Editorial

Questions now being answered!

For each issue, the Editorial team tries to pick a theme for the Editorial that we think is topical and of interest to our readers. But we often ask the question: 'Is it important? Who reads it anyway?' We would love to know how many of you actually find anything interesting in the contents of *Gold Bulletin*. We also ask ourselves 'How many people read each issue? What is our readership?' Questions we have been unable to fully answer. Until now!

Now that we are in the world of e-journals, yet another marvel of the electronic age reveals itself – statistics! We can now track how many people download each issue or article. Interesting reading! We know that, since the beginning of this year when we went totally electronic, around 5000 people download something from *Gold Bulletin* each month. We believe this figure will grow as more people become aware of the journal in its e-format. That tells us we are getting something right! We also know which articles or features are popular with our readers. Our new feature, 'Gold in the News' is being downloaded by many readers, for example, as is the 'Highlights from the Literature'. Such information helps us to define what areas to focus on in future issues. Of course, we welcome direct feedback from you too.

Another surprise to us is how many articles from the *Gold Bulletin* archive of back issues are downloaded from the website each month. Again, this tells us that good articles have some relevance to you over many years. This has encouraged us to start adding more material from back issues to the archive; hopefully, we will get all back issues on the archive eventually. Thus, the website becomes an important information resource – and it's available to you free! The important thing is to be able to use it with some degree of user friendliness. We welcome your feedback on that too.

This issue

We hope that you have noticed that *Gold Bulletin* contains more articles and features, as we promised on the switch to an e-journal. This issue is unusual, perhaps, in containing mainly materials-related articles. No particular reason for that. It's just the way it has panned out this time. But the catalyst fans do get two conference reports! We shall redress the balance next issue, no doubt.

Talking of conference reports, we cannot attend every interesting conference. We do welcome offers from readers who attend relevant conferences to provide us with reports of the important conferences that contain something of interest on gold. Like those listed in the Calendar, for example. Any offers? It could be worth your while! Contact me at: editor@goldbulletin.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Corti". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward curve.

Christopher W. Corti
Editor