

# MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE

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## The Mineralogical Society (1876–1976)

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*The foundation.* There had been no mineralogical society in Britain since the short-lived British Mineralogical Society came to an end in 1806.<sup>1</sup> Many mineralogists had joined the Geological Society of London and contributed papers to its publications for several years.

We know that Professor N. Story-Maskelyne had considered trying to form a mineralogical society and had consulted W. H. Miller and others, had been discouraged by their opinions, and had abandoned the idea. Some years later our Society was successfully launched as a result of energetic and enthusiastic work by Joseph Henry Collins, mineralogist and mining engineer, who in 1868 had been appointed lecturer to the Miners' Association of Cornwall and Devon. Collins met with good support from his friends and colleagues in Cornwall and he issued a first proposal setting out the objects of the Society and giving a first list of prospective members. This list included the names of A. H. Church, J. H. Collins, Sir William Crookes, T. Davies, Sir Clement Le Neve Foster, R. P. Greg, Marshall Hall, Townshend M. Hall, S. Haughton, F. W. Rudler, and T. A. Readwin. Readwin was an enthusiastic supporter of Collins in trying to recruit members and on the first proposal his name appears as co-secretary with Collins *pro tem.* but some of the prospective members did not think he was quite the man for the job and in the event Collins only was appointed Secretary.

A second proposal form was circulated later and the list of 'first' members in this was much longer.<sup>2</sup> Many of these, seventeen of them, were members of the Scientific Club at 7 Savile Row, which was managed by Captain Marshall Hall, and it was at this club on Hall's invitation that the inaugural meeting was held on 3 February 1876.

At the meeting Henry Clifton Sorby presided and it was resolved to form a society to advance the study of mineralogy and petrology to be called 'The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland'. The Society was to consist of Ordinary Members, Associates, and (Overseas and Foreign) Corresponding Members. Sorby was elected President, J. H. Collins Secretary and Editor of the Magazine, R. P. Greg Treasurer, and Professors Haughton and Heddle Vice-Presidents.

<sup>1</sup> WATTS (W. W.), *Min. Mag.* 1926, 21, 109.

<sup>2</sup> Among these were T. G. Bonney, A. and G. Geikie, J. R. Gregory, M. F. Heddle, S. G. Perceval, and two of the Rashleighs, J. W. and John.

An Ordinary Meeting was held the next day, 4 February, in the rooms of the Royal Society of Literature, Charing Cross.

In 1877 one General Meeting was held in the Royal Microscopical Society's rooms at King's College, Strand, as also was the first meeting in 1878, but in July 1878 R. H. Scott offered the use of a room at the Meteorological Office in Victoria Street, and Council meetings were held there up till 1884. General Meetings in London continued to be held at the Meteorological Office until December 1880 when the lecture room of the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street was made available to the Society. In 1889 the Geological Society very generously agreed for meetings to be held in its apartments at Burlington House, and there the Society has continued to meet (with two or three exceptions) until the present day. The time of meetings was 8 p.m., the Council meeting at 7.0 or 7.30 (after dinner) and so it continued until 1909 when, after a postal vote, the decision was taken for the General Meeting to be held at 5.30 (after tea).

Collins had failed to get the support of either Miller at Cambridge or Maskelyne at Oxford for the formation of a mineralogical society. Nevertheless, only five months after the formation of the Mineralogical Society, on 14 June 1876, Maskelyne and Miller, with some of their old pupils and others, did form a Crystallometric Association, a name very soon changed to The Crystallological Society. Altogether thirty-four members were elected including a number of Foreign Members. W. J. Lewis was elected Secretary, Maskelyne Treasurer, and W. H. Miller the first President. Meetings were held in London, the first in Story-Maskelyne's house, and papers read were published in the Philosophical Magazine and subsequently issued as Proceedings of the Society. These formed two volumes, one published in 1877, and the other in 1882.

In the meantime the Mineralogical Society had had a quite successful start; its membership at its sixth Annual General Meeting in 1881 was 127 including twenty-four Corresponding Members and twenty-two Associates, and it must have been evident that there was little point in running two separate societies for mineralogists and crystallographers.

In December 1881 there was a suggestion that the two Societies should amalgamate. This came in a letter from Thomas Davies to R. H. Scott, who had succeeded Collins as Secretary of the Mineralogical Society in 1881. Thomas Davies was a member of both Societies.

