

NOTICES

Dr. R. V. Dietrich, who has succeeded Marjorie Hooker as the North American organizer for the Mineralogical Abstracts, is asking for volunteers to help with the regular abstracting of mineralogical journals. Interested persons are asked to write to Dr. Richard V. Dietrich, Department of Geology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859.

The U.S. National Mineral Collection

The mineral collections of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., are very extensive and are among the largest in the world. These collections are readily available to, and used by, the scientific community for worthwhile research. The museum maintains, in addition to the study and exhibit collections, a repository for *type* and *described* mineral specimens, *i.e.*, those from which data have been gathered, and usually published. The *type* collection presently contains over 500 mineral species and is continually growing. The number of *described* mineral specimens presently exceeds 4700 specimens. We should all be concerned about the preservation of minerals for which analytical data of any form exists. The data become far less significant if the specimens are lost, for they cannot be verified, amended, or enhanced by subsequent, perhaps more sophisticated, studies.

Far too often, minerals described in published papers are deposited in drawers or cabinets by the authors and subsequently forgotten. With the passage of time and continual shifting from place to place, these specimens are usually lost to science. Such loss, though unintentional, is an irresponsible disservice to our science. It is the rule rather than the exception and this should be changed for the betterment of mineralogy.

Just as it is important to publish our research and disseminate knowledge, so also is it important to see to it that the specimens involved are preserved. Repositories of described specimens should continue to grow in depth and quality to the advantage of all who study minerals. Authors are therefore asked, and strongly encouraged, to send all analyzed or otherwise described mineral specimens to the Department of Mineral Sciences, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560. Acknowledgement of receipt will be by letter, and the specimens will be carefully curated. Postage franks are available upon request. In turn, the museum will continue to do its best to furnish research materials to the scientist upon written request.

PETE J. DUNN
Smithsonian Institution

Short summer course in X-ray powder diffraction

A two-week short course in modern X-ray powder diffraction will be offered at the State University of New York at Albany from June 20 to July 1, 1977. The course will be tutorial in nature and will develop the basic principles and practical applications starting from elementary considerations. No previous knowledge or experi-

ence is required. The first week will cover principles and practice of instrumentation, specimen preparation, identification of powder patterns including complex phase identification, practical considerations on the use of the several indices with emphasis on computer retrieval and computer-assisted identification. The second week will cover qualitative identification of complex powder patterns, computer-assisted search for correct powder identification, quantitative analysis of polycrystalline mixtures of two or more phases, automated powder diffractometers and other topics in depth. Equal time will be devoted to lectures, laboratories and problem-solving sessions. A suitable amount of time will be set aside for discussion of individual problems. The registration fee is \$400.00 for one week, either week, or \$750.00 for the entire two-week session, payable in advance. For further information and to register please communicate with:

Professor Henry Chessin
State University of New York at Albany
Department of Physics
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
(518) 457-8339
457-8347

Short summer course in X-ray spectrometry

A two-week short course in modern X-ray spectrometry will be offered at the State University of New York at Albany from June 6 to June 17, 1977. The course will be instructional and will develop the basic theory and techniques starting from elementary principles. No previous knowledge or experience is required. The first week will cover basic principles and techniques, and the second week will continue with further fundamentals and practical applications. Both weeks will illustrate and employ the wave-length-dispersive and energy-dispersive methods. Emphasis in the second week will be placed on advanced principles and techniques, absorption-enhancement corrections by several procedures including mathematical methods and computer automation of modern X-ray spectrometers. Equal time will be devoted to lectures and laboratory-problem solving sessions. A suitable amount of time will be set aside for individual problems. Registration may be made for one week, either week, at a registration fee of \$400.00 or for the entire two-week session at a registration fee of \$750.00, payable in advance. For further information and to register please communicate with:

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Press Release

The World Phosphate Rock Institute is organizing the

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

on

PHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS

to be held in the Autumn of 1977.

This scientific and technical Congress devoted to "Phosphorous Compounds and their non-fertilizer applications" will take place in Rabat, Morocco.

Specialists concerned who would like to deliver a paper on any aspect of the theme chosen for this first Congress are asked to get in touch with:

Mr. M. Kabbaj
 Director of Technical Research
 Institut Mondial du Phosphate
 8, rue de Penthièvre
 75008 Paris

Nominations for Awards, Honors, and Elected Officers of MSA

Members of the Society are urged to take an active part in making nominations for the awards of the Society. Nominations with adequate documentation should be sent to the Secretary, Mineralogical Society of America, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006, no later than May 1 for transmittal to the

appropriate Committee. The nominator must be a member of the Society. The various awards are as follows:

1. The **Roebbling Medal** is the highest award of the Mineralogical Society of America for scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy. The science of mineralogy is defined broadly for purposes of the Roebbling Award, and a candidate need not qualify as a mineralogist; rather his published research should be related to the mineralogical sciences and should make some outstanding contribution to them. Service to mineralogy, teaching and administrative accomplishment are not to be considered as a primary merit for the award. The award is not restricted to Americans. Nationality, personality, age of the candidate, or place of employment shall not be considered.

2. The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** is given in recognition of an outstanding contribution or series of contributions within the fields of interest to the Society. The work for which the award is given must have been published in a single or series of papers prior to the month in which the candidate's 35th birthday falls. Candidates are limited to persons who shall not have reached the age of 37 before January 1 of the year in which the award is decided upon (1977). The Award shall be made without regard to nationality, personality, or place of employment. Membership in the Mineralogical Society of America or publication in *The American Mineralogist* is not prerequisite.

3. **Fellowship** nominations are invited and forms may be obtained from the Secretary. Three members of the Society must sponsor each nominee.

4. Suggestions for nominations for all offices of the Society are welcome; documentation need not be as extensive as for the awards.

Larry W. Finger, Secretary