Geochemical Society

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Elevating Geochemistry

Richard Carlson

This issue of *Elements* arrives at the beginning of the Northern Hemisphere summer when, I suspect, many geochemists are thinking about the impending field season or time in the lab, or perhaps about enjoying the "mineral–water interface" of some tropical beach. For the Geochemical Society (GS), summer is a time to get ready for Goldschmidt. It is also the time to reach out to the geochemical community for their assistance in identifying nominees for Society awards and this year to volunteer, or name potential candidates, for the GS Board of Directors. Four Board positions need to be filled, including that of vice president. As I've written previously, the GS bylaws now require that the regional distribution of Board members match the distribution of the membership, including the provision that the vice presidential candidate cannot be from the same region as the current vice president. The goal here is to increase the diversity of the leadership of the Society so that it can better understand the needs of the international geochemical community and work more effectively with the many diverse organizations whose reports appear in this section of *Elements*. As EAG President Chris Ballentine wrote in the last issue of *Elements*, the geochemical community is growing large enough to be noticed. When 3000–4000 geochemists assemble for the annual Goldschmidt Conference to present research breakthroughs that range from new views of the Solar System and Earth formation to a better understanding of how humans interact with the surface environment, to the benefit and detriment of both, groups outside geochemistry start to pay attention, particularly the international news media. Getting the geochemical message out to the broader community is not easy, and miscommunication is common. One component of our weekly newsletter, *Geochemical News*, provides examples of how geochemical research is perceived in the international media. The range of topics covered in *Geochemical News* is clear documentation of the broad reach of geochemistry through many areas of both pure and applied science.

One goal of any professional society is to advance the field and provide services to the members, which only become possible through community action. The membership of the GS is on the verge of breaking 4000, if it hasn't already done so by the time you read this, for the first time in its history. This represents a growth of almost a factor of 2 in just the last 7 years. While one can debate whether professional societies are the driver or follower of growth, it is easy to point to the beneficial services they provide, for example this magazine. Guiding geochemical societies, keeping their existing programs healthy, and developing new activities such as *Elements* to better serve the geochemical community are tasks done largely by volunteers, from the members of the many committees within the GS, to the associate editors of *GCA*, to members of the Board of Directors. If you like the way the GS is managed, or if you don't, the way to influence its future is to serve in one of the many volunteer roles available. If you would like to be a part of determining the future directions of the Society, or if you know someone who would, please let the chair of the Nominations Committee, Karen Hudson-Edwards of the University of London, know. If you are aware of an achievement in geochemistry that deserves recognition or if you are unhappy about the level of diversity in Society awards, nominate someone for the appropriate award. The future of the Society and its ability to assist the geochemical community depend on input from the membership—you!

Richard Carlson, GS President

2013 GS MEDALISTS

Goldschmidt Award to Henry Elderfield

Henry (Harry) Elderfield is acknowledged for his wide-ranging contributions to marine geochemistry and paleoclimatology, including his landmark paper on the Mg/Ca thermometry of foraminifera and his contributions to our understanding of the genesis of manganese nodules and the use of trace elements as tracers of ocean dynamics. Prof. Elderfield is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Geochemical Society, the EAG, and the AGU. He is a past winner of the Patterson Award of the Geochemical Society and the Urey Medal of the EAG. The V. M. Goldschmidt Award recognizes major achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry, consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a series of publications that have had great influence on the field.

Patterson Award to Joel Blum

Joel D. Blum, the John D. MacArthur and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Clair C. Patterson Award. Blum is recognized for his contributions to addressing the problem of Hg in the environment through the development of novel isotopic measurements that in some ways parallel Patterson's seminal work tracing Pb contamination in the environment. The Patterson Award is given annually for a recent breakthrough in environmental geochemistry of fundamental significance and published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Clarke Award to Blair Schoene

Blair Schoene, assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences of Princeton University, will receive the 2013 F. W. Clarke Award. Dr. Schoene was nominated for his multifaceted body of work that assisted in the development of improved accuracy and precision in U–Pb geochronology, which he then used to define the detailed assembly and deformational history of the ancient crust of South Africa. The Clarke Award recognizes an early-career scientist for a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry, published either as a single paper or as a series of papers on a single topic.

2013 Distinguished Service Award




Kerstin Lehnert, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, **Klaus Peter Jochum** and **Baerbel Sarbas**, Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie, and **J. Douglas Walker**, University of Kansas, directors of the online geochemical databases EarthChem, GeoReM, GEOROC, and NAVDAT, respectively, are recognized for their long-running efforts to bring modern online data management to geochemistry. Between them, these databases freely present to the geochemical community hundreds of thousands of rock and standard analyses with intelligently designed query structures that allow quick retrieval of the most pertinent data with a minimum of effort. Their contributions in data compilation and improvements to the standard of data reporting in the geochemical community are paving the way to a future where geochemical data can be efficiently preserved, easily discovered, and intelligently queried, and thereby be used for scientific discovery by the broad geoscience research and education community.