The proposal was discussed at meetings and by correspondence between Scott and W. J. Lewis, and final agreement was only reached in 1888. At a Special General Meeting on 11 December that year those members of the Crystallological Society who were willing to join the Mineralogical Society were elected *en bloc* and without entrance fee. Members who did so join had a 'C' against their names in subsequent printed lists of members. By 1926, the Jubilee year, three of these were still surviving: W. J. Lewis, who died that year; Sir Henry A. Miers; and C. J. Woodward of the Birmingham Midland Institute.

*Place of meetings.* As Professor Watts remarked in his Jubilee Address, the Society was at first peripatetic, meetings of members being held in Cornwall and Scotland and one in Liverpool, and General Meetings at various cities.

The practice at first was to arrange the Annual Meetings to coincide with meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The first of these was held at Glasgow on 6 September 1876, with Professor M. F. Heddle in the chair. A local newspaper reported that 'there was a considerable attendance including a goodly number of members of the British Association'. Other General Meetings were held in Edinburgh, Dundee, and St Andrews; but after the Annual Meeting at York in 1881 meetings outside London became much fewer, only four being held and all of those in Scotland. It was remarked that all these were highly successful, no less than thirteen papers being read at the Edinburgh meeting on 24 June 1884. The success of these meetings was due, no doubt, to the enthusiasm of the local Secretary, The Rev. W. W. Peyton of Broughty Ferry.

Quite recently, after a lapse of eighty years, the policy has been adopted of holding one General Meeting each year outside London, usually a three-day meeting. The first of these was held at Aberdeen in September 1969 and was combined with visits to laboratories and a Saturday field excursion. In 1970 the 'summer meeting' was held at Leeds in July, and in 1971 at Edinburgh as part of a meeting of British Geological Societies to celebrate the centenary of the Geology Department of Edinburgh University. In 1973 the Society participated in the meeting of British Geological Societies at Manchester.

*Excursions and visits.* The Society has never indulged much in field excursions to mineral localities. In the early years there was one to Talisker Bay in Skye and there was an afternoon excursion after the meeting at St Andrews in 1886 to Spindle Rock conducted by Professor Heddle.

Forty years elapsed before there were other organized excursions and these were in connection with the Jubilee celebrations. Two excursions were arranged, one from 13 to 18 September 1926 was to mineral localities in Devon and Cornwall led by Sir Arthur Russell; the other, after the London meetings, was based on Penrith and visits were made to mines and quarries in Westmorland, Cumberland, and Durham; this was directed by Professor Arthur Hutchinson.

Another twenty years went by before the members again took the field. Then, in 1946, twenty-five members, based on Durham University, visited Rotherhope lead mine, Stanhope Burn (fluorspar), and New Brancepeth (baryte and witherite), and the I.C.I. anhydrite mine and works at Billingham. This was followed in 1947 by a field meeting based on Penrith taking in the wolfram mine at Carrock Fell, Brandy Gill, a Cumberland hematite mine, Scordale, and the gypsum quarries at Kirkby Thore.

Much more recently field excursions and visits to laboratories and works have been revived in connection with the meetings held each year in cities in the provinces, beginning with that to Aberdeen in 1969.

In addition to these excursions afternoon visits to important mineral collections and laboratories within easy reach of London were made from time to time. These have included visits to the Mineralogy Departments of Oxford (1932) and Cambridge (1935) and the Geological Survey and Museum (1938); also on three occasions to Swallowfield Park at the invitation of Sir Arthur Russell to view his collection of British minerals. These took place in May 1933 and in 1948 (arranged particularly for foreign

guests to the International Geological Congress) and, in lighter vein, in June 1956, to a garden party.

