

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Since my MSc days, when I grappled with uraniferous pegmatites of the Grenville Province, pegmatites have been dear to my heart, so I am delighted that we have an issue on the topic. In my student days, we learned that pegmatites crystallized over a long time from a very liquid magma, hence the large size of their crystals. Well, current thinking, as outlined in this issue, is that pegmatites crystallized from an undercooled viscous magma in a matter of days. How about that for a 180 degree turn?

As David London argued in his proposal to *Elements*, pegmatites and their amazing textures and large crystals are an excellent way to attract students to the study of rocks and Earth science. That pegmatite formation has a bearing on the origin-of-granites debate will also be much appreciated.

Interestingly, four of the authors in this issue have had minerals named after them: David London, Skip Simmons, Petr Černý, and Federico Pezzotta. We have chosen to illustrate the minerals named after them—londonite, simmonsite, černýite, and pezzottaite—in the top right-hand corner of four of the articles. And, of course, all of these minerals were discovered in pegmatites.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FUKUSHIMA ISSUE

The Story behind the Fukushima Issue

Shortly after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, the editors approached Rod Ewing to write a breaking-news piece, which was published in our June 2011 issue. While he was working on this piece, the idea of publishing an issue on the situation at Fukushima one year later germinated, and Rod Ewing and Takashi Murakami agreed to be the guest editors.

On a similar path, the organizers of Goldschmidt 2011 (Prague) reacted swiftly by adding a full-day special plenary session entitled “Fukushima Review.” This was a remarkable feat considering the short lead time, and the European Association of Geochemistry is commended for its leadership. Rod Ewing was among the experts approached by the organizers to suggest potential contributors. This plenary session was a key factor in scouting authors for the thematic issue of *Elements*. In fact Guest Editor Takashi Murakami invited many of the authors right after the plenary session, and all lead authors in the Fukushima issue except one were presenters at that session. We therefore acknowledge with thanks the contribution of the EAG and the organizers and chairs of the plenary session, Mitsuru Ebihara, then president of the Geochemical Society of Japan, Bernard Bourdon, president of the European Association of Geochemistry, and Bernard Marty, chair of the Organizing Committee of the 2011 Goldschmidt Conference, to this thematic issue.

Investigation Commission Report Published

Shortly after we published the June issue, the Fukushima Nuclear Accident Investigation Commission published its official report. It makes for fascinating and sobering reading. The report can be downloaded at http://naaic.go.jp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/NAIIC_report_lo_res2.pdf. This commission, made up of 10 members, was established by an act of the Japanese parliament and was given free rein and access to any document it requested. Members of the Commission conducted public hearings and interviewed hundreds of refugees. The hope of the Commission is that its findings, gathered in just 6 short months, will be useful to the Japanese people and to the rest of the world.

EDITORIAL MEETING AT GOLDSCHMIDT 2012

Elements' editors met on Sunday, June 24, and welcomed Trish Dove, incoming principal editor 2013–2015, who was able to attend part of the meeting.

Because we now receive more proposals that we can slate, we discussed altering the way we will deal with proposals in the future. From now on, when we receive a proposal (or an idea for a proposal), we will work with the proposers to ensure that their proposal is in a format acceptable for *Elements*. However, we will not slate proposals right away. Rather, at our



From left to right, Tim Drever, John Valley, Georges Calas, and Pierrette Tremblay.
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annual meeting, we will choose the six top proposals from among all those we have on hand, of course keeping in mind the need to have a good mix of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry topics. Proposals not slated will, with the proposer's approval, be reconsidered the following year.

Our lineup for 2013 is now complete, and a list of titles (provisional) and guest editors is shown below. You can download a preliminary version of our 2013 preview, which will be published in our December issue, at www.elementsmagazine.org.

- **February – 100 Years of Geochronology**
Daniel J. Condon (British Geological Survey, UK) and Mark Schmitz (Boise State University, USA)
- **April – Serpentinites**
Stéphane Guillot (Observatory of Earth Science Grenoble, France) and Keiko Hattori (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- **June – The Mineral-Water Interface: Where Minerals React with the Environment**
Christine V. Putnis (University of Münster, Germany) and Encarnación Ruiz-Agudo (University of Granada, Spain)
- **August – Continental Crust at Mantle Depths**
Jane A. Gilotti (University of Iowa, USA)
- **October – Nitrogen in the Geosphere**
Gray About (Lehigh University, USA), Marilyn Fogel (Geophysical Laboratory, USA), and Pierre Cartigny (Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, France)
- **December – Garnet: Common Mineral, Uncommonly Useful**
Ethan Baxter (Boston University, USA), Mark Caddick (Virginia Tech, USA), and Jay Ague (Yale University, USA)

On behalf of the editorial team
Pierrette Tremblay, Managing Editor

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