



European Association of Geochemistry



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chris Ballentine

'The time has come,' the Walrus said, 'to talk of many things: Of shoes and ships – and sealing wax – of cabbages and kings' (*Through the Looking-Glass*, Lewis Carroll, 1871). The time has come indeed, and this is my last message in the EAG's President's Corner. These past two years, it has been a pleasure playing my part in turning many discussions into action on behalf of EAG. Some have been mundane but necessary, others extraordinary and exciting, and most were derived from initiatives and ideas from the dedicated and hardworking geochemists who serve on the EAG Council. Turning

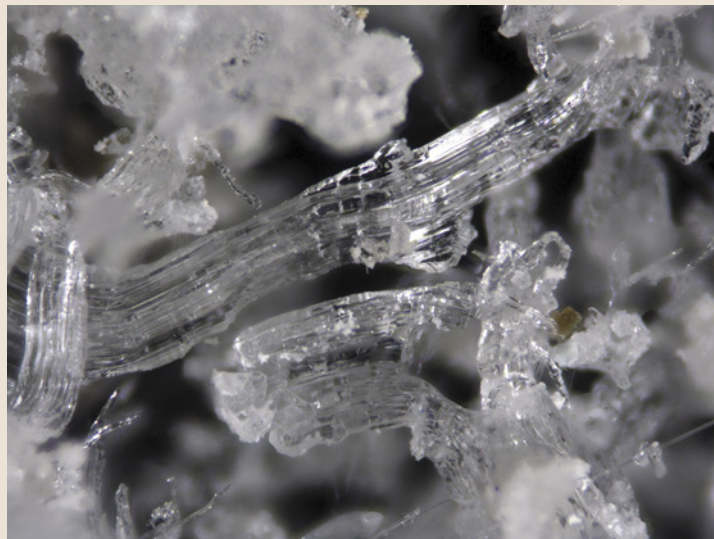
ideas into reality, though, requires far more than talk. Marie-Aude Hulshoff, EAG's business manager, has provided energy, ideas, and organisational skills that have been essential for ensuring professionalism and efficient coordination of the activities of the Society. These have grown exponentially since 2007 when I first started to work with the EAG.

Although established in 1985, EAG has really come of age in the last six or seven years. This is a result of the EAG-run Goldschmidt conferences in Europe reaching a critical size and an operating model where economies of scale and increasing membership have enabled the founding of the EAG office. Now, with over 2700 members in EAG, there is a need to generate the material unseen by most but essential for operations: the EAG calendar, the terms of reference for various committees, a stock of letters for various occasions, a membership database, a website, accounting systems and so forth. These were all building at a good pace before my term as president, and continue yet. As the Society's operations continue to grow, the EAG has had a major success with its *Geochemical Perspectives* publication being accepted by Web of Science, being distributed by GeoScienceWorld, and achieving a very high first impact factor – just in time for the launch of *Geochemical Perspectives Letters* next year. Our communications now include our Geochemistry Making the News and monthly newsletters to EAG members and the geochemical community. We sponsor a distinguished lecturer program in the eastern parts of Europe and, jointly with the Geochemical Society, in Africa. EAG has increased support for students and early-career scientists, with funding available through workshop grants and direct individual travel grants.

It has been a pleasure working with other societies to provide mutual support for each other's activities and formalising some of these arrangements with society memorandums of understanding. EAG has had a long and strong relationship with the Geochemical Society (GS). Joint activities include the Geochemical Fellowship scheme, the Gast Lectureship award and organisation of the Goldschmidt Conference. Working with Rick Carlson and Barbara Sherwood Lollar, presidents of the GS, to secure and strengthen the Goldschmidt Conference has been a particular highlight. It has been an honour working with the EAG Council and office, but also with like-minded individuals from other science societies who, together, form the often unnoticed but essential band of colleagues who collectively ensure the vibrancy of our international geochemical community. Being EAG president has been a whirlwind that has passed all too quickly, and I hope I have played my part. Nevertheless, the time has come to pass the sealing wax and shoes and ships to Liane Benning (University of Leeds, UK), who takes on the EAG presidency, and to welcome Bernard Marty (CRPG and University of Nancy, France) as the incoming EAG vice president. I wish them every success in the coming years.

Chris Ballentine, EAG President

WINNING PHOTO IN THE FIRST EAG PHOTO CONTEST



'Destructive Beauty.' Epsomite crystals formed during the alteration of a concrete wall by sulfate attack induced by the upward flow of groundwater. PHOTO BY CÉSAR MENOR-SALVÁN. You can read about the story of this photo on the EAG Blog.

It is with great pleasure that we present the winning photo of the first EAG Photo Contest: 'Destructive Beauty,' by César Menor-Salván. Participants in the contest had to submit photos in one of the 3 themes: 'The changing world: geochemistry in action,' 'Geochemistry and life' and 'Geochemistry in a test tube.' EAG intends to hold this competition annually to provide a platform for inspiring images in geochemistry. If you have suggestions about next year's themes or general comments on the competition, please contact office@eag.eu.com.

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(2015)

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