

Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

MINSOC END-OF-YEAR REPORT

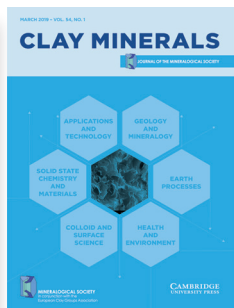
We have reached the end of the first year of our arrangement with Cambridge University Press. In the December issue of *Elements* from 2017, the arrangements for production, hosting, and financial management of the society's journals were outlined. Inspiration was drawn from a quote in one of the first papers ever published in the *Mineralogical Magazine*, a paper in 1877 by Marshall Hall. So, how has it been?



**CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

From the MinSoc's perspective, the following has been achieved:

- By the end of 2018, we will have published 1,400–1,500 pages of the *Mineralogical Magazine* and 600–700 pages of *Clay Minerals*.
- We have met the financial targets set at the outset; society finances are stable.
- We have increased the audience size for our content dramatically and have done more to promote our content to interested readers.
- We have redesigned the cover and the interior layout of both the *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*, and these will be launched at the start of 2019.
- The journal archives have now been moved in their entirety and are available through Cambridge Core (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/mineralogical-magazine>).
- We have received very detailed reports on the activity of both journals.
- We held successful meetings of the Editorial Boards for both journals.
- The impact factors for both journals improved this year (1.74 for *Mineralogical Magazine*, 1.22 for *Clay Minerals*).
- Both journals have published special issues during 2018. *Mineralogical Magazine* has had a supplementary issue entitled "Critical-Metal Mineralogy and Ore Genesis: Contributions from the European Mineralogical Conference". This derived from a conference of the same name held September 2016 in Rimini (Italy). A further special issue was dedicated to the work and memory of Professor Hazel M. Prichard (1954–2017).
- *Clay Minerals* published several thematic sets of papers arising out of the 2017 International Clay Conference. These issues bring new authors and new areas of interest to our journal.



Newly designed covers for *Mineralogical Magazine* and *Clay Minerals*

All good so far. What else?

We have been working hard at creating a robust work-flow which will facilitate production of the journal on-time every time. And we have been tweaking the set-up of our manuscript-tracking system to ensure that it does all that we need.

The transition from a small, fleet-of-foot, independent publisher to one which partners with a large publishing organization is taking time and the work goes on.

Was Cambridge University Press the right choice for us? Undoubtedly. It is a hugely professional organization which listens to its partner societies. Onwards!

MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RETIRES



Prof. Pete Williams. IMAGE COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY, CREDIT: SALLY TSOUTAS

Prof. Pete Williams of the University of Western Sydney (Australia) has taken the decision to stand down from his role as Principal Editor of the *Mineralogical Magazine*. Pete has served with distinction in this role since 2012 and, together with Prof. Roger Mitchell, built on the good work done by their predecessor, Dr Mark Welch. Many thousands of published pages have passed through Pete's hands over the past seven years, and the society is enormously grateful for his years of work and patient good humour. Pete's annual visits to London (UK) for a catch-up with the MinSoc Council were always very enjoyable affairs.

Dr Stuart Mills, who joined the team of Principal Editors in early 2018, will take over in that role.

MEETINGS FOR 2019

Critical Metals – A Meeting of the Applied Mineralogy Group
30 April–2 May 2019, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh

Critical metals have been a topic of intense research, interest and investment in recent years. Metals such as the rare-earth elements, cobalt, lithium and graphite, to name but a few, are the backbone of the decarbonization movement as we transition to a metal-intense, low-carbon economy.

This conference seeks to bring together leading scientists, industrialists and those interested in ethical sourcing of critical metals to discuss the geological, industrial, environmental and socio-economic aspects of the challenges that the decarbonization of energy and transport presents.

Themes will include:

- Geology and resources of critical metals
- Raw materials for the decarbonization of energy and transport
- Life cycle analysis
- Ethical sourcing of critical metals

The convenors are: Eimear Deady, Jindrich Kynicky, Aoife Brady, Alicja Lacinska and Kevin Murphy. Further details available at www.minersoc.org/critical-metals.html

Applied Mineralogy Group–Environmental Mineralogy Group, Joint Research in Progress Meeting
13 June 2018, British Geological Survey, Nottingham

Alicja Lacinska will organize a joint Research in Progress meeting with the Environmental Mineralogy Group (EMG). This has been planned for 13 June 2019, at the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Keyworth. It will coincide with the BGS-organised British Universities Funding Initiative (BUFI) meeting. It is hoped that this will encourage more students to present at the meeting.

