



Mineralogical Society of America



www.minsocam.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



So, why become a member of the Mineralogical Society of America?

This question is especially relevant as we continue to hear from all types of organizations that those in the current generation are not joiners. Most years my membership renewal has been automatic. I joined MSA as a graduate student in 1977 (part of a “joiner” generation), and ever since, it has been my primary scientific society, a sort of comfortable mineralogical home base. As a student, it seemed an obvious choice; most of my fellow students were fledgling MSA members, and my advisor and other faculty encouraged

the move. I still recall the day when my first unapologetically yellow “American Mineralogist” was among those decorating the department mailboxes. It was a well-practiced ritual on “Am Min” day to scan the contents and quickly skim papers of interest, and I was pleased to finally look the part. Admittedly, much of this attention, I learned, was for reassurance that someone else was not encroaching too closely on your my? own research. These were pre-internet days, so scientific information arrived in journals, or at conferences with announcements of new discoveries, and there was always the potential to be surprised. It was all rather exciting. As a member of MSA I felt pride to be part of the broad continuum of past and present mineral scientists, so many I had heard about – and admired. I felt a little more like a real scientist. Of course, I also appreciated the reduced cost for RIM volumes, each bright white volume prominently displayed on the shelf by my desk, subtly messaging that here works a mineralogist. And, I am sure my advisor appreciated the reduced registration cost at conferences for MSA members.

Ok, that was then – ancient history to some – but what about now? Many MSA members are not familiar with paper copies of our flagship journal, except perhaps packed onto shelves in offices of more senior colleagues, and only know its unique yellow hue from the color scheme of the MSA booth at conferences. Most of us receive “Am Min” online, and with the frenetic sharing of research results through social media, the likelihood of surprise is greatly diminished. I think it fair to say that for many generations of MSA members, an obvious reason for membership was to receive *American Mineralogist*. It was and is still the premier journal for the mineral sciences, and in all member surveys, its publication is ranked as the most important mission of MSA. In recent years, however, I have heard comments, such as, “I can get any article I need for free on the internet, so why do I need a subscription to *American Mineralogist*? For that matter, why do I need to be a member of MSA?”

It is a fair point; I am sure most of us use the internet as a primary source of “reprints” (anyone remember reprint-request cards, or paper reprints?). Of course, internet sourced or otherwise, scientific articles depend upon journals such as *American Mineralogist* to ensure scientific integrity (and in many cases, basic readability) and a permanent place in the ever-expanding scientific archive. For science to be validated and preserved, it has to be peer-reviewed and published. Hence, the need for *American Mineralogist* – and the society that publishes it. Without MSA, there is no *American Mineralogist* (or RIMG volumes, *Elements*, etc.) Nothing comes for free, and as members of MSA, we are critical partners who support, protect, and improve our flagship journal.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said that “taxes are what we pay for a civilized society.” Analogously, MSA dues are what we pay for professionalism in our science.

Of course, there are still the substantial discounts to members on a huge range of publications, short courses and workshops, and for certain conference registrations. Student and early-career memberships are still a bargain, and members receive a subscription to the acclaimed journal *Elements*. So, if financial considerations are your primary motivation, then joining MSA can be a very good deal. But perhaps more important, if you are looking for creative ways to highlight your work, have a passion to educate, or just want to help share our fascination for minerals and their importance with the world, MSA has resources and programs that can amplify and assist with those goals. Although many of the reasons I first joined MSA are still operative, my 45 years of experience as a member have shown me that there is so much more that can be accomplished working together with the creative and passionate members of MSA than I could ever hope to do on my own.

Please join us as we work together on our exciting mission forward.

Jeffrey Post

2023 President, Mineralogical Society of America

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

Renewals

The membership renewal process is well underway at MSA, so please visit the website and renew for 2023 at your earliest convenience. Regular membership is \$85; Early Career is \$45; and student membership is \$20. There is also a Sustaining Member category of \$235 (\$85 for membership and \$150 as a contribution toward MSA's programs).

Subscriptions

This is also the time of year for institutions and individuals to subscribe to MSA's publications for 2023. Subscription renewal notices have been sent out. If you or your institution have not received yours, please contact the MSA Business Office at business@minsocam.org.

Annual Fund – MSA Forward

MSA is launching its *MSA Forward* Annual Fund to support our efforts to communicate most effectively to our membership and the wider public. These efforts include our new website, e-commerce system, mentorship platform, and much more. To make a tax-deductible gift to the Fund, members can contact Ann Benbow, MSA Executive Director, at abenbow@minsocam.org

DID YOU KNOW?