2014 BOARD ELECTIONS

Four Board positions will be voted on this fall*: vice president, secretary, and two director positions. During the coming months, the Nominations Committee will be seeking and vetting potential candidates. If you are interested in serving the Society in one of these roles, please indicate your interest to the Nominations Committee chair, Karen Hudson-Edwards (k.hudson-edwards@bbk.ac.uk), by July 31. The 2013 Nominations Committee is composed of Karen Hudson-Edwards, chair (University of London, UK), Takeshi Kakegawa (Tohoku University, Japan), Simon Wilde (Curtin University, Australia), Bernhard Peucker-Ehrenbrink (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA), Adina Paytan (University of California–Santa Cruz, USA), and Tracy Rushmer (Macquarie University, Australia).

**In the previous issue we announced five positions. Samuel Savin has agreed to renew his term as treasurer.*

2014 AWARD NOMINATIONS

	**The V. M. Goldschmidt Award** is given for major achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry.
	**The F. W. Clarke Award** is presented to an early-career scientist for a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry.
	**The C. C. Patterson Award** is granted for a recent innovative breakthrough in environmental geochemistry.
	**The Alfred Treibs Award** is given for major achievements in organic geochemistry.
	The GS/EAG Geochemical Fellows Award is bestowed upon outstanding scientists who have made a major contribution to geochemistry.
Make a nomination at www.geochemsoc.org/awards/makeanomination.htm.	
Nomination Deadline: October 15, 2013	

Why Nominate?

Geochemists want and need recognition for their work. Awards help to inspire individuals to do their best. Awards set the bar for others to match or exceed. Your participation in the awards program by being a nominator or writing a supporting letter of recommendation not only benefits the nominee, it benefits the geochemical community. Please take the time to highlight the accomplishments of your valued colleagues by nominating them. With your help, we can ensure that the award committees have a diverse and deserving pool of candidates.

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Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

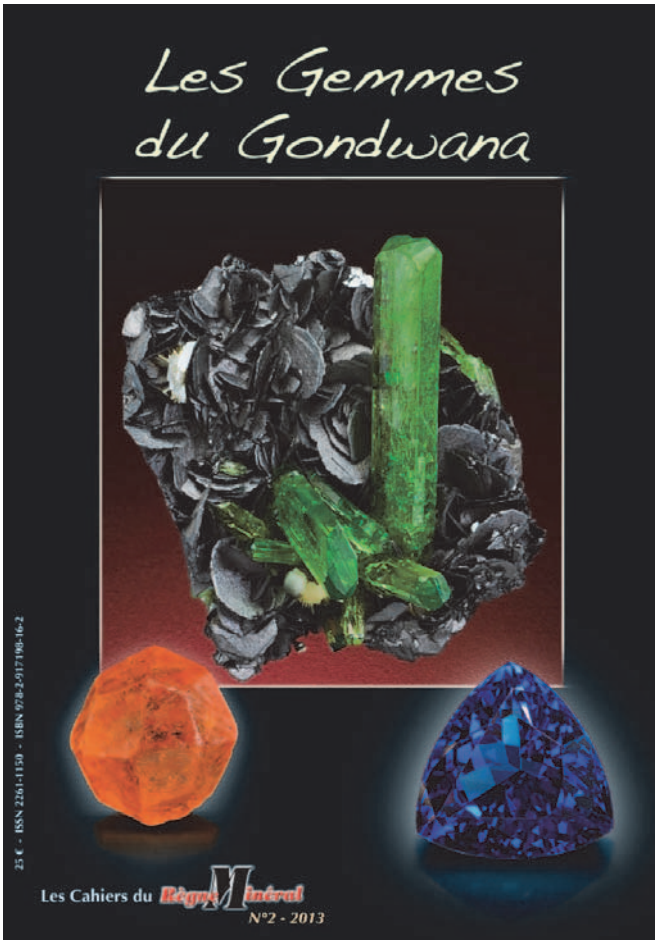
www.sfmc-fr.org

LES GEMMES DU GONDWANA

In January 2013, the journal *Règne Minéral* published a special issue (in French) devoted to the gems of Gondwana. The authors of the eleven chapters belong to various public research institutions, universities, and private companies in France, Kenya, Madagascar, Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, and the UK. The articles report on various aspects of gems in the East African Neoproterozoic (540–1000 Ma) Mozambican belt of the Gondwana supercontinent, from India to Antarctica through East Africa and Madagascar.

The chapters present the geodynamic context, geological setting, history of discovery, economic development, and societal consequences of the mining and exploitation of the gems. They are illustrated with accurate geological maps and cross sections, as well as beautiful photographs of mineral samples, gems and jewellery. Even more, this special issue provides new geological interpretative models for gem formation based on recent studies published in international scientific journals. Particular attention has been paid to tsavorite, a green (V, Cr, Mn)-bearing grossular; tanzanite, a blue V-bearing zoisite; and corundum (ruby).

This special issue is an interesting collaborative contribution from geologists, geochemists, mineral lovers, enlightened amateurs, and art photographers. The result is a beautiful book, which will guide you on a fascinating gemological journey.



The *Les Gemmes du Gondwana* special issue may be ordered on the *Règne Minéral* website: www.minerauxetfossiles.com/index.php?page=046.