



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MSA Marches On, Quickly



As I wrote in my first President's Letter several months ago, with science and technology seemingly advancing at the speed of light and with much of what the world has to offer at our fingertips, you can be sure of at least two things: if you make measured and incremental progress, you will eventually be passed, and if you stop to catch your breath, you will be passed quickly. At our spring Council meeting, which took place on June 24 at the Goldschmidt Conference in Montreal, Canada, we made sure that our Society was moving forward aggressively on many fronts, primarily with regard to *American Mineralogist* and our relationship with the American Geophysical Union, certainly two key areas for MSA these days.

Concerning *American Mineralogist*, we have a solid and recognizable journal that will be one hundred years old in four short years. This journal helped start the Mineralogical Society of America in 1919, and it has been defining us, in part, ever since. It is completely managed and run by the Society, and its editors (Jennifer Thomson, Martin Kunz, and Ian Swainson), associate editors, managing editor (Rachel Russell), and production staff are excellent. It is represented by GeoScienceWorld, our Internet distributor whose influence is growing rapidly. No one would disagree with the quality of the science and production of its papers. However, the scientific impact of the papers in *American Mineralogist*, although reasonable, has not significantly increased in several years, while the journals that have been most successful have had a steady rise in their impact (as measured by the impact factor, which is the average of how many times a paper is cited in its first two years since publication). Yet, as I have argued in my last few presidential letters, interest in mineral-related science, from biogeochemistry to deep earthquakes and from climate change to ore deposit formation, is spectacularly rich and expanding, and the field is more relevant than ever. Quite simply, *American Mineralogist* must publish higher-impact science over the complete range of research covered, from fundamental to applied. The editors are now fully committed to this goal and are developing plans as I write this essay to make the changes that are needed to compete among the most impactful Earth science journals in the world. Because *American Mineralogist* can work from a base of notoriety and exceptional quality

already in place, I am confident that this goal is realistically achievable. We will do this!

To help achieve these changes, we have chosen a new principal editor, whose appointment was approved at the Goldschmidt MSA Council meeting. He is Prof. Keith Putirka of California State University, Fresno. Keith's research involves mantle melting and volcanic plumbing systems, as well as mineral–melt equilibria, with applications to the barometry and thermometry of igneous processes. With a PhD from Columbia University under Dave Walker in 1997, followed by a postdoc at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Keith has published in *Geology*, *Lithos*, *American Mineralogist*, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, *International Geology Review*, *Journal of Petrology*, and *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, among others. He was also a coeditor (with Frank Tepley) of *RiMG* volume 69 (2008), titled "Minerals, Inclusions, and Volcanic Processes," one of the best-selling *RiMG* volumes ever. The associated short course was the largest short course ever held by MSA.

On the AGU front, since my Letter describing our new and highly productive relationship between MSA and AGU, MSA members submitted 20 sessions for the AGU Fall 2012 meeting in San Francisco. These sessions will be jointly sponsored by AGU and MSA within an astounding array of AGU sections and focus groups, including Volcanology, Geochemistry, and Petrology (VGP); Biogeosciences; Mineral and Rock Physics; Education; Study of the Earth's Deep Interior; Tectonophysics; and Planetary Sciences—demonstrating once again that research in mineralogy is everywhere as a foundation to all of the Earth and space sciences. You can find all these sessions by going to the AGU Fall Meeting website, clicking on Session Search and then Approved Sessions, and searching on the keyword "MSA." We will also be cosponsoring a joint VGP-MSA social/reception, with drinks provided by both societies, as well as the presentation of both the MSA Dana Medal (awarded to Max Schmidt of ETH, Zurich, Switzerland) and the AGU Bowen Award. MSA members can go to AGU meetings, starting this year, at AGU member rates even if they are not an AGU member. We encourage you to join AGU, but this is not necessary. Also, MSA members who are not members of AGU may still submit an abstract if they find an AGU member and use their membership number.

MSA is moving aggressively forward on many fronts, two of which are highlighted above. Further President's Letters will highlight other areas of progress. These are exciting times, indeed.

Michael F. Hochella Jr. (Hochella@vt.edu), Virginia Tech
President, Mineralogical Society of America

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- At its meeting in June, MSA Council voted to keep dues for regular and student members unchanged for 2013. Dues were last increased \$5 to \$70 for regular members in 2011 for the 2012 dues, but the increase was partially offset by the \$5 discount for renewals. Student dues were last increased in 2006, from \$5 to \$10. Senior members and senior fellows pay no dues. Sustaining membership will remain at \$150 + regular dues.
- Member subscription rates to the print version of the 2012 *American Mineralogist* will differentiate between domestic and foreign destinations to reflect mailing costs, and will share with the institutional subscribers the costs of producing print copies. U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) will be \$100 (currently \$95), and the foreign member subscription price will be \$110 (currently \$105). Member electronic-only subscription will remain at \$30. The U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) will increase to \$975 (from \$950), and foreign institutional subscriptions will be raised to \$1000 (from \$975). These increases are between 3% and 5%. Included with the institutional subscription are all the current-year issues of *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Elements*, as well as access to the electronic journal on the MSA website. The domestic

institutional subscription price for GeoScienceWorld subscribers for *American Mineralogist* remains at \$150, and the GSW institutional subscription rate for *RiMG* decreases to \$125.

