

## THIS ISSUE

This issue devoted to the rare earth elements is timely: these elements have become indispensable not only for producing the technological gadgets our society is consuming in exponentially increasing quantities, but also for meeting future energy challenges, while the resource is limited. The six articles assembled by Guest Editors Anton Chakhmouradian and Frances Wall therefore focus on the resource aspect, from the economic context to the distribution of deposits worldwide. I learned a lot working on this issue. I was surprised by the caption of Figure 1A in the Hatch paper stating that direct-drive wind turbines contain approximately 150–200 kg of Nd and 20–30 kg of Dy per megawatt of generating capacity. That seemed a lot, so I queried the author. His answer: “Now you know why everyone’s making a big fuss about finding future supplies.” Extracting rare earths from minerals is complex, and in many instances deposits will not become economic to exploit until we find new ways to extract these elements. Also I now understand why China is almost a monopoly producer.

Are thematic articles in *Elements* review articles? The question was debated at the last meeting of the Executive Committee. One former guest editor argued that he had instructed all authors in his issue to provide a snapshot of their field, and perhaps this is an appropriate way to describe *Elements*' thematic articles. Occasionally, original research results are published in *Elements*. This is what A. Williams-Jones answered to my query regarding Figure 5 in his manuscript: “The modeling was done for the purpose of this manuscript. I wanted to also add some original science. The discovery that fluorine could not be an agent of REE transport was also made during the preparation of this manuscript and led to a separate manuscript that is now in review.”

For the first three years of *Elements*, Peter Heaney entertained and enlightened us with his beautifully crafted Triple Point articles. I was delighted that he accepted my invitation to write a 12<sup>th</sup> column. So all the Heaney fans out there, read about his sabbatical project and enjoy!

**Elements Course Packs at MinPubs.org**

It is now possible to take content from different issues of *Elements* and combine it with material from the *American Mineralogist* and the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* series, then assemble the articles in specially priced course packs that students can purchase on their own. The course packs can be provided in either paper or electronic form. It is also possible to purchase single *Elements* articles (from volume 1, number 1 to the present). Check [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org) (see also page 389).

If you wish to have a course pack assembled for your class, obtain an entire *Reviews* volume as a single electronic file, or if you are ordering 5 or more articles and would like a coupon code for a 25% discount on your order, or have other questions, contact [jaspeer@minsocam.org](mailto:jaspeer@minsocam.org).

**Pierrette Tremblay**, Managing Editor

## ONLINE ACCESS



If you receive a print copy of *Elements*, you are also entitled to the electronic version, from volume 1, number 1—go to [www.elementsmagazine.org/archives.htm](http://www.elementsmagazine.org/archives.htm).

User ID = your e-mail address

Password = membership number of the society you are a member of

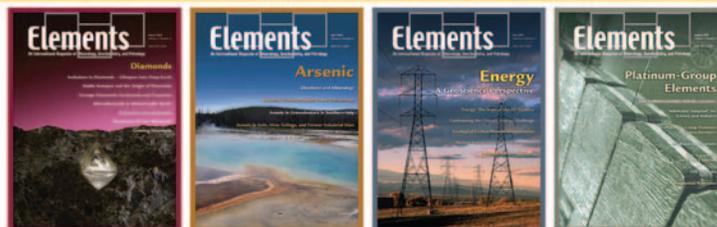
If your institution subscribes to GeoScienceWorld, we encourage you to access *Elements* at [www.elements.geoscienceworld.org](http://www.elements.geoscienceworld.org).

## ERRATUM

In the article “Granitic Pegmatites: Scientific Wonders and Economic Bonanzas”, published in the August issue (8: 257–261), the second sentence of the final paragraph on page 257 should read

**A model now associated with Cameron et al. (1949) ...**

The word “David” was inadvertently added during the first round of corrections to the proofs, and the error was not picked up by the managing editor nor the authors. We apologize for any misunderstanding. This error has been corrected in the electronic version of the article.

Back issues of *Elements* for teaching economic geology

v1n2

v2n2

v3n3

v4n4



v5n2

v5n5

v6n2

v7n6

v8n4

Order online at [www.elementsmagazine.net](http://www.elementsmagazine.net)