*The library.* The Society, soon after its foundation, began to receive journals of kindred societies and to form a library. By 1883 it was large enough to occupy a room in Jermyn Street generously offered by T. J. Gibb. Later Professor Lewis at Cambridge offered to house it in his Department and it was moved there in 1890. It was overhauled by Professor Hutchinson in 1925 when works not specially related to mineralogy were disposed of, and in 1929 it was moved to a temporary home in the Department of Mineralogy in the British Museum (Natural History).<sup>1</sup> There the books were rearranged and the periodicals were catalogued by Miss J. M. Sweet who had been appointed Librarian. A printed list of the more important periodicals and rules for borrowing were sent to all members. In 1936 a report on the Library showed that it was not being used and, with the exception of sets of a few important periodicals, the Library was disposed of, chiefly by gifts to the Geological Society, the Geological Survey, and the Department of Mineralogy, British Museum (Natural History), and partly by sale.<sup>2</sup>

The *Bye-laws* and rules settled in 1876 were revised at the 25th Annual General Meeting in 1900 and further alterations were made in 1902, 1916, and 1931. These last were drafted by the Treasurer, F. N. Ashcroft, with great care and with legal advice on some points. Further changes have been made from time to time affecting the composition of the Council, the maximum terms of office of the Officers, the appointment of Trustees, and, in 1971, the number of (foreign) Honorary Members. Other recent amendments have accorded to Honorary Members the full privileges of Ordinary Members, have made the Editor of *Clay Minerals* an ex-officio member of Council, and have established a new class of Associate Members.

*Publications.* The *Mineralogical Magazine* for the first fifteen years was edited by the Secretaries, assisted, after 1881, by a committee of five including the President and Secretary. In 1891 Fletcher handed over the editing to [Sir] Henry Miers who was Editor for ten years; he was succeeded by L. J. Spencer, who continued to edit the Magazine for fifty-five years, devoting to the task an enormous amount of work. On 2 November 1950 the fiftieth anniversary of his appointment was celebrated by a dinner in his honour and by a special number of the Magazine. When he retired at the end of 1955 an appreciation of his work was written by 'A past-President', Dr. James Phemister. Dr. Max Hey succeeded Spencer as Editor and has continued to the present day to edit the Magazine with great devotion and success.

The first volume of the Magazine contained fifty papers by twenty members, a short Presidential address, and some notices and book reviews, 275 pages with eight plates, three in colour. Thereafter contributions from members for some time became few and the greater part of Volumes 2 to 5 were occupied by a succession of parts of a work by Professor Heddle on 'The County Geognosy and Mineralogy of Scotland', illustrated by geological maps in colour. In 1881 R. H. Scott reported that there was a considerable outstanding debt to the printers and after a somewhat lengthy discussion it was decided that publication of Heddle's 'Geognosy' would have to be discontinued after

<sup>1</sup> *Min. Mag.*, 1931, 22, xli.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 1937, 24, lviii.

completion of those parts in hand that dealt with the County of Sutherland and its accompanying map. The map was issued to members as no. 21 of the Magazine and was also put on sale at one guinea.

Reviews and notices of books appeared in early numbers of the Magazine but between 1922 and 1959 these were incorporated in Mineralogical Abstracts.

Miers compiled 'Indexes to Mineralogical and Petrographical papers' for 1884 to 1887, and 'Lists of new mineral names' were started by Spencer in 1897; these appeared every three years. The twenty-first list was his last contribution to the Magazine, but these extremely useful lists are still kept up by Dr. Hey and Mr. Peter Embrey.

The two indexes of authors and subjects, to Volumes 1 to 10 and 11 to 20 were both compiled by Dr. Spencer.

Under the editorship of W. A. Deer and S. R. Nockolds, a special volume, Volume 34, was issued in honour of Professor C. E. Tilley on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. This is unique in the history of the Society and contains forty-six papers by his former students and associates.

*Mineralogical Abstracts.* A proposal that the Society should publish mineralogical abstracts was discussed in 1917 and a sub-committee to prepare a scheme was elected. The proposals were put into effect at a meeting on 20 January 1920 and the first number was issued at the end of no. 88 of the Magazine as a separately paged appendix. The papers abstracted were to be on scientific mineralogy and crystallography including that of organic compounds, and papers on petrology, ore-deposits, and economic mineralogy only when of interest from the point of view of scientific mineralogy.

The scheme was organized and the greater part of the abstracting and all the editing was done by Dr. Spencer. He also prepared topographical and alphabetical indexes to each volume, and continued to do all this work until he resigned in 1955 at the age of eighty-five.

