



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NEWS FROM LONDON

Mineralogical Society Awards for 2013

This year saw another healthy response to the call for nominations for all three of our medals, and this is very heartening. Many of the nominees will roll over to next year's slate, but you are still encouraged to continue to make nominations or to update existing nominations. It seems that the new nomination form has eased the task, and so you are encouraged to use this method. The form is available at www.minersoc.org/awards.html. Nominations in the traditional form continue to be acceptable, of course.

Following a close round of voting, the following have been selected as winners of the Society's medals for 2013:

- Mineralogical Society–Schlumberger Award: Michael Carpenter (University of Cambridge)
- Max Hey Medal: Nicholas Tosca (University of St. Andrews), Hendrik Heinz (University of Akron, USA)
- Collins Medal: Christopher V. Jeans (University of Cambridge)

Mineralogical Magazine



The abstracts from Goldschmidt 2011 (Prague) have proven to be very popular with readers, and the downloads have consistently topped our most-popular-download lists. Again this year, the abstracts from the annual Goldschmidt Conference (Montreal) will be included in *Mineralogical Magazine*. These will appear as Open Access content, so anybody will be able to see them.

Also available in *Mineralogical Magazine* later this year will be a thematic, Open Access, online-only set of papers on the theme of radioactive waste management; these papers arose from the "Geological Disposal

of Radioactive Waste: Underpinning Science and Technology" meeting, held in Loughborough, UK, in October 2011.

Serving the Society

The following will fill vacancies on Council and other Society committees, beginning in 2013:

Council (2013–2015)

- M. Lee (Glasgow)
- J. Lloyd (Manchester)

Custodian Trustee

- J. N. Walsh (2013–2017)

Mineralogical Society Representative on the Executive Committee of Elements

- M. E. Hodson (2013–2015)

Many thanks to you all for taking on these roles, and we look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Bursary Reports



Brian O'Driscoll on Unst

Reports from 2012 bursary awardees are beginning to appear on the Society website at www.minersoc.org/bursary-reports.html. There is one report in particular to which your attention is directed, that by Brian O'Driscoll of the University of Keele.

Brian was given a senior bursary in 2009 to support field work on the island of Unst (Shetland Isles). The object of the field work was to examine and sample the mantle portion of the 492 Ma old Shetland Ophiolite Complex, which comprises much of the eastern side of Unst. Sampling focused on well-layered harzburgites and dunites in a section below the coastal exposures of the petrological Moho. Subsequent geochemical and isotopic work utilizing the powerful combination of the Re–Os isotope system and abundance measurements of highly siderophile elements have highlighted the importance of upper-mantle processes, such as melt extraction, melt–rock interaction, and refertilization, in the Shetland peridotites. The results of this work are summarized in a 2012 article, published in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, entitled "Chemical heterogeneity in the upper mantle recorded by peridotites and chromitites from the Shetland Ophiolite Complex, Scotland." The Shetland field work and resulting data set allowed Brian, in 2011, to successfully apply for a NERC New Investigator Award, for a project entitled "Scales of preservation and root causes of mantle heterogeneities in the Iapetan Ocean convecting upper mantle." This is a great example of the importance of the Society's bursary scheme.

Geomicrobiology and Its Significance for Biosphere Processes – Meeting Report

The first meeting of the UK's Geomicrobiology Network took place on 19–20 April 2012 at the Manchester Interdisciplinary Centre. The venue was appropriate, given the multidisciplinary nature of the work on display.





The meeting (and now the new network) was born out of a suggestion by Jon Lloyd (University of Manchester), Geoff Gadd (University of Dundee) and Joanne Santini (University College London) that a meeting be held to provide a forum for the growing number of people working in the geomicrobiology area. Eighty-five persons attended the meeting, which was held over two days and featured 19 oral and 31 poster presentations.

