



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



Andrew C. Kerr

Some of you may have wondered why, a couple of years ago, the Mineralogical Society created the new post of Public Relations Officer (PRO) on its Council. Why, you might also have asked, does a not-for-profit scientific society need such a person? Surely the existing posts on Council and the Society's office staff can deal with 'publicity' matters as they have done in the past.

The reason the Society initiated this post was to have someone on Council with an overview of a range of publicity-related activities which, under the old Council structure, risked falling between the various administrative positions of the Society. Furthermore, with the inexorable rise of 'social media' (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), the Society needed to become more organized and less ad hoc in its web and publicity-related activities.

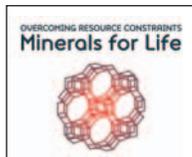
My role over the past couple of years has therefore involved a wide variety of tasks, responsibilities and activities. Many of you will have noticed that the Society has a revamped website and now has an active presence on Facebook and Twitter. Although much of the work on the website was completed before I became PRO, having an overview of all the Society's Internet activities is an integral part of the role. I have also been involved with Kevin Murphy in the design of new fliers, one to promote the Society to potential new members and another specifically aimed at new student members (remember there is free membership for students for the first year).

The Min Soc is now a Member Body of the UK's Science Council, and it is through this that we are able to offer our members the opportunity to become Chartered Scientists. The Science Council has a membership of about 40 learned scientific societies in the UK and, amongst other things, seeks to promote the appreciation of the value of science in society and to provide a collective voice on science policy issues, with the aim of influencing government, national organizations (such as exam boards) and employers. I have represented the Society at the Science Council's annual general meeting and contributed to a wide range of consultations, such as the amount of mathematics in the science curriculum and assessing of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects in higher education.

These are challenging times for many learned societies in terms of financial pressures, gaining new members and retaining existing members. However, through the appointment of a PRO, the Min Soc has demonstrated that it is committed to securing the future of the Society.

Andrew C. Kerr. Min Soc PRO

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013



The Mineralogical Society's annual conference for 2013, "Minerals for Life: Overcoming Resource Constraints," takes a novel path. We are collaborating with several other organizations in the running of the conference. The event will be held at the University of Edinburgh on 17–19 June 2013.

The aim of this meeting is to provide a forum for real interaction between those in academia and those in industry. Representatives of various regulatory agencies will also be present. There will be four main themes and, at present, 13 sessions are planned. Key to the planning is that there will be overlap and 'crossover' between the various sessions and that delegates interested specifically in one aspect of the conference will also attend others to contribute and to learn. Several formal opportunities are being built into the programme to allow for interaction among the different cohorts present.

STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MINERAL RESOURCES

- Critical metals and other commodities (including REEs, phosphates, fluorite, Co, etc.)
- Security of supply of base and precious metals
- Ethical sourcing
- Minerals processing/recycling

FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS AND MINERALS

- Engineering mineral functionality
- Focus on function – Emerging directions in structural materials
- Focus on function – Hi-tech non-structural and biomaterials

MINERALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

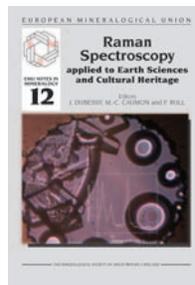
- Radioactive waste management – Engineered barrier systems:
- Radioactive waste management – Natural analogue systems
- Carbon capture and storage
- Remediation

BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN MINERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Biomining and bioremediation
- Biomineralization: Fundamental and applied research (e.g. climate proxy)

Go to www.minerals-for-life.org for details and to register your interest.

EMU NOTES IN MINERALOGY, VOLUME 12



Raman Spectroscopy Applied to Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage

Editors: J. Dubessy, M.-C. Caumon and F. Rull

Now available at www.minersoc.org

Price: £25.50 to individuals; £40 to institutions (plus postage)

Spectroscopic methods such as Raman are used to investigate the structure and dynamics of matter. They are essential for the study of the different types of mineral or organic materials produced at the Earth's surface or interior. As a result of tech-

nological improvements in gratings, detectors, filters and personal computers in the last decade, many micro-Raman spectrometers have become plug-and-play instruments, very easy to use and available at a lower cost than the early Raman microprobes. Thus, many laboratories in Earth sciences and cultural heritage are equipped with these new spectrometers. Commercial, portable Raman spectrometers working in the field have also contributed to the spread of Raman spectroscopy. Poor levels of education in terms of Raman spectroscopy in undergraduate courses in Earth sciences make it difficult for individuals to obtain information of the highest quality relevant to Earth sciences and cultural heritage. This volume is, therefore, timely.

Four main topics are addressed: Theory; Methodology, including instrumentation; Experimental aspects; and Application.

Contents: Raman and fluorescence, by G. Panczer, D. de Ligny, C. Mendoza, M. Gaft, A.-M. Sedoux-Guillaume and X. Wang • Instrumentation in Raman spectroscopy: Elementary theory and practice, by J. Dubessy, M.-C. Caumon, F. Rull and S. Sharma • Theoretical modelling of Raman spectra, by R. Caracas and E. Bobocoiu • Raman data analysis, by N. Tarcea and J. Popp • Optical cells with fused silica windows for the study of geological fluids, by I.-M. Chou • The Hydrothermal Diamond Anvil Cell (HDAC) for Raman spectroscopic studies of geological fluids at high pressures and temperatures, by C. Schmidt and I.-M. Chou • Raman spectroscopy of gases, water and other geological fluids, by V. Garcia-Baonza, F. Rull and J. Dubessy • Raman spectroscopy of silicate glasses and melts in geological systems, by S. Rossano and B. Mysen • Raman spectroscopy at high pressure and temperature for the study of the Earth's mantle and planetary minerals, by B. Reynard, G. Montagnac and H. Cardon • Raman spectroscopy in biogeology and astrobiology, by I. Daniel and H. G. M. Edwards • Application of Raman spectroscopy to the study of graphitic carbons in the Earth sciences, by O. Beyssac and M. Lazzeri • Raman spectroscopy applied to gemmology, by E. Fritsch, B. Rondeau, T. Hainschwang and S. Karampelas • Applications of Raman spectroscopy in cultural heritage research, by P. Vandenabeele