- There is a new, electronic-only institutional subscription rate of \$900. This takes into account the relatively small savings associated with not having to print and ship the print copy.
- MSA 2013 membership renewals will start by October; membership renewal notices will be sent electronically, followed by electronic reminders, before a paper copy is sent to those who do not renew online by the end of October.
- Members and fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are also sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.
- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Gems & Gemology*, *Journal of Petrology*, *Mineral News*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, or *Rocks & Minerals*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to those publishers before your subscription runs out.

J. Alex Speer, jaspeer@minsocam.org

BENEFACTORS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Many members contribute to MSA by including a contribution with their annual dues and/or by responding to special appeals. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of one of the several MSA funds. The income from these funds is used to support MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; publishing of the *American Mineralogist*; the American Mineralogist Undergraduate Awards; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award; the Dana Medal; the Roebling Medal; the website; and the lectureship program.

One way to contribute is by becoming a sustaining member. Sustaining membership provides a vehicle for members to support the Society in a philanthropic manner. A sustaining member or fellow pays the regular membership dues in addition to a sustaining contribution, currently \$150/year, for total dues of \$220 in 2012. At present, 20 members have chosen to support the Society as sustaining members; some of them also continue to support other Society funds through additional contributions. Gifts received through sustaining donations are placed in the Society's Endowment Fund to sustain and enhance Society activities. Members who are interested in supporting Society activities may wish to consider this vehicle of philanthropy.

In addition to individual members who graciously donate to support Society activities, ten corporations also support the work of the Mineralogical Society of America in the Society's Benefactor Program. Benefactors are recognized on the back cover of *American Mineralogist*, and we acknowledge them here as well. The current benefactors are: Ash Grove Cement Company, Blake Industries, Bruker-AXS, Excalibur Mineral Corp., Exxon/Mobil Upstream Research Company, The Gemological Institute of America, The Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, R.T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc., Vulcan Materials Company, and W.R. Grace and Co. When you see representatives of these corporations at meetings or when you consider purchasing their products, please recognize their generous support of the activities of the Mineralogical Society of America.

If you have not done so previously, you may wish to consider contributing at the next opportunity. Here we want to extend our gratitude to the individuals and organizations who have made contributions to MSA between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. These contributors are listed on the MSA website and can be found by selecting "Contributions to MSA" on the MSA home page (www.minsocam.org), under "The Society."

John M. Hughes
Chair, Benefactors Committee

2012 DANA MEDAL TO ROBERTA L. RUDNICK



At the June 2012 Goldschmidt Conference, the Mineralogical Society of America awarded its **Dana Medal to Roberta L. Rudnick** of the University of Maryland. This medal recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions to the mineralogical sciences through original research by an individual in the midst of his or her career. It is named in honor of James Dwight Dana (1813–1895) and Edward Salisbury Dana (1849–1935). Dr. Rudnick is recognized for her work on the continental lithosphere (that is, the continental crust and the uppermost mantle). Despite its nearness, we actually don't know how the crust formed. Continental crust tends toward

granitic, but melts from the mantle are basaltic. How does one evolve to the other? Her approach has been (1) to contribute a large amount of basic geochemical data obtained through a diversity of analytical geochemical, petrological, and mineralogical studies of lower crustal xenoliths, shales, loess, etc., integrated with seismic studies of the crust and heat flow measurements, to derive a comprehensive compositional data set for the continents, and (2) to synthesize large amounts of information to form internally consistent models of crustal structure and growth. She has proposed various hypotheses for the formation of the continental lithosphere, but, more importantly, she has laid out ways to test these hypotheses.

IN MEMORIAM

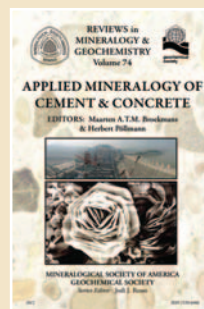
JOHN L. BAUM – senior member 1957

ROBERT WILLIAM GLAISHER – member 2006

RYUJI KITAGAWA – member 1976

PAUL H. REITAN – senior fellow 1955

NEW TITLE REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY



Mineralogical Society of America
and the Geochemical Society

Volume 74

Applied Mineralogy of Cement & Concrete

Maarten A. T. M. Broekmans and Herbert Pöllmann, editors, i-x + 364 pages, 2011
ISBN 978-0-939950-88-1, \$40
(\$30 members MSA, GS, CMS)

This volume contains a selection of papers on the applied mineralogy of cement and concrete, by far the most popular modern building material by volume, with an annual production exceeding 9 billion cubic meters, and steadily growing. Not even all 'concrete' topics can be covered in a single volume, but an interesting assortment has been obtained. The seven chapters deal with mineralogy and chemistry of (alumina) clinker production and hydration (Pöllmann); alternative raw clinkering materials to reduce CO₂ emission (Justnes); assessment of clinker constituents by optical and electron microscopy (Stutzman); industrial assessment of raw materials, cement, and concrete using X-ray methods in different applications (Meier et al.); in situ investigation of clinker and cement hydration based on quantitative crystallographic phase analysis (Aranda et al.); characterization and properties of supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) to improve cement and concrete properties (Snellings et al.); and deleterious alkali-aggregate reaction (AAR) in concrete (Broekmans).

For more description and a table of contents of this book, and online ordering, visit www.minsocam.org or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA; phone: +1 (703) 652-9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: business@minsocam.org.