

Presentation of the Mineralogical Society of America Distinguished Public Service Medal for Robert F. Martin

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Last week I was leaving the X-ray laboratory with my colleague and MSA member John Rakovan, and I mentioned to him that my main task that evening was to draft a citation for Robert F. Martin for the MSA Distinguished Public Service Medal. John chuckled, and said that Bob Martin receiving the Medal was like seeing the first STM image. Not immediately recognizing the parallel, I asked for clarification. John replied that "Once scientists saw the first STM image, it was obvious that the work would soon receive a Nobel Prize; knowing Bob Martin's record of distinguished service to the discipline, it was obvious that he would be a winner of the Distinguished Public Service Award". And indeed the choice of Robert F. Martin, Editor-in-Chief of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, as the recipient of the 2004 Mineralogical Society of America Distinguished Service Medal is obvious.

I was pleased to be asked to write on behalf of Bob's nomination, which was unbeknownst to him, and it was an easy letter to write. I gave him every opportunity to ask another colleague to serve as Citationist, perhaps one from north of the border who knew him better than I, but he persisted, and I am indeed truly honored to serve in that capacity and cement the détente between our countries...

Many people in this room have served as Associate Editors, and a few have served as Editor-in-Chief of leading scientific journals. However, I am certain that there is no one in the room who has served as the Editor-in-Chief of one of the leading scientific journals in the world for the past 26 years, and at the same time has maintained a role as a full-time professor, valued academic advisor, mineralogical scholar, mentor to innumerable young scientists, and even department Chair. I pride myself on my ability to multi-task, but my insignificant efforts pale in comparison to those of Professor Robert F. Martin. Although Bob's resume lists a rather astonishing and lengthy list of significant publications, administrative appointments, and graduate students, I here choose to highlight his editorial accomplishments.

Bob Martin is universally held in the highest regard in the mineralogical community. He has personally raised the stature of *The Canadian Mineralogist* to be among the handful of lead-

ing journals in the discipline, and his keen scientific insight is simply remarkable; his comments on my papers always send me scrambling. As I try to anticipate all comments on my submissions, I am invariably taken aback by Bob's keen insight.

One aspect of his editing that I believe deserves special comment is that of his encouragement and support of the science. One of Bob's reviewer's noted that he has "heard more than one winner of the Hawley Medal acknowledge that his medal-winning paper was initially rejected by the reviewers, and that Bob's ideas on modifying the paper led to a major (award-winning) publication". I have personally seen Bob take a paper that was seemingly beyond repair, but one in which he recognized a kernel of scientific insight and turn it into a gem, and in turn encourage a young scientist to further advance the discipline. Warm and admiring comments from Bob's former students also attest to his unselfish manner in encouraging their scientific growth; to one who has spent his entire career in higher education, there can be no greater compliment.

I would like to add a few personal observations here. I was privileged to receive an excellent education in a small, rural school district near Franklin, New Jersey; one of the joys of being a mineralogist is that I can mention that locale and people know where I am from. I must vainly admit that I take real pride in my writing because of this privileged education. I spend a remarkable amount of time sharpening the final draft of any manuscript that is destined for *The Canadian Mineralogist*, hoping to foil Bob's multi-hued pens and produce the ultimate clean manuscript. Upon receiving the revisions, dejectedly it is clear that Bob's insight into science and the English language (his *second* language, *not* his native...) can markedly improve any manuscript. The Canadian Mineralogist has become the journal-of-choice for many sub-disciplines of mineralogy because of Bob's insight; Bob Martin *is* *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

I conclude this introduction by citing one of the most unselfish people in science today. A remarkably skilled scientist, administrator, mentor, editor, and I am told a wonderful tenor, there is no one more deserving of the 2004 Mineralogical Society of America Distinguished Public Service Medal than Professor Robert F. Martin of McGill University.