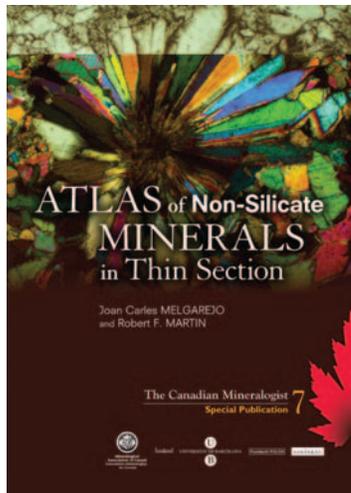




# Mineralogical Association of Canada

[www.mineralogicalassociation.ca](http://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca)

## AT LAST, SPECIAL PUBLICATION 7!



MAC's Special Publication 7 is the long-awaited *Atlas of Non-Silicate Minerals in Thin Section*. When I first set eyes on *Atles d'Associacions Minerals en Làmina Prima* by Joan Carles Melgarejo in 1997, I was convinced that this monumental Atlas must be repackaged and published in English. I undertook to work with Joan Carles to make this a reality. We both invested the time necessary to bring the material up to date; we added important non-silicate minerals not covered in the 1997 version; and we chose to present the 408 minerals according to the time-honored Dana classification. In this way, the halides are presented

together, as are the carbonates, sulfates, phosphates, organic minerals, etc. We refined the very useful section describing the mode of occurrence of the minerals chosen.

SP7 contains pertinent references keyed to those modes of occurrence, to which the reader can turn for additional information. I can imagine the boost that such an encyclopedic coverage of phosphates will provide a budding pegmatologist; for example, thin sections of assemblages containing all the likely primary and secondary phosphates are illustrated! The Quensel–Mason sequence is illustrated and explained! The same thing can be said about the complex assemblages resulting from the oxidation of ore deposits, which is of such great environmental concern. We added references to the latest investigations of the crystal structure and crystal chemistry of each mineral described. We added a DVD version of all illustrations in the book as a resource for those in the teaching profession still convinced that the study of minerals in thin section is a cornerstone in the investigation of natural assemblages of minerals in sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks, and in mine wastes. The book was created with both senior-level students and seasoned investigators in mind.

Unfortunately, a serious “dumbing down” is well under way; many students emerge from some prestigious universities without an appreciation of the diversity of minerals and their importance in a wide variety of terrestrial environments. Mineralogy has even been discarded as a core discipline in some Earth sciences curricula. The graduating class will thus be ill-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Part of the reason may well lie in the unavailability of adequate teaching materials and illustrations. Joan Carles and I, with the help of several contributors to SP7, have scoured the literature to provide the necessary information from a broad variety of fields and to highlight the exciting developments in the study of minerals. A careful petrographic analysis is an eye-opening experience; textural relationships among minerals are a fascinating area of investigation, where a researcher can begin to formulate working hypotheses about important petrological processes.

The Mineralogical Association of Canada and the authors are most grateful to the Osisko Mining Corporation for a grant-in-aid of publication. Thanks to their generous grant, this full-color book is offered at an affordable price to students and professionals. Work is under way to produce the sequel on silicate minerals.

**Robert F. Martin**

Earth and Planetary Sciences, McGill University

## 2012 MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA AWARDS

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Deadline to submit nominations for the Peacock Medal, the Young Scientist Award, and the Berry Medal is **December 31**.

Check our website for additional details

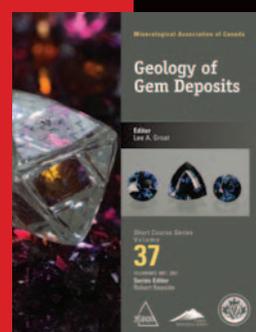
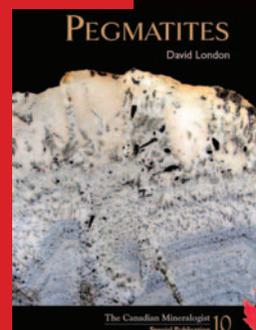
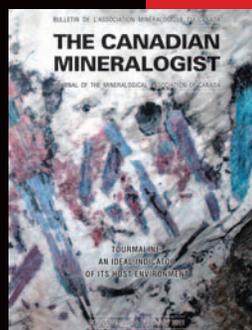
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### STUDENT TRAVEL AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Deadline to apply: **January 15, 2012**

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