THIS ISSUE

Clarifying the Etymology of Apatite

While copyediting the thematic articles in this issue, we found the authors offered three different derivations and/or meanings of the mineral name apatite. To find the actual meaning, Patrick Roycroft (*Elements* copy editor) checked over a dozen authoritative sources (both print and web-based) only to find almost as many variants again! Why so little consistency in something apparently so straightforward?

Patrick sought help from **Martine Cuypers** (Lecturer in Greek at Trinity College Dublin) to get to the bottom of this mystery. What they found is worth sharing with our geoscience colleagues.

The German mineralogist Abraham Gottlob Werner (1749–1817) coined the name "Apatit." He derived this term from the Greek verb "απατάω," which he defined using the Latin word "decipio." This he published in 1788 in the *Bergmännisches Journal* (p 85). Strictly speaking, he should have written "ἀπατάω." The correct transliteration for this is *apatáō*, and the closest English translation is "to deceive" (someone) or "to be deceptive." Werner invented the name and supplied its etymology.

However, Werner was not the first to actually publish the name. Another German mineralogist called Carl Abraham Gerhard (1738–1821) first published "Apatit" in 1786 in his book *Grundriß des Mineralsystems* (Christian Friedel Himburg, Berlin; p 281) in the form of an indirect quote from Werner. So, the primary source for the written name is actually a secondary report! [Implication: Werner had coined the term before 1786].

All this produces a headache for accurate referencing: an unwary reader could easily get misled as to who was responsible for exactly what and when. So what to do? Cite both!

ELEMENTS AT GOLDSCHMIDT

Elements will be at the 2015 Goldschmidt Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. Come visit us (booth #6)! This will be an occasion for you to meet our editorial team and visit with colleagues. Be sure to invite colleagues and students who do not currently receive *Elements* to visit the booth as well. We will have information about our member societies, details on how to receive *Elements*, and we will have back issues available for purchase.

Our next editorial meeting will be held on August 16, immediately prior to Goldschmidt. This yearly face-to-face meeting is essential as it gives us an opportunity to discuss, in depth, various aspects of *Elements*. It is during this meeting that we will discuss the proposals we have received for future issues of the magazine (see below).

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – THEMATIC TOPICS 2017

Come one, come all! If you have an area of research that you think would make a great issue of *Elements*, submit a proposal. At our editorial meeting in August, we will discuss the proposals we have on hand and will slate six for 2017. The selected proposals will strike a balance among petrology, mineralogy, and geochemistry. Additional information can be found at at elementsmagazine.org/proposal.htm.

JOB POSTINGS

Would you like to advertise your graduate school program? Do you have a job opening in your department or in your company? Are you seeking applicants for a postdoctoral or PhD in the broad fields of geochemistry, mineralogy, and petrology? Let *Elements* help you find that perfect candidate! Every issue of *Elements* is shipped to 16,000 mineralogists, geochemists, and petrologists and 1000 libraries in over 100 countries. You can reach prospective applicants through a print ad in *Elements* and/or online at elementsmagazine.org/jobpostings. Both are reasonably priced!

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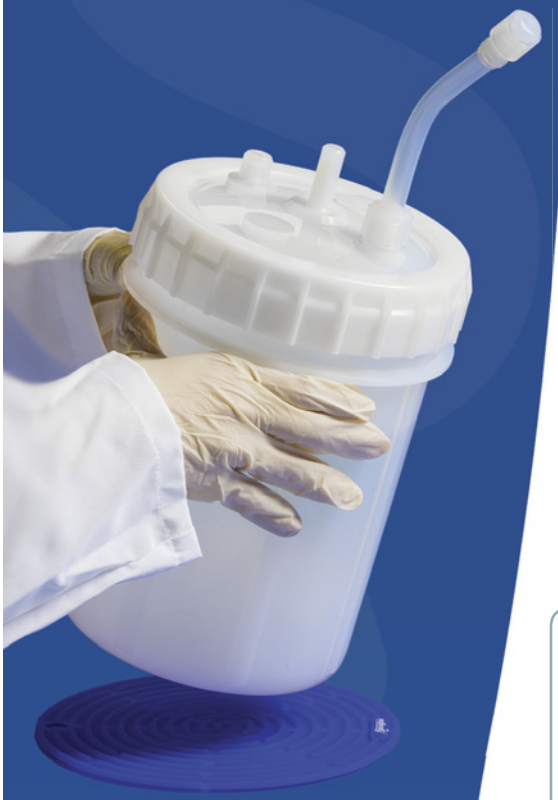

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