



# Mineralogical Society of America



web

[www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Mark Ghiorso in New Zealand

### *An Unexpected Surprise from a Generous Donor*

I write this, my third President's Letter, in mid-February 2021. The pandemic situation in the US is still horrible, but the prospects for overcoming it are getting better. Vaccinations are being administered, and the federal government is finally taking the issue seriously and implementing a thoughtful plan. Hope is in sight. In the midst of all this tragedy, I have some extraordinarily good news. The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) is the beneficiary of a very generous donation from long-standing member

Peter Buseck. The donation will be used to enhance and improve our lectureship program. Peter was the 2019 Roebling Medalist, but he also served the MSA long ago as a councilor and led the 1982 initiative to create the MSA lectureship program. Our lectureship program is one of the most important and consequential activities organized by the society. Until Peter made his decision to endow funding, it was sustained monetarily by a haphazard arrangement of undedicated and somewhat unpredictable funding sources. Peter's gift will generate funds to maintain one of our three annual lecturers and, in addition, will create a fourth position. One lectureship will focus on topics of "latest research" or "new developments" in the mineralogical/petrological sciences, while the new position will encompass broader topics that appeal to multidisciplinary audiences.

The MSA relies on its members for governance, for intellectual credibility, and for financial support. We are a small society in terms of member numbers, but we have a huge impact on the science community through the *American Mineralogist*, our *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and short course volumes, our annual awards, and our lectureship program. As anyone who has served the society realizes, we do not have a huge endowment. We rely on giving. And, most of our gifts do not come from corporations or charitable institutions but from member donations. When I served as Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Washington (USA) many years ago, I learned something important about giving. Most donors give money to an institution to address some need that they perceive is important based on their own experience: students need to eat, students need research funding to buy supplies, students need to travel to meetings, to name but a few.

All these are valid reasons for giving, but they may not address the real current needs of the institution. For example, right now the MSA needs funding to support a person dedicated to reach out to millennial and so-called Gen Z (potential) members through social media and to motivate them to engage with the society. We would love to have funding aimed at enhancing diversity and supporting efforts to generate educational resources on the web. We are in need of nondedicated funding resources that can be tapped to respond to short-term opportunities. I mention this because there may be someone reading this letter who, like Peter, has thought about giving back to a learned society that itself has had a significant impact on his or her career. You may be wondering what is the best way to do that? What cause will have the greatest impact on the community served by the MSA? How will I be remembered by posterity through my gift to the MSA? Thoughtful decisions about giving are important. They have consequences, and

they should be made with the future, not the past, in mind. I would love to chat about this with anyone who is ready to make such an important commitment to the society.

But right now, let's all rejoice in the society's newly enhanced and expanded lectureship program. If there is someone who you would like to see become an MSA lecturer, please let me or Chair of the Lecture Program Committee Kim Tait know and we will add their names for consideration.

As always, stay safe and stay healthy,

**Mark Ghiorso**  
2021 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Renewal notices for 2021 MSA membership have been sent out to all 2019 and 2020 members. If you have not yet renewed, please do so by accessing the renewal information on the MSA home page at [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org).
- Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses. The notices also afford an opportunity to purchase MSA publications and to make contributions that can support MSA's programs.

## MSA'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURER PROGRAM

Through its Distinguished Lecturer Program, MSA provides talks on a wide variety of scientific topics to institutions of higher education. Three lecturers are chosen each year to give presentations on their research in the USA and beyond. The generous contribution of MSA Member and 2019 Roebling Medalist Peter R. Buseck will cover the costs of one of the existing three lecturers, as well as funding a fourth lecturer. This expansion of the program will enable MSA to provide lectures on scientific topics of interest to the general public and on a variety of interdisciplinary subjects.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

### *Nominations Sought for 2022–2023 Awards*

#### NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1 JUNE 2021

The Roebling Medal (2022) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The Dana Medal (2022) is intended to recognize continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.

The Mineralogical Society of America Award (2022) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 35<sup>th</sup> birthday, or within seven years of the PhD.