You can follow MSA on social media via FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. MSA's YouTube Channel has presentations on a variety of mineralogical topics for the science community, students and teachers, collectors, and the general public. Some of these are from MSA's Centennial Symposium in 2019 and others are part of the annual Minerals Day celebration. Examples are the mineralogy of Mars, mineral photography, mineral collecting, mineralogy careers, minerals and archaeology, gems and gemology, and much more. If there is a mineralogy topic that you would like to see covered, please email Ann Benbow at abenbow@minsocam.org.

2023 MSA AWARDEES

MSA would like to congratulate its newest awardees who will be honored at the 2023 Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, USA. That meeting will take place October 15–18, 2023. There will be a luncheon to celebrate the awardees in Pittsburgh, as well as special lectures by the awardees.

Roebeling Medal: *Georges Calas, Sorbonne Université*



The Roebeling Medal is the highest award of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) for scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy.

Dana Medal: *Razvan Caracas, Université de Lyon*



The Dana Medal is intended to recognize sustained outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in mid-career.

Cont'd from page 348

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the Society's awards. Nominations should be sent to the secretary (metsocsec@gmail.com) by January 15 (January 31 for the Service Award and the Pellas-Ryder Award). For more information and details on how to submit a nomination for any of these awards, please see the latest newsletter at the Society website or email the secretary.

The Society gives a number awards each year. The **Leonard Medal** honors outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics and closely allied fields. The **Barringer Medal and Award** recognize outstanding work in the field of impact cratering and/or work that has led to a better understanding of impact phenomena. The **Nier Prize** recognizes outstanding research in meteoritics and closely allied fields by young scientists. The **Service Award** honors members who have advanced the goals of the Meteoritical Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. The **Paul Pellas–Graham Ryder Award** is given for the best student paper in planetary science and is awarded jointly by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. The newest society award, the **Elmar Jessberger Award**, will be given to a mid-career female scientist in the field of isotope cosmochemistry.

UPDATED ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR

2023	86 th Annual Meeting	14–18 August, Los Angeles, California, USA
2024	87 th Annual Meeting	28 July–2 August, Brussels, Belgium (EU)
2025	88 th Annual Meeting	July TBD, Perth, Australia
2026	89 th Annual Meeting	July/August TBD, Frankfurt, Germany (EU)

Distinguished Public Service Medal: *Sharon Tahrikheli, American Geosciences Institute*



The Distinguished Public Service (DPS) Medal is awarded by the MSA Council to individuals or organizations who have made important contributions to furthering the vitality of the geological sciences, especially but not necessarily in the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and crystallography.

MSA Award: *Shaunna Morrison, Carnegie Institution for Science*



The Mineralogical Society of America Award is intended to recognize outstanding published contributions to the science of mineralogy by individuals near the beginning of their professional careers.

Cont'd from page 349

Environment, Analysis (2017–2018) and was on the Editorial Board of *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis* (2019–present).

The focus of Professor Renguang Zuo's research is on developing novel methods for processing geochemical survey data and identifying geochemical anomalies associated with mineralization. He has published more than 120 SCI-indexed papers in various international peer-reviewed journals. He is an associate editor for *Journal of Geochemical Exploration*, *Natural Resources Research*, *Ore Geology Reviews*, and *Computers & Geosciences*. He is also a Councilor for the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences and a Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists.

Dennis Arne (ex officio)



Dennis Arne has 40 years of experience in geology and applied geochemistry. He has overseen regional geochemical exploration programs in the Yukon, British Columbia, Nunavut, and northern Quebec in Canada, the USA, eastern Australia, Suriname, Sudan, and Laos. He was Managing Director and Principal Consultant – Geochemistry of CSA Global Canada until late 2017, General Manager and

Principal Consultant – Geochemistry for Revelation Geoscience (purchased by CSA Global in 2012), Principal Consulting Geochemist with ioGlobal (now Reflex Geochemistry), and formerly Senior Geochemist with Geoscience Victoria (now Geological Survey of Victoria, Australia). Dennis is currently director and principal consulting geochemist at Telemark Geosciences and was, until recently, the Director of Exploration for E79 Resources. He is a Fellow and past President of the Association of Applied Geochemists, a member and registered Professional Geoscientist (Geochemistry) of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, and a registered Professional Geoscientist in British Columbia, Canada.