



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NEWS FROM LONDON

At this time of our cycle, Prof. Hilary Downes (Birbeck College, UK) should be stepping down as President of the Society. By the time you read this, Hilary will have served for two years and should be heading off into the mineralogical sunset – a job well done. However, a suggestion has been made that we should consider asking Presidents to serve a three-year term, the first as ‘President Elect’. The rationale is that there is so much information/activity to assimilate that it would really benefit the incoming office holder to have a year when s/he shadows the current office holder. We are delighted to announce that, at our Society’s Annual General Meeting held 26 October 2017 in London (UK) the first President to serve a year as ‘President Elect’ will be Prof. B.W.D. Yardley of the University of Leeds (UK). Welcome Bruce. To facilitate the changeover, Hilary Downes has agreed to continue in her role for a further year and so her term of office will expire at end 2018. Thank you to Hilary.

ALL CHANGE AT THE MINSOC

“I have, when travelling, so often wished for some little indication of the scientific features of the country, beyond the meagre information of the guide book, that it occurs to me to suggest collaboration amongst mineralogists for mutual information. With a view to this, could we not agree to take some localities and work out their details, spending our holidays in un-hackneyed districts, at quiet inns and in fresh air, each reporting his results succinctly in the *Mineralogical Magazine*, with a sketch map where wanted?”

In 1877, one of the first papers ever published (by Marshall Hall, Fellow of the Geological Society and member of the Alpine Club) in *Mineralogical Magazine* included the text above. This sums up the need for, and purpose of, a journal better than many modern platitudes.

The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc) has published 80+ volumes of *Mineralogical Magazine* in the 141-year period since Marshall Hall and little has changed in terms of the fundamentals: present the work, listen to the views of your peers, update the work, and submit it for publication in the journal.

The methods of publication are largely unchanged also. Volunteer editors work with authors to bring the content to an acceptable state and then, with help from copy editor/typesetter/printer (aka online publishing), the published entity is sold at a ‘reasonable’ price to customers (libraries and members) to enable the publisher to do it all again the next year and to help with other aspects of the society at the same time.

So, what is changing? Well, the last 30 years of scientific publishing have seen more change than in the previous 200. Computerised typesetting, and electronic files for artwork and modern printing presses are now standard.

In addition, the way that customers buy books and journals has changed. Library budgets have stagnated for many years and the cost of books and journals has continued to increase at more than the rate of inflation. The BIG DEALs from ‘superpower’ publishers have squeezed out small independent publishers. The town-centre grocer’s shop really is being replaced by the out-of-town superstore.

So, where are MinSoc journals to be found in this maelstrom? For several years, the society has maintained an equilibrium by careful trimming of costs (last year we cut costs by reducing the number of paper journals being printed) and by adhering to rigid budgeting, all the while maintaining services to members and other readers.

We have also tried valiantly to stay up with the game in terms of how content is hosted online, how it is marketed (to libraries, but more importantly, to readers) and how widely it is broadcast, i.e. the size of our audience. MinSoc journals have been part of the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) mini-aggregate of journals since its inception and it has proven to be an excellent source of income, and a good way to maintain the size of our audience. However, it is a “Geo” product, designed largely to reach the geoscience market. Our journals are not just of interest to geoscientists. GeoScienceWorld does not offer tools for promoting our content to our readers or to new readers (it wasn’t designed to do that, to be fair) and it doesn’t necessarily reach other, or cross-disciplinary, audiences. We need to do something. At the same time, the number of libraries subscribing direct to our journals has continued to fall for many years. These are the customers most affected by the ‘big deals’.

So, in 2016, the society began a period of investigation of possible new ways of ‘producing’ our journals. How could we continue to publish our two flagship journals, *Clay Minerals* and *Mineralogical Magazine*, improve how widely available the content is, and provide more ways for the society and its authors to tell the world about new papers published in our journals. All at the same time as maintaining our income base to enable the society to carry out all of its other functions, i.e. Membership, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Bursaries, Awards, Conferences, etc. We consulted with three possible partners, and after a long period of debate, negotiation and due diligence, the MinSoc Council decided unanimously to sign a partnership agreement with Cambridge University Press (CUP).



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press will be involved in all aspects of journal production from ‘accepted manuscript’ stage onwards. In other words, the MinSoc will still have ultimate control over what goes into the journals (through its editorial boards), will hold copyright over material published in the journals and will continue to ‘own’ the titles. Cambridge will facilitate meetings of the editorial boards and offer advice. It will bring to bear, for the benefit of our journals, the skills and experience that go with managing 380+ titles in the learned-journal sector. From the start of 2018 onwards, we will benefit from promotion of our titles and their contents on a newly built portal at the ‘Cambridge Core’ site (<http://cambridge.org/minmag> and <http://cambridge.org/clm>). And our content will be made available to readers in the 1,000+ libraries which subscribe to content published by the CUP. These steps will help to level the playing field in terms of commercially produced competing journals.

