

Acceptance of the Mineralogical Society of America Award for 1991

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President Ross, members of the Society, ladies and gentlemen: It is with a combination of pleasure and gratitude, humility, and a bit of sadness that I accept this honor. The pleasure and gratitude are for the recognition and the opportunity to thank many people who have provided me with inspiration, opportunity, and help over the years. The sadness is that three of the people to whom I am most grateful, Julian Goldsmith and my mother and father, could not be here today.

I feel lucky for an exceptional series of opportunities to develop and follow my own eclectic interests. These opportunities began while growing up with the U.S. Geological Survey group in Washington—a group that always exhibited an exceptional variety of interests and mutual enthusiasm and did not mind having the other kids and me underfoot in the lab and field. It is a special pleasure for me that one of that group, E-an Zen, is this year's Roebling medalist. It was E-an who, on a field trip to Sterling Hill when I was in high school, persuaded me to join the MSA.

If enthusiasm and diversity of interests came from my precollege days, it was an appreciation for the rigor and beauty of mineralogy and petrology that I acquired as an undergraduate at VPI. I especially remember by first college class—Jerry Gibbs's crystallography class—as an eye opener to the hidden beauty of nature. Jerry, Paul Ribbe, Dave Hewitt, and my adviser, Jim Craig, all contributed to this, as did Carl Francis and John Higgins, who were graduate students at the time. Carl and John took me under their wing, even though they found it surprising that, while duftite and kinoite were familiar to me, diopside was a mystery.

At the University of Chicago, I benefited from the vibrant petrology group, learning about solving real problems in the lab from Julian and Bob Newton, about large-scale questions from Peter Wyllie, and about unexpected dimensions from Paul Moore. The best thing about Chicago was that Julian did not believe in a leash law for students, thus I was able to follow my nose in different directions, spending most of each year in the lab, but the summers on vacation mapping in Nevada.

Following graduation and a move to the exciting atmosphere of the Geophysical Laboratory, I feel extremely fortunate to have overlapped with Marco Einaudi, there on sabbatical, and to work with Doug Rumble. From them, I learned a great deal about the power of combining careful field observations with theory.

At UCLA, all types of opportunities came available, many through the convivial interactions with Gary Ernst, Wayne Dollase, and their group. The stimulation of my



students and theirs forced me to look at many problems I had not considered before. In particular, Sorena Sorensen got me to thinking about subduction zones as upside down skarns, a project soon joined by Gray Bebout. Brooks Hanson, Heather Trim, and a well-remembered and much-appreciated cast of thousands and I got involved in many problems related to contact metamorphism. Bob Ilchik and Denise Battles, among others, made me look at yet different types of mass transfer. Perhaps the most valuable of my UCLA experience was discovering how much I enjoyed working with students.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my mother and father and to my wife, Gail. Without their long-standing support, example, and love, I would not be here today. In conclusion, all those that I have mentioned and many others have contributed to my opportunity and success. I hope that I can live up to this honor you have given me by providing similar opportunities to others. Thank you very much.