

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MINERALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF AMERICA

January 1, 1966

CONSTITUTION

*Article I. Name*

This Society shall be known as the *Mineralogical Society of America*.

*Article II. Object*

The object of this Society shall be the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography and petrology, and the promotion of their use in other sciences and in industry.

*Article III. Officers*

*Section 1.* The officers of the society shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. These four officers, the retiring president, and six fellows at large shall constitute the Council. The president and vice-president shall each be elected annually for a term of one year; no person shall serve more than one term in each office. The secretary and treasurer shall each be elected biennially, in alternate years, for a term of two years, except that the first election following the adoption of this amendment shall be for both officers, the secretary to serve a term of two years, and the treasurer, a term of one year. No person shall serve in either office more than two terms, whether consecutive or separated. A vacancy occurring in any office between annual election periods may be filled until the next regularly scheduled election and installation of officers by a past incumbent or other fellow appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Council. The six fellows at large for the Council shall be elected two each year for terms of three years. No elected fellow shall serve more than one term.

*Section 2.* The editor shall be appointed by the president annually subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the entire Council.

*Section 3.* Only fellows are eligible for office.

*Section 4.* The Council shall be empowered to choose from time to time as honorary officers of the Society persons of eminence in the field of mineralogy who shall serve for life.

*Article IV. Membership*

*Section 1.* Membership shall be open to anyone interested in mineralogy, crystallography, or petrology. The general membership shall consist of fellows, members, honorary fellows and patrons.

*Section 2.* Members shall be persons interested in mineralogy, crystallography or petrology.

*Section 3.* Fellows shall be members who have contributed significantly to the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, or petrology, or whose scientific contribution utilized mineralogical studies or data. Fellows are nominated by the Council and elected by the fellows of the Society.

*Section 4.* Persons who are distinguished for their attainments in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology or allied sciences, may be designated Honorary Fellows by the Council.

*Section 5.* Persons who have bestowed important favors upon the Society may be designated patrons by the Council.

*Section 6.* Fellows and members shall be entitled to vote in the transaction of the regular business of the Society.

*Article V. Amendments*

*Section 1.* Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by twenty (20) or more of the membership, at least ten (10) of whom must be fellows. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Council at least two months before the annual meeting.

*Section 2.* Such amendments shall be placed on the ballot the following year for a vote by the membership.

*Section 3.* An amendment shall go into effect when favored by two-thirds of the membership voting upon it.

## BY-LAWS

*Article I. Membership*

*Section 1. Members.* Any eligible individual may become a member by submitting an application and paying one year's dues.

*Section 2. Election of Fellows.* Nominations for fellowship shall be made by three fellows according to a form to be provided by the secretary. Two of these fellows must be personally acquainted with the nominee and his qualifications. The Council shall submit the nominations received, if approved, to a vote of the fellows in the manner provided by the by-laws. The results shall be announced at the next Council meeting, and those elected shall be notified by the secretary.

*Section 3. Termination and Reinstatement of Membership.* A fellow or member may withdraw without prejudice on submitting a resignation in writing to either the Secretary or Treasurer on or before February 1st of the year with which the resignation will be effective provided that he is not in arrears for any previous year(s). A fellow or member who does not indicate his intention to resign by February 1st shall be held liable for dues for the year and subject to removal from the mailing list after April 1st. Membership will terminate at the end of the year.

If a fellow or member has previously resigned without prejudice, he may be reinstated in any subsequent year on payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement is requested. If a fellow or member has had his membership terminated, he may be reinstated on payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement is requested and any outstanding arrearage.

Issues of the *Journal* will be supplied for the year in which a fellow or member is reinstated. Issues for prior years may be purchased at current back issue rates, and payment of outstanding dues may be counted toward the cost of back issues for any one year.

*Article II. Dues*

*Section 1.* The annual dues for members and fellows shall be eight dollars (\$8) payable in January. Members who are students shall pay one-half the dues of other members.

*Section 2.* No person shall be accepted as a fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America unless he pays dues for the year within three months after notification of this election.

*Section 3.* Fellows and members who have reached the age of 70 years, or have reached the official retirement age of the institution in which they have been serving, and have paid annual dues for 30 years, shall be exempt from further payment of dues but retain all rights and privileges.

*Section 4.* A single prepayment of an amount equaling twenty times the annual dues of a fellow of the Society shall be accepted as communication for life for either fellows or members.

*Article III. Duties of Officers*

*Section 1. Officers.* The duties of the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and editor of the Society shall be the usual ones performed by such officers. The treasurer, the secretary, and the editor shall make formal reports to the Society at least once a year. These reports shall be published in the *Journal* of the Society.

*Section 2.* The Council shall direct all affairs and activities of the Society not otherwise provided for by the Constitution as well as perform those duties specifically assigned to it.

*Section 3.* The president, secretary, and treasurer shall constitute an executive committee.

*Section 4.* The president shall appoint, with the approval of the Council, such committees as may further the objects of the Society, including a board of associate editors.

*Article IV. Election of Officers and Fellows*

*Section 1.* (a) Nominations for office shall be made by the Council. For councilors there shall be at least twice as many nominees as there are open positions. Any ten (10) fellows or members may forward to the secretary other nominations for any or all offices. (b) All nominations reaching the secretary not later than three months prior to the annual meeting shall be printed on the ballots to be mailed to the general membership. The results shall be announced at the regular meeting and the new officers shall enter upon duty at the adjournment of the meeting.

*Section 2.* (a) Nominations for fellowship will be reviewed by a Fellowship nominating committee of five, one of whom is a member of the Council. It will become the duty of the Fellowship nominating committee to document its reasons for recommending that a nominee be deferred and this information will be available to the Council at the meeting at which the nominee is considered. Each nominee who has received a defer vote will be considered individually by the Council.

*Section 2.* (b) The list of nominations for fellowship in the Society shall be sent to the fellows at the same times as the nominations for officers. If ten per cent of the fellows voting on a given candidate cast opposing votes, the candidate shall be considered ineligible for fellowship.

*Article V. Publications*

*Section 1.* The Society shall publish a journal devoted to the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, petrology and allied sciences.

*Section 2.* The general membership of the Society shall receive the *Journal*.

*Section 3.* Corporations, libraries and institutions may subscribe to the *Journal* at an annual rate to be determined by the Council.

*Article VI. Affiliation with Other Scientific Organizations*

The Council shall have the authority to arrange for affiliation with other scientific organizations, and, as the occasion may arise, to appoint fellows to represent the Society on the Councils of such organizations.

*Article VII. Local Sections*

Local sections of the Society may be formed in any locality, with the advice and consent of the Council, for the purpose of holding meetings and promoting cooperation. The affairs of such local sections shall be entirely in their own hands.

*Article VIII. Meetings*

There shall be an annual meeting of the Society and such other meetings as may be called by the Council. The annual meeting shall be held, whenever practicable, at the same time and place as that of the Geological Society of America.

*Article IX. Revision of the By-Laws*

Revision of the by-laws shall be by the procedure established for amendments under Article V of the Constitution except that revision of the by-laws shall be enacted by a simple majority of those voting.