THIS ISSUE

The papers in this "Cosmochemistry" issue, under the guest editorship of Dante Lauretta, capture well the excitement of this burgeoning field of research: the search for presolar grains, the technological prowess involved in hunting for them, the challenge of analyzing interplanetary dust particles, and so on. Consider the Nguyen and Messenger article, in which Figure 3 shows an oxygen isotope ratio map: since the abundance of the measured oxygen isotopes is 0.04% for ^{17}O, 0.2% for ^{18}O, and 99.76% for ^{16}O, it is clear that one deals with measuring tiny amounts of isotopes in extremely small grains—a mind boggling feat.

In every issue of *Elements*, I learn or discover new things, such as journals I did not know existed, resources on the web, or the importance of a scientific discipline. For example, with this issue I learned of the existence of *Meteorites* magazine—a labor of love for the magazine's editors, of a NASA-sponsored site for the public, and even of meteorite-hunting television shows. This informs us of the fascination the public has for these objects falling from the sky. As Hap McSween mentions in his editorial, planetary exploration captures our children's imagination and might indeed be a huge drawing card for enticing them towards a scientific career.

WELCOMING GEORGES CALAS

Beginning in 2011, Georges Calas joins *Elements*' editorial team. Georges is Chair of Mineralogy at the University Institute of France and a professor at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC), Paris. His research centers on structure/property relationships related to the transition elements and radiation defects in minerals and glasses.His current interests include environmental mineralogy, nuclear waste management, and mineral resources. Georges graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud (now the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon). He earned a PhD from UPMC. He was a professor at the Université Paris Diderot, where he headed the Earth Sciences Department. He was a Cox Visiting Professor at Stanford and later joined UPMC. He is a past president of SFMC and a past vice-president of EMU, and he is on the Board of Directors of the BRGM (French Geological Survey). He has chaired the IMA Commission on Physics of Minerals, has been an associate editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, and is scientific editor of *Terra Nova*. He has received awards from the French Academy of Sciences, the Société Géologique de France, and the Mineralogical Society, and he is a fellow of the MSA, the EAG/GS, and the Society of Glass Technology. We are delighted to welcome Georges as *Elements*' newest editor.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL LOGO

A few issues ago, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo began to appear on our masthead. This logo certifies that the paper used to print *Elements* is produced responsibly. FSC is an independent, nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. It was set up in 1993 as a response to concerns over global deforestation. To find out more about the significance of this logo, go to www.fsc.org.

Pierrette Tremblay, Managing Editor

"COMMUNITY"—WHAT SORT ARE WE?

In the October 2010 (v6n5) edition of *Elements*, there is widespread use of the term "community." Professor Oelkers uses it nine times in his important message in the EAG news section urging us to focus on global issues and work with the general public. Throw in several appeals for "communications," and we have a heavy borrowing from the Latin *communis*, meaning "general, shared by all..."

This matter comes up again in the issue. Dr. Manheim's letter questions the second-class status of applied research in North American universities, and the IAGC's president, Dr. Clemens Reimann, urges that society business be more broadly shared. These examples suggest that an examination of the term "community" may be worthwhile. Perhaps "community" is an idea that comes in two flavors. One might be a "weak" meaning that we use informally for anyone and everyone who happens to be around us and shares some common interest—our residential neighborhood, for example, or maybe everybody in the AAAS as a "community" of scientists, *sensu lato*. Perhaps there also is a "strong" form that summons underlying commitments, loyalties, even matters of conscience. Strong communities are intentional, and they require commitments beyond work for our own purposes. In a strong community the commitments are fundamentally acceptable because everyone in it undertakes equivalent levels of commitment. What identifies one as a member of a strong community is not a name or even ideas, but rather behavior. That old-fashioned strong sense is not so commonly seen today, especially among those of us who see ourselves and our work fundamentally in a libertarian context. Which is to say most of us, even when we join a learned society or work in consortia: we come together for a while, but fundamentally in order to pursue what we individually wish to pursue. See Drs. Manheim (p. 276) and Reimann (p. 333) for their examples.

It may be objected that modern Earth science can no longer move at the pace of traditional strong communities, that the fundamental nature of "cutting-edge science" has changed, or that only a highly competitive basis will allow our "community" to solve the critical global problems that we work on. Dr. Reimann points out that "the workload scientists face in their daily lives increases steadily, and most organizations are no longer willing to back this type of commitment [of a small cadre of people in service to societies] by their staff." This seems empirically well founded.

But if such things are true, then in what sense are we a "community"? And is our actual sort of community sufficient to the tasks? Maybe a place like *Elements* offers a chance to *communicate* about what sort of *community* we are, what sort we wish to be, and how we might accomplish whatever we find to be an answer.

Mark J. Logsdon, Geochimica, Inc.
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