



# Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

[www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org)

## NOTES FROM LONDON

### Change in Officers and Members of Council

- The November 2013 meeting of the Society's Council was Jon Davidson's last as president. Jon's stated aim at the start of his two-year term was to review activity of the special interest groups (SIGs) and to consider the possibility of Society-run short courses. Both are projects which are still in motion but, in particular, the review of the SIGs was very effective.
- Chris Stanley has completed his six-year term as treasurer. This is often a difficult post and the past six years have been particularly trying in terms of the performance of the Society's investments and a changing landscape regarding journal income. Well done to Chris for keeping us on the straight and narrow. Also stepping down from Council this year are Craig Storey, Jana Horák and Mike Widdowson. Thanks to you all for your contribution to the Society.
- Prof. Frances Wall, of Camborne School of Mines, will officially begin her two-year stint as president on the date of the annual general meeting, which is 6 March 2014. Frances, who has previously served as the general secretary, has an in-depth knowledge of the Society and its operation and is welcomed back to the Executive Committee. She is the Society's first female president since its foundation in 1886.
- The new treasurer will be Prof. John Adams. John recently served 12 years as principal editor of *Clay Minerals* and so, again, is very aware of the workings of the Society.
- The new members of Council will be Dr Brian O'Driscoll (University of Keele), Dr Claire Corkhill (University of Sheffield) and Dr Chris Greenwell (Durham University) – welcome to you all and thanks for agreeing to serve the Society in this way.

### Membership Dues

PLEASE NOTE: your membership fees for 2014 are due now. The sooner you pay, the less time and money we spend on administration! We look forward to hearing from you!

### Chartered Status

At the November meeting of its Validation Committee, the Society appointed two more Chartered Scientists, Jason Harvey of the University of Leeds and Mark Tyrer, consultant. We are beginning to gather momentum in terms of this offering to members, and we would like to encourage more to join. Here is what one of our latest successful applicants, Dr Mark Tyrer, had to say about CSci:



Mark Tyrer

"Once a graduate enters their chosen profession, the Society or institution(s) of which they are a member may encourage them to maintain a regular Continuing Professional Development ('CPD') record and in due course, invite them to apply for higher levels of membership and ultimately (after four years of practice) become Chartered members. There are two drivers for this; keeping up to date with evolving methods, regulations, standards and practice and also

adding new skills which will broaden their experience. Once this is sufficient, the member becomes eligible to seek registration as a Chartered Engineer (C.Eng.), Chartered Scientist (C.Sci.) or other chartered practitioner. The route to doing this is rigorously defined by the Engineering Council or the Science Council in the UK, who prescribe to the institutions (known as Licensed Bodies) their particular requirements. Depending on the field in which the applicant works, their

experience and qualifications, this will consist of an application form and examples of their work such as client reports, published papers, books, standards, maps, designs or drawings.

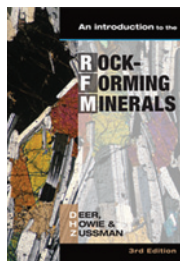
All this sounds rather daunting, but remember, it is in the interest of the Societies to see their most able members chartered. Consequently, most offer considerable guidance through the application procedure and will appoint a local mentor to advise the applicants on how best to present their work. No awarding body wants applications to fail, so it is common for the mentors to recommend making the final stage of the application only when the applicant has a strong case for registration.

Is it worth it? That rather depends on whom you ask and in what field they work. In science, the requirements are varied as the prevalence of higher degrees is relatively high. It is more common at present to see a job advertisement requiring applicants to have a PhD than to see a specification for someone registered as C.Sci., C.Chem. or C.Geol., for example. Things are changing, however. A look through the pile of magazines on my desk shows several job adverts with just those requirements, and it seems likely that as the number of chartered scientists in senior positions increases, then so too will the demand for similarly qualified applicants.

Full information about the application process for Chartered Scientist status through the Mineralogical Society is available at [www.minersoc.org/chartered.html](http://www.minersoc.org/chartered.html). Apply before 1 February 2014 and avail yourself of 'Fast-Track' application."

The text quoted above was originally published in the Newsletter of the Cementitious Materials Group of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining ([www.iom3.org/content/cementitious-materials-committee](http://www.iom3.org/content/cementitious-materials-committee)), and this adapted version is published with the kind permission of the author.

### An Introduction to the Rock-Forming Minerals



Have you bought your copy of DHZ III yet? Published in May 2013, this much revised third edition has been produced in full colour and in A4 format. It now includes images created using CrystalViewer as well as from Mackenzie's *Rocks and Minerals in Thin Section* and other sources. It is priced to make it accessible to individuals, especially students: £35 for MinSoc members, £45 for non-members and £55 for institutions (cheaper than the second edition from many suppliers!).

Go to the Society's online bookshop (link at [www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org)) and buy your copy today. This book is also available through the Geological Society (London) and Mineralogical Society of America bookshops.

