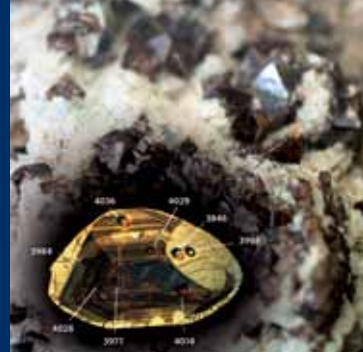


# Elements

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**ABOUT THE COVER:**  
Zircon is among the premier geochronometers described in this issue. Illustrated is a Nomarski contrast image of an acid-etched zircon from a 4.03 Ga tonalite of the Acasta gneiss complex, Canada, with ion probe analysis craters labeled in millions of years (IMAGE COURTESY OF SAMUEL A. BOWRING AND IAN S. WILLIAMS). The background image shows zircon crystals on matrix from the Kola Peninsula (  MORGENTJERNE | DREAMSTIME.COM).