Member access will continue as at present, with all members being able to access the content following login at the MinSoc website (www.minersoc.org).

Our relationships with Ingenta and De Gruyter will cease at the end of 2017. Members and library subscribers will continue to enjoy access to that content for which they paid subscription fees.

Cambridge will also spruce up our journal archive, i.e. pre-1998 and make it available as a product which will generate some income for the society. For several years, the archive has been available on a free-to-all basis. From launch of the archive as part of the Cambridge service, only society members will be able to access the archive. We believe that it is fair that individuals and libraries should pay a little to access this tremendous resource.

What changes will happen within the organization? The editorial boards will continue as before: there will be some scheduling changes, a new manuscript tracking system, and more regular editorial board meetings. These will all benefit the respective journals. At the MinSoc office, we will lose one part-time staff member and will continue with two full-time and one part-time staff, in addition to our indispensable hard-working group of volunteers (Special Interest Groups, Council, Executive Committee, Finance, etc.)

Services to members will continue as before. In fact, we plan to use the extra staff time created by the change to increase our efforts in terms of supporting Special Interest Groups and their meetings, to make the website and the services/resources it offers more relevant and valuable, and to increase the ways and extent to which we engage in public outreach.

Our move was made to ensure the security of the MinSoc for the next 141 years. We begin planning now for a significant deadline which we will encounter along the way, our 150th birthday in 2026. We look forward to working with new colleagues at Cambridge University Press and to reaping the benefits of the collective skills, talents and enthusiasm they will bring to our organization.

I suspect Marshall Hall would approve.

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
October 2017

MEETINGS IN 2018

The MinSoc is involved in three very significant meetings during 2018. These are as follows:

European Microbeam Analysis Society meeting, to be held 4–7 September 2018 in Bristol (UK)

Granulites and Granulites 2018, to be held 10–13 July 2018 in Ullapool (Scotland). See <http://www.minersoc.org/granulites-2018.html>.

International Mineralogical Association, to be held 13–17 August 2018 in Melbourne (Australia) See <https://www.ima2018.com/about-ima-2018/>.



IMA will include plenary lectures by the following:

- Paul Agnew, Chief Geologist, Technical Support and Technology Development, Rio Tinto Exploration
- Jill Banfield, University of California
- Janice Bishop, SETI Institute, California, USA
- Peter Burns, University of Notre Dame, USA
- Kathryn Goodenough, British Geological Survey
- Sergey Krivovichev, St. Petersburg State University, Russia
- Motohiko Murakami, Tohoku University, Japan
- Frank Reith, Waite Research Institute, University of Adelaide, Australia

and featuring Juraj Majzlan, Jena University, Germany, a Mineralogical Society Hallimond Lecturer for 2018.

Visit the website for information about all aspects of the conference.

AWARDS WINNERS FOR 2018

We are delighted to announce that our award winners for 2018 are as follows:



Mineralogical Society–Schlumberger Medal
Jon Lloyd (University of Manchester, UK)



Collins Medal
Dave Crow (Otago University, New Zealand)



Max Hey Medal
Oliver T. Lord (University of Bristol, UK)

Best Paper Award, in honour of R.A. Howie: **E. Hart** (University of Portsmouth, UK)

Make a nomination for the 2017 awards now (closing date 22 April 2018). Visit www.minersoc.org/Awards.html for more information.

FOUR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2017

As mentioned previously in these pages, four titles have been published this year in the joint European Mineralogical Union–Mineralogical Society EMU Notes in Mineralogy series.



Vol. 16: *Mineral Reaction Kinetics: Microstructures, Textures, Chemical and Isotopic Signatures* (edited by W. Heinrich and R. Abart)

Vol. 17: *Redox-Reactive Minerals: Properties, Reactions and Applications in Clean Technologies* (edited by I.A.M. Ahmed and K.A. Hudson-Edwards)

Vol. 18: *Mineral Fibres: Crystal Chemistry, Chemical–Physical Properties, Biological Interaction and Toxicity* (edited by A.F. Gualtieri)

Vol. 19: *Mineralogical Crystallography* (edited by J. Plášil, J. Majzlan and S. Krivovichev)

These are all available from the MinSoc's online bookshop, from the Mineralogical Society of America and from Amazon. Order your copy today!