### Society Member Receives EMU Award



During the 2013 Goldschmidt Conference, **Richard Harrison** of the University of Cambridge received the European Mineralogical Union's Research Excellence Medal. He delivered a keynote lecture entitled 'Magnetic Nanostructures in Meteorites: A Window on the Early Solar System' during the conference. Congratulations to Richard.

**Kevin Murphy**, Executive Director

## NORTH ATLANTIC CRATON CONFERENCE 2014



This workshop, on 20–24 March, will focus on the mineral potential of the North Atlantic Craton (NAC). It is aimed at initiating and furthering trans-Atlantic collaboration in understanding the Archaean cratonic controls on ore deposit formation through time. The Archaean high-grade gneiss terrain of the NAC stretches from Labrador, Canada, through Greenland, and into northwest Scotland, UK. Acceleration in exploration efforts for various commodities across this region, particularly in Greenland, has highlighted the potential of its mineral resources. More recently, the importance of a craton-specific approach to mineral exploration has been realised.

**Keynote Speakers:**

- Prof. Sarah-Jane Barnes (Université du Québec): 'Trace elements in sulfides and oxides as exploration tools'
- Dr Graham Begg (Minerals Targeting International): A talk about the interplay between the physical lithosphere and its evolution, geodynamics and ore systems
- Prof. Richard Goldfarb (USGS): 'Targeting orogenic gold: What are the keys for exploration?'
- Prof. Chris Hawkesworth (University of St Andrews): 'Mantle metasomatism and the continental record'
- Prof. Jochen Kolb (GEUS): 'Metallogeny of the NAC'

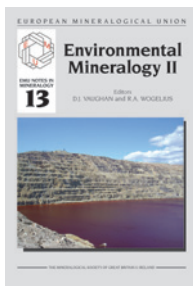
A special issue of *Mineralogical Magazine* arising out of papers presented at the meeting is planned.

Go to [www.nac-conference2014.org.uk/](http://www.nac-conference2014.org.uk/) for further information and to register online.

The event is organised by the Cardiff University and St. Andrews University chapters of the Society of Economic Geologists and the Applied Mineralogy Special Interest Group of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, in conjunction with the British Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY II

**Edited by D. J. Vaughan and R. A. Wogelius, Available Now**



In a sense, all mineralogy is 'environmental mineralogy'. However, the term 'environmental' has come to be employed (particularly in combination with terms such as 'science', 'issue' or 'problem') to refer to those systems at or near the surface of the Earth where the geosphere comes into contact with the hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. This is, of course, the 'environment' upon which the human race depends for survival and, hence, is now sometimes referred to as the 'critical zone'.

Systems containing minerals that constitute the most important or key environments are considered here: soils, modern sediments, atmospheric aerosols, and the interior or exterior parts of certain micro- and macroorganisms. Particularly important are the roles that minerals play

in processes that act over time to control or influence the environment at various scales of observation. Both pure systems and systems contaminated as a result of human activity are considered.

The objectives for this volume are to help define the subject of environmental mineralogy and to provide an initial source of information for both mineralogists and other scientists who wish to understand or work in this field. It is hoped that the text will also be used as a teaching resource at advanced undergraduate and graduate student levels.

As with all Society books, it is priced to make it accessible to individuals, especially students: £25.50 for individuals and £40 for institutions. Go to the Society's online bookshop (link at [www.minersoc.org](http://www.minersoc.org)) and buy your copy today. This book and others in the EMU Notes in Mineralogy series are available through the Geological Society and Mineralogical Society of America bookshops.

## BURSARY REPORT

**50<sup>th</sup> Clay Minerals Society Annual Meeting at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 5–10 October 2013**



Field trip participants

2013 funding from the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (Clay Minerals Group) helped to pay my costs to attend this meeting. The preconference field trip took us to virtually the only rock exposures in Illinois: Starved Rock and Mathieson State Parks. Dramatic exposures of the Ordovician St. Peter Sandstone have been carved out by glacial meltwaters. This sandstone is now the major source of fracking proppant in the USA. We also saw a Quaternary palaeosol (almost the only clay seen all day), Ordovician dolomites and Pennsylvanian coals and under-clays.

Sessions were held over 3.5 days. No big new ideas seem to have come out of the American clay community since I last attended an American clay conference, but there was plenty of interest over a wide range of topics. I found the session on clay minerals in petroleum reservoirs and hydraulic fracturing particularly useful. This being the 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary meeting, several sessions were devoted to biographical accounts of great clay scientists of the past and present.

I presented oxygen isotope and chemical data for glauconite from the Upnor Formation. This is work in progress, and it is still not clear how much of the glauconite is in situ, but there is strong evidence that the glauconite formed in warm, brackish water. Once we have completed the data collection, we intend to publish the results.

I should like to thank the Mineralogical Society for the financial assistance.

**Jenny Huggett**