This is my final editorial for *Elements*: it seems a good moment to look back on my experiences with the magazine. My first awareness of it came when Rod Ewing gave a presentation to the Geochemical Society Board of Directors (I was vice president at the time) at the Kurashi Goldschmidt in 2003. I must admit I was not enthusiastic. The GS had just put a major effort (thanks largely to Carla Koresky and Johnson Haas) into upgrading Geochemical Magazine. My first awareness of *Elements* came into being. It was Rod Ewing’s baby, and it is thanks to his persistence that it came into being.

I have been asked several times at meetings: “Who is your publisher? Is it Elsevier?” The answer is that *Elements* is self-published by the participating societies. MSA is the publisher of record acting on behalf of what is now 17 original sponsoring societies. MSA has contributed enormously to the magazine. I am confident that *Elements* will continue to be a success in the future. I hope future principal editors find the experience as rewarding as I have.

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SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

A year later I attended another meeting, this time of the presidents (or their representatives) of what became the five original sponsoring societies of *Elements*. Again Rod presented the concept, but this time Pierrette Tremblay was in attendance and, thanks largely to Pierrette, there was a detailed business plan, with projections for all the likely costs and the subscriptions we would need to cover them until (we hoped) advertising revenues would pick up. Rod convinced us all that his idea was viable, but there were enough good topics and people willing to be guest editors for the long haul.

The magazine is now at something of a turning point. Our fiftieth issue came out earlier this year, and the five original sponsoring societies have grown to seventeen. The increased subscription base plus advertising revenues make our finances secure. Rather than running out of topics, we have been receiving so many proposals that we have had to change the way we manage acceptances and scheduling. In the past, we evaluated proposals as they came in, and after they were accepted (usually after iterations with the proposer) they were put in the queue to be scheduled for publication. We had been receiving so many good proposals that the queue had become unreasonably long: guest editors are not happy if they tell you that their issue will be scheduled three years from now.

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