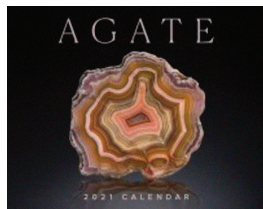
The Distinguished Public Service Medal (2023) is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science.

Society Fellowship is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member, with two members acting as cosponsors. A form is required. Please contact committee chair or see the MSA home page.

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: <http://www.minsocam.org/>.

## THE 2021 CALENDAR

The 2021 sixteen-month calendar is entitled *Agate*. The calendar is published by Lithographie, LLC, in cooperation with the Mineralogical Society of America, Martin Zinn Exposition, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Fine Mineral Shows, the Denver Area Gem & Mineral Show, and Rocky Mountain Gems & Minerals. The calendar is available on the MSA's website: [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org).



## DID YOU KNOW?

The MSA has a number of open access publications now available on its website. These include (among others):

- *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy Lab Manual* (B. McNamee, M. Gunter)
- *Principles of Stable Isotope Geochemistry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Z. Sharp)
- *Teaching Mineralogy* (J. Brady, D. Mogk, D. Perkins III)
- *Guide to Thin Section Microscopy* (M. Raith, P. Raase, J. Reinhardt)
- *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry Volume 75: Carbon in Earth* (Edited by R. Hazen, A. Jones, J. Baross)
- *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry Volume 80: Pore-Scale Geochemical Processes* (Edited by C. Steefel, S. Emmanuel, L. Anovitz)

The publications can be found at this link: [www.minsocam.org/msa/openaccess\\_publications/](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/openaccess_publications/).

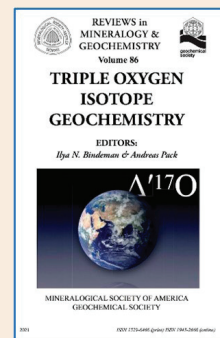


## REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY Volume 86: Triple Oxygen Isotope Geochemistry

Ilya N. Bindeman and Andreas Pack (Editors),  
2021, ISSN 1529-6466 (print)

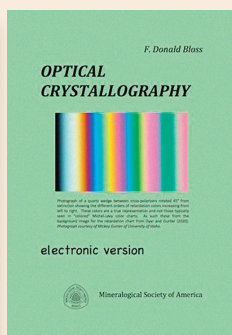
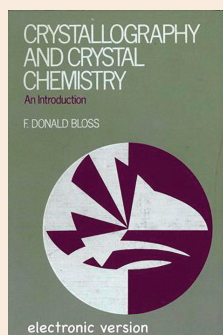
The new Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry volume, *Triple Oxygen Isotope Geochemistry*, is now available in print from the MSA, and in electronic format from MinPubs.org.

During the past two decades, two major and exciting fields have emerged in the science of stable isotope geochemistry, both related to understanding tiny variations in minor isotopologue abundances. The first field is related to the distribution of “clumping” of heavy isotopes in molecules such as CO<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>4</sub>; the second field is the use of small variations in all three oxygen isotopes. Both approaches allow researchers to resolve absolute temperatures, to reveal previously masked process pathways, and to define exchanges between various reservoirs. In this volume, the authors concentrate on presenting information about the latter from an understanding of variations among ratios of all three isotopes of oxygen, with primary emphasis on terrestrial systems. The new volume emphasizes how new, high-resolution measurements are accompanied by advances in theoretical calculations that dovetail with empirical calibrations and applications. Triple oxygen isotope geochemistry is a young and rapidly evolving field, and some of the observations discussed in this volume will undoubtedly be modified as more discoveries are made and improved protocols are developed.



## F. DONALD BLOSS PUBLICATIONS

Now in Digital Format



The textbooks *Crystallography and Crystal Chemistry: An Introduction* and *Optical Crystallography* are now available as watermarked downloadable pdfs. Both classics in their field and still in use after many years, the publications can be ordered through MinPubs.org.