After Spencer's retirement the Abstracts were edited for three years by Dr. N. F. M. Henry assisted by Dr. I. D. Muir. In 1958 Dr. James Phemister took on the task, and in that same year an arrangement was made with the Mineralogical Society of America to produce the Abstracts as an entirely separate publication sponsored jointly by the two societies. Each contributed an initial £500 to help finance the start of this venture. A new format with a two-column quarto page was started for Volume 14 and indexed as no. 8 of each volume. A part-time indexer was engaged for this work.

Professor R. A. Howie, who had been helping Dr. Phemister with the Abstracts for some time, took over the editorship in 1967. The number of abstracts to be dealt with was increasing rapidly and in September 1969 eight sub-editors were appointed to deal with the various sections, and in the following year Professor Howie was appointed Principal Editor with two editors and an indexer to help him.

The editors have been assisted by many honorary abstractors both in Britain and overseas, organized in the first place by Dr. Norman Henry in 1956. Such assistance was put on a more official basis following a decision taken at a meeting of the International Mineralogical Association in 1960. Twenty-five other countries now cooperate by having an appointed organizer of abstracts to collect and send in material to

the two organizers in U.S.A. and Great Britain. The American side of the work is organized by Miss Marjorie Hooker of the U.S. Geological Survey.

In his first six years as Editor Professor Howie had dealt with 20 571 abstracts. This compared with 20 435 edited by Dr. Spencer in thirty-five years. So far the largest number of abstracts in a single volume is 4380, printed in 512 pages (Vol. 24, 1973).

*Clay minerals.* This publication began as a typewritten bulletin issued twice yearly by the Clay Minerals Group. At first it contained only summaries of papers read at meetings, but in later volumes the papers were printed in full. The *Clay Minerals Bulletin* was for some years available to members of the Clay Minerals Group who paid an additional annual subscription, but since 1970, as a result of a revision of the bye-laws that abolished the membership fee for the Clay Minerals Group, the publication has been sent to all Ordinary Members. The *Clay Minerals Bulletin* changed its name to *Clay Minerals* in 1965. Arrangements have recently been completed for *Clay Minerals* to become the journal of the European Clay Societies, a development that marks a further notable step in the history of this successful publication. During its life, it has thrived under the editorship of D. M. C. MacEwan, R. J. W. McLaughlin, R. C. Mackenzie, R. G. Greene-Kelly, W. A. Mitchell, R. K. Harrison, and currently J. L. M. Lambert.

*Other publications.* Several monographs on special techniques, chiefly connected with clay mineralogy, have been published by the Society during the last twenty-five years.

The first of these, entitled *The X-ray identification and crystal structures of clay minerals* was produced as a result of proposals made by the Clay Minerals Group. It was edited by G. W. Brindley (then at Leeds) and it appeared in 1951. A grant towards its cost was obtained from the Royal Society. A second, revised edition by George Brown of the Rothamsted Experimental Station was published in 1961 and was reprinted in 1972.

The other monographs published are: *The differential thermal investigation of clays*, edited by R. C. Mackenzie, 1957; *The electron-optical investigation of clays*, edited by G. A. Gard, 1971; *The clay mineralogy of British sediments*, edited by R. M. S. Perrin, 1971; and *The infrared spectra of minerals*, edited by V. C. Farmer, 1974.

Another new publication commenced in 1969 is the *Mineralogical Society Bulletin* edited by the General Secretary. This replaces the old notices of the meetings, which in recent years had included not only titles of papers to be read, as formerly, but also short abstracts and some notices of the meetings of allied societies and of the I.M.A. The new Bulletin gives notices of meetings of the Groups, regular news of the I.M.A., and the Society's annual report and the accounts.

#### *Other activities*

*Nomenclature committees.* The Society has taken part in two nomenclature committees since 1920. The first was a committee on British petrological nomenclature consisting of twelve members nominated by the Geological Society and our own. It included the best known British petrographers of their day. This committee held thirteen meetings in 1920 and reported its recommendations on 15 December that year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Min. Mag.* 1921, 19, 137-47.

