Mineralium Deposita: change and continuity

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2012 has been a year of transition for *Mineralium Deposita*. After 4 years as co-editor, Patrick J. Williams has stepped down in June to fully concentrate on his consulting business. During Patrick's tenure, *Mineralium Deposita* has continued to grow as a top journal for research on mineral deposits. We are grateful for his dedicated work and wish him the best of luck for the future.

The Council of the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA) has appointed Georges Beaudoin from Université Laval (Québec, Canada) as the new co-editor of the journal. Georges has been on the Editorial Board since 2001. Bernd Lehmann from Technische Universität Clausthal (Clausthal, Germany) remains as co-editor. Three new associate editors joined the Editorial Board in 2012. These are David Craw (University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand), Albert Gilg (Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany), and Robert Linnen (Western University, London, Canada). Associate editor Noel C. White has stepped down after many years of service, and we thank him for his energetic and careful work.

The journal continues to attract a high level of submissions of about 120–140 papers per year. Since 2011, a *Mineralium Deposita* volume contains about 1,000 printed pages, with color print free of charge to all authors. We have a wide distribution across the world. Through subscriptions and more than 300 online deals with aggregators and consortia, *Mineralium Deposita* is accessible to more than 7,700 institutions worldwide. This is a strong incentive to submit research to *Mineralium Deposita* and to gain large exposure. The world of scientific publishing is changing quickly, and direct download of papers published in *Mineralium Deposita* has grown

from about 98,000 in 2008 to 133,000 in 2011, for an annual rate of increase of approximately 10 %. Approximately 20 % of downloads are for papers published Online First and for the calendar year, whereas about 60 % of downloads are for papers published since 1997. Roughly 44 % of downloads are from the Asia-Pacific region (China, 18 %; Australia, 10 %), whereas Europe accounts for 28 % (Germany, 6 %; UK, 4 %), North America for 16 % (USA, 8 %; Canada, 7 %), and both Africa and South America each account for 6 %.

As editors of *Mineralium Deposita*, we are committed to diligent review of submissions. In 2011, the average time from submission to acceptance, including author corrections of revised versions, was 217 days, slightly down from 239 days in 2010. However, this distribution is highly skewed, and most papers were handled within 150 days. After acceptance, a paper is published online with a DOI within approximately 3 weeks. This ensures rapid publication and allows the new papers to be read, downloaded, and cited immediately, such that your work reaches the scientific community quickly. The research submitted to *Mineralium Deposita* is sourced from a large number of countries with top contributors, in 2011, being China (30), Canada (15), and Australia (11). As we wish to ensure high scientific quality, we accept, on merit, approximately 40 % of the submissions from year to year. Since 2006, the annual impact factor (IF) of *Mineralium Deposita* has varied between 1.25 and 2.06, with a value of 1.68 in 2011, close to the average 10-year IF of 1.66. We are dedicated to publish high-quality, innovative, and challenging papers in *Mineralium Deposita*, and we work to improve the standing of the journal. The two most cited papers to date, published in *Mineralium Deposita* in 2010, were by R.R. Keays and P.C. Lightfoot on the crustal sulfur contamination that causes formation of magmatic Ni–Cu sulfide deposits (Keays and Lightfoot 2010) and by N. Koglin, H.E. Frimmel, W.E. Lawrie Minter, and H. Braetz on the trace element composition of pyrite from Mesoarchean and Paleoproterozoic placer deposits (Koglin et al. 2010).

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Every 2 years, the SGA grants its Best Paper Award at its Biennial Meeting, based on recommendation of the Editors of *Mineralium Deposita*. The 2011 Best Paper Award, for papers published in *Mineralium Deposita* volumes 45 and 46, has been attributed to H. Murakami, J.H. Seo, and C.A. Heinrich for their paper discussing the relation between the Cu/Au ratio and depth of formation of porphyry Cu–Au ± Mo deposits (Murakami et al. 2010).

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