

THIS ISSUE

Gold! How can such a topic be covered in 36 pages of text? So many angles are possible, and so many books have been written on the various types of gold deposits, not to mention the cultural, historical, health, economic, industrial and scientific aspects of this treasured Earth material. This is the challenge every guest editor faces: how to give as broad an overview as possible while highlighting key frontier areas. Guest Editors Robert Hough and Charles Butt—our first guest editors from Australia—have risen to the challenge and orchestrated contributions from an international cast of authors. Of great interest to me was how gold nanoparticles are being investigated to aid the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

One angle that is not covered in this issue, however, is the environmental impact of extracting a few grams of gold from a ton of rock and disposing safely of the resulting huge quantities of waste. To be fair, the topic of mine wastes would deserve a whole issue, and we hope to add this theme to our lineup in the near future. Proposals on this topic would therefore be viewed favorably by the editors.

Two of the articles in this issue make extensive reference to a 1979 Geological Survey of Canada publication by Robert W. Boyle (1920–2003), *The Geochemistry of Gold and Its Deposits*. I met Dr. Boyle and his family at the 1992 GAC-MAC meeting in Wolfville, Canada; he was a very kind and humble man, and I did not realize at the time that I was talking to a “giant,” one of Canada’s most distinguished geologists. Dr. Boyle spent his career at the Geological Survey of Canada and became a world expert on gold and silver deposits. He developed geochemical prospecting methods suited to the Canadian environment, and these became truly practical tools in mineral exploration. He published major works, notably *Gold: History and Genesis of Deposits* in 1987. The mineral boyleite was named in his honor. And his 1979 bulletin seems to have stood the test of time.

MULTISOCIETY CATALOGUE

Our 2010 multisociety catalogue is being mailed with this issue of *Elements*. This is the fifth catalogue we have published, and it is a truly cooperative venture involving several of the participating societies. I suggest you keep it handy during the coming year or give it to a colleague or student as an encouragement to join one of the participating societies and thereby receive *Elements*.

The idea of a multisociety catalogue was first put forward by Kevin Murphy of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland at the 2002 IMA meeting in Edinburgh. At the time, even though interest was expressed, the idea did not move beyond the discussion stage. It is therefore fitting that I turned to Kevin to help with assembling this catalogue, and I thank Kevin for his cheerful help.

SPECIAL OFFER

We are making a special offer to libraries and departments that will receive a subscription to *Elements* in 2010: for an extra \$200, they can receive all back issues, from Volume 1, Number 1 to Volume 5, Number 6. Get them while copies last (see page 20 of catalogue).

ELEMENTS IS YOUR MAGAZINE

Several of our features need our members’ involvement. If one of your colleagues has been recognized for his or her work or has done something extraordinary, consider submitting a short note and picture for **People in the News** or for your society pages. Have you attended a fantastic meeting? Send us some of the highlights for **Meeting Reports**. Have you done field work in, or taken a field trip to, an exotic place? Contact the managing editor about the possibility of publishing your adventures in **Travelogue**. You might want to share some outstanding images in **Parting Shots**. And finally, if your field of research is rapidly expanding and of interest to the *Elements* readership, consider the requirements for an *Elements* issue (www.elementsmagazine.org/proposal.htm) and propose an issue, or at least let us know you would like to read about such a topic. We are always on the lookout for exciting topics.

Pierrette Tremblay
Managing Editor

About Minority Participation

Sam Musaka’s Triple Point article on underrepresentation of women and minority awardees in geoscience societies (volume 5, number 2, pp 77–78) was most important and timely, and I thank the author for addressing this issue. There is indeed a long way to go toward overall diversity in the geosciences, including medals/awards. Although I am a past recipient of the Clarke Medal and not of European descent, I am amazed that after over 20 years in this field I have seen so little change with regards to cultural diversity and minority participation at meetings and on research expeditions/cruises, etc. Women, on the other hand, have done much better (other than in the awards category), and Asian and East Indian geoscientists also seem to be making strides. International diversity is great and also important, but progress in this and in gender diversity should not overshadow or be perceived to address the continued lack of presence/participation of other groups, especially U.S. minorities (e.g. Native American, African American, Hispanic, Pacific Islander) in U.S. institutions! From my experience, this has not changed much and may have even declined for some groups over the past 20 years.

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EDITORIAL *Cont’d from page 267*

racy and precision. There is an important place for data acquired by professionals in survey mode, and analyses by students are critical aspects of the learning process even though such data may not always be of high quality. I am arguing that we should not knowingly mingle those data with high-quality data in large databases. Nowadays, when X-ray diffractometers are compact enough to sit on desktops, when electron microprobes substitute for optical microscopes, when ICP mass spectrometers sprout like weeds and ion microprobes are in routine use, some gold standards for analytical data are needed. And

other disciplines such as experimental geochemistry and field studies might also benefit from judicious oversight. Our science is just too important to be compromised by glitter. I hope more of our societies take up the challenge.

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