A full report on the meeting, a list of presentations and, in some cases, the presentations themselves with audio recordings are available at www.minersoc.org/EMG-SGM.html. The ground covered ranged from the deep subsurface to exoplanetary geobiology. What was striking was the number of presenters with industrial funding, indicative of the broad range of applications for this slice of science.

A New Geomicrobiology Network for the UK

At the end of the second day's presentations, a discussion took place to decide on future gatherings and collaborations of this vibrant group of researchers. Agreement was made to form a network of geomicrobiologists. Support for the Network will be sought from the societies that supported this original meeting (Mineralogical Society and Environmental Mineralogy Group, Geological Society, Society for General Microbiology and the British Mycological Society), with possible additional support from the Royal Society of Chemistry. It was agreed that administrative support would continue to be provided by the Mineralogical Society. Meetings of the type held in Manchester will take place every two years or so, but in the meantime, the group may opt to sponsor events held by some of the supporting societies, including the Research in Progress meetings of the Environmental Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society. A likely project for the Network will be to support the "bio" theme of the "Minerals for Life: Overcoming Resource Constraints" meeting of the Mineralogical Society and the Geological Society, to be held in June 2013 in Edinburgh.

The Mineralogical Society will arrange for web space (as part of its own website) for the Network as required and will host the archive for the group. In this web space, an online forum (e.g. a Google group) will be established to facilitate discussion among members of this newborn group.

Chartered Status

By the time this issue of *Elements* lands on your desk, the first chartered scientist will have been appointed by the Mineralogical Society. This is Stuart Mills.



Stuart Mills, first chartered scientist appointed by the Mineralogical Society

All the information you need to become a chartered scientist is available at www.minersoc.org/chartered.html. The cost is £50 for the initial application and £45 per year thereafter. Fellows of the Society with an appropriate number of years as members may make a fast-track application.

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Mineralogical Society

General Assembly of the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

The general assembly of the SFMC was held at the University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, on Monday, 4 June 2012. It was chaired by Bruno Goffé, the current president of the Society. Marc Blanchard, secretary, presented the main actions of the year. The two thematic groups supported by the Society, the Synchrotron Users Group and the Endogenous Petrology Group, gathered for the first time. These meetings allowed the identification of the groups' respective national communities and the topics requiring attention. A summary of the Society's implication in conferences and schools was also given. In 2011, the Haüy-Lacroix Prize rewarded the PhD work of Aurélie Violette and Johan Villeneuve (see *Elements*, volume 7, number 4). The 2011 budget was then outlined by Stéphanie Rossano, treasurer. Following these reports, Bruno Goffé presented the SFMC Medal to Anne-Marie Karpoff (president of the SFMC in 2010–2011) for her involvement in the Society. The second half of the afternoon was given over to a meeting with other French societies active in the fields of mineralogy and crystallography. They were invited to describe their organizations and activities in order to improve our mutual relationships and evaluate the possibility of organizing collective events in the future. The participating societies were the Groupe Français des Argiles (F. Villieras), the Association Française de l'Adsorption (B. Coasne), the Groupe Français des Zéolithes (F. Thibault-Strazyk), the Société Géologique de France (P. Barbey), the Association Française de Cristallographie (R. Guinebretière) and the Société de l'Industrie Minérale" (G. Trolly and C. Grambin). The day ended with a visit to the mineral collection of the university, under the guidance of J. C. Boulliard, curator.



Anne-Marie Karpoff receiving the SFMC Medal from Bruno Goffé

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TEM in mineralogy 2012: Graduate and PhD Course from the SFMC



The second school on the theme "Transmission Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy" organized by the SFMC will be held at the University of Lille in November 2012. The main aspects of TEM techniques (conventional and high-resolution imaging, diffraction, spectroscopy and chemical analysis) will be covered by the course, which will feature practical sessions, simulations and worked examples. Short courses will add theoretical support to the experiments, analysis and interpretation.

The number of participants is limited to 12. The school will interest graduate students, post-docs and researchers. For more information and registration, go to <http://umet.univ-lille1.fr/Animation/MinTem.php>.