Details at www.minersoc.org/amg.html

STUDENT AWARDS 2018

The following is a list of winners of Student Awards for 2018. The award goes to the student in each geoscience department (throughout Great Britain and Ireland) with the highest-ranking marks in mineralogy and petrology, or an equivalent exam (in the penultimate year of their undergraduate degree course). The award winners receive free student membership of the MinSoc for two years, one of the society's recent books, and a certificate.

University	Winner
Birkbeck, University of London	Jeff Thompson
Imperial College London	George Hedley
Keele University	Owen Hewitt
National University of Ireland, Galway	Weston Harding
Portsmouth University	Alexander Cordoba
Royal Holloway University of London	Matthew Sharpe
Trinity College Dublin	Ellen Mullarkey
University of Leicester	Ella Sample
University College Dublin	Maria Noone
University College London	Eilish Brennan
University of Derby	Felicity Holden
Durham University	Alexandra (Sasha) Warren
University of Edinburgh	Timothy Nicol
University of Exeter in Cornwall	Randolf Maier
University of Glasgow	Mirren Green
University of Leeds	William Towers
University of Liverpool	Harriet Ames
University of Manchester	Iestyn Ball
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	Jennifer McDaid and Niyamal Ali (joint winners)
University of Oxford	George Willement
University of Plymouth	Megam Hammett
University of Southampton	Rebecca Walker
University of St. Andrews	Olivia Gubbins
University of Brighton	Ermelinda Goncalves
University of Aberdeen	Rtaj Bensalah
Cardiff University	Abigail Jordan
University of Birmingham	Lydia Rose Fairhurst
University of Bristol	Yuzhang Chen
University of Cambridge	Ben Harris
University College Cork	Conor McMurtry
University of Hull	Jacob Phillips

MINERALS OF THE ENGLISH MIDLANDS—NEW BOOK

Mineralogical Society member Roy Starkey (see *Elements* April 2017) has published his second book on British mineralogy, *Minerals of the English Midlands*, covering an area of some 30,000 square kilometres.

Mining and quarrying have been of pivotal importance to the economy of the English Midlands for centuries. As a consequence of this, the area has produced a wide range of interesting mineral specimens. Examples of these are to be found in local and regional museum collections, and

especially at the Natural History Museum in London. However, such was the importance of Britain in the development of mineralogy as a science that specimens from the English Midlands are to be seen in collections all over the world.

The Derbyshire lead-mining industry will be well-known to readers of *Elements*. More recently, baryte and fluorite – minerals formerly considered as waste products – have become economically important, in the production of drilling mud and as a flux for steelmaking, respectively. Many small-scale opencast operations enjoyed a brief resurgence during the latter years of the twentieth century, but today only Milldam Mine, under Hucklow Edge (Derbyshire), remains in production. Elsewhere, the gypsum mines in Staffordshire and Leicestershire and the Winsford Rock Salt Mine in Cheshire continue to keep the mining tradition alive in the Midlands.

There are many excellent publications which document the industrial heritage and mining history of the Midlands, but few of these include any significant mention of the wealth of fine mineral specimens which have resulted from centuries of extraction. Thanks to the efforts of miners, mineral dealers and collectors over the past few hundred years, many interesting and beautiful specimens have been preserved for us to enjoy today.

In his review of Starkey's book for *Mineralogical Magazine*, British mineral specialist Andy Tindle (Open University, UK) says "This book is nothing less than the best book on British mineralogy for a decade."

The book is a high-quality publication on 150 gsm silk paper. Running to 432 pages (276 x 218 mm) and with more than 900 images, almost all of which are in full colour, it is a substantial volume. The softback version is £35 plus p&p, and the limited-edition hardback is £50 plus p&p. You can find out more about the book, and order a copy at https://britishmineralogy.com/wordpress/?page_id=878

SOCIETY AWARDS: REMINDER



Please remember to nominate somebody for a Mineralogical Society medal. The Society offers the Schlumberger Award, the Collins Medal and the Max Hey Medal, as well as the Best Paper award in honour of R. A. Howie. The closing date for receipt of nominations is 19 April 2019. Details at www.minersoc.org/awards.html.

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
October 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Members are reminded that the recently approved annual report for 2017–18 has now been loaded on the Society website at www.minersoc.org/annual-reports.html

