchers, and also to develop new and exciting research collaborations. She presented her paper, "Constraining the Cenozoic Evolution of South Africa Using (U-Th)/He Thermochronology: The Influence of Dynamic Topography at a Passive Margin," in a very interesting and wide-ranging session that made her aware of several other strands of research complementary to her own but which would not usually be presented at the same meeting. Attendance and presentation at conferences such as EGU are of huge importance to early-career researchers like Kate, allowing her to develop the research networks that will generate research income in future years.

### Sir Tom Blundell Elected President of the Science Council

Sir Tom Blundell has been elected as the new President of the Science Council. He will lead the organisation as it moves forward, promoting the role of science in society, supporting professional scientists at all levels, and influencing science and innovation policy in the UK. He brings to the Science Council a wealth of experience in research and academia, government and industry. Sir Tom has said he is looking forward to taking forward the Science Council's vision for the different disciplines and professions within science to work more closely together. *"Promoting high standards of professionalism at all levels in the practice of science is crucial if the UK is to maintain a strong science and innovation sector that will help grow the economy, serve society and be trusted by the public. Investment in science and innovation remains a high priority and by bringing together such a wide range of science organizations the Science Council can play a pivotal role in shaping priorities."*

**Sir Tom Blundell** has had a distinguished career in the biosciences, and after 13 years as the Sir William Dunn Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge he was appointed Director of Research and Professor Emeritus. He continues to teach and conduct research in structural and computational biology and in drug discovery. In July 2009 he took up the post of Chair of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, a non-executive part-time appointment.

The **Science Council** is an umbrella organization for learned societies and professional bodies across science and its applications, and works to advance science for public benefit. The Science Council promotes the profession of scientist; through the Chartered Scientist designation and the development of codes of practice it promotes awareness of the contribution of professional scientists to science and society and advances science education and increased understanding of the benefits of science.

For more information, visit [www.sciencecouncil.org/](http://www.sciencecouncil.org/).

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