

THIS ISSUE

Tourmaline—a gemstone, a pretty mineral, but also a “garbage-can” mineral, a geothermometer, a provenance indicator, and more. The message is loud and clear: there is a lot more to tourmaline than meets the eye. The guest editors for this issue, Barb Dutrow and Darrell Henry, have studied tourmaline for much of their careers. Along with colleagues, many of whom are authors of articles in this issue or are referenced in the articles, they have been instrumental in moving this field forward. So enjoy!

GOLDSCHMIDT 2011

You can read a full report on the Goldschmidt 2011 Conference on pages 356–357. Prague was a wonderful venue. Participants convened daily at the Prague Conference Center, with its marvelous view of the city. *Elements* had a booth at Goldschmidt for the first time. Many thanks to all who found and stopped by our tucked-away location (a glitch!): your comments and suggestions were most appreciated. A highlight of the conference was the Fukushima special session, and an issue of *Elements* is in preparation for next year, with several speakers at that session as authors.

At our editorial meeting, we reviewed the highlights of the previous year. To us it is always remarkable that we manage to produce six issues a year more or less on time: we have no backup plan and, for each issue, we rely on guest editors and authors to come through with their articles in a timely manner. *Elements* finished 2010 with a net income of about \$37,000, which will help reach our goal of having a financial reserve sufficient to cover the cost of producing three issues. A large part of our meeting was devoted to reviewing the theme proposals received and firming up the lineup for 2012, which we will publish in the next issue. One idea we discussed was the possibility of adding supplementary material online to make articles more relevant. More on that in a future issue.



Lunch in Prague for the editors. From left to right, Tim Drever, John Valley (incoming principal editor), Georges Calas, Pierrette Tremblay, and Hap McSween.
PHOTO BY BARB DUTROW

SPIN-OFF

You know you are successful when you are imitated. *Elements* now has a “little brother” called *Animal Frontiers*. After hearing a talk about *Elements* given by the managing editor at the Council of Science Editors meeting in 2009, officers of the American Society of Animal Science set out to create a new magazine based on the concept of thematic issues. Along with two other societies, they launched their first issue in July. Its theme “Fork to Farm: The Carbon Footprint,” is particularly relevant, and the articles (PDFs available at www.animalfrontiers.com) are pitched at a good level. For example, it was interesting to read that shipping lamb from New Zealand to the United Kingdom and other countries contributes only 5% of the total carbon footprint of lamb farming.

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**Pierrette Tremblay, Georges Calas,
Hap McSween, Tim Drever**

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