The other committee was appointed to cooperate with the nomenclature committee set up in 1930 by the Mineralogical Society of America with W. T. Schaller as secretary. The American Committee issued its first report in 1932. This was discussed in London and a joint meeting of members of the two committees was held in Washington in 1933 during the International Geological Congress. The American Society issued its final report in 1935. This was discussed by correspondence, but it was not until 1939 that a joint report was agreed to by our Council, still with reservations as to certain spellings.<sup>1</sup>

More successful was the work of another committee appointed in October 1958 to agree with the American Society on uniformity of nomenclature and usage of mineralogical terms for Mineralogical Abstracts. Dr. Hey carried on the discussion with C. S. Hurlbut and Michael Fleischer, who was then chairman of the I.M.A. commission on new mineral names. Agreement was soon reached and the names and terms proposed were adopted,<sup>2</sup> pending further negotiation, in January 1959.

Dr. Hey subsequently prepared a very useful statement on the unification and rationalization of nomenclature for the I.M.A. nomenclature commission in 1960.

*Microscope manufacture.* Another important committee in which our Society and the Geological Society were invited to take part in 1944 was on the manufacture of petrological microscopes. Two reports were issued. They were printed by the Mineralogical Society in 1945 but were not published in the Magazine.

*International Mineralogical Association.* The formation of an International Union of Mineralogy was first proposed in January 1953 when, under the presidency of Dr. James Phemister, a committee of five was appointed to consider the proposal and to report. It was decided to ask the Mineralogical Society of America whether it would support such an International Union. It was felt that other national mineralogical societies should not be approached unless the support of the American Society was assured. The suggestion aroused little interest at the time and the matter was dropped until 1957 when it was discussed at a meeting during the International Crystallographical Congress at Montreal, this time on the proposal of the American Mineralogical Society. It was agreed that such an Association, but not a Union, was desirable and a meeting for its formal inauguration was held in Madrid in 1958. Our President, Professor C. E. Tilley, was our delegate at this meeting, and Dr. G. F. Claringbull was elected to the Council in place of a past President in view of his work as the founding adviser. The original Association had thirteen National member societies; by 1974 the total was thirty. Professor Tilley served as Vice-President from 1960 to 1964 and as President from 1964 to 1970, and Professor R. A. Howie was elected to the Council in 1974.

*Groups for the special study of Clay Minerals, Applied Mineralogy, and Geochemistry.* An important step was taken in 1946 when the Council authorized the establishment within the Society of groups for the study of highly specialized branches of mineralogy, and approved in particular the formation of such a group for the study of clay minerals to be known as the Clay Minerals Group. The inaugural meeting was held on 24 January 1947. Dr. G. W. Brindley was in the chair and the meeting opened with an address by Professor J. D. Bernal.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. 1940, 25, lx.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 1958, 32, lix.

This group was a success from the start. Beginning with a membership of 75 and 14 non-member subscribers its numbers had risen to 309 by 1972. Its activities in sponsoring *Clay Minerals* have been described above. It was the Clay Minerals Group that initiated the plan for the monographs (see p. 434) and it also published 'A glossary of clay trade names' by R. H. S. Robertson in 1954.

Two further groups have since been founded: the Applied Mineralogy Group and the Geochemistry Group. These both began in 1963 as Committees. The former, named the Committee on Ore Mineralogy, was to further the study of opaque and semi-opaque minerals, under the chairmanship of Professor W. A. Deer; the latter, with Professor L. R. Wager as chairman, to advance the knowledge of geochemistry particularly in relation to mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, and the study of meteorites.

These 'Committees' in 1969 became 'Groups' and their constitutions were revised so that all three Groups are now on the same basis.<sup>1</sup> All three have been very active in organizing meetings to discuss their special techniques, and there have been many joint meetings with other societies both in Britain and abroad.

The Clay Minerals Group has held joint meetings with the Groupe français des Argiles (Paris, 1954), with the British Ceramic Society, and with the Groupe belge des Argiles, and others. The Applied Mineralogy Group has been very successful in organizing summer schools on Ore Mineralogy in Britain and many European countries, and has jointly sponsored with the Royal Microscopical Society meetings of a users' panel (1971 and 1972) and, under the auspices of this panel, a school for teachers in reflected light microscopy in 1974. The Group also shared in the organization of Annual Regional Conferences on the study of minerals and artificial materials in polished section on the microscale. The seventh of these meetings was held in Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, in 1975.

The Geochemistry Group has been similarly active. Two of its more recent meetings were: on Resonance spectroscopic methods in mineralogy (Oxford, 1971), and a three-day symposium on the chemistry and mineralogy of meteorites and extra-terrestrial matter, jointly sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry. This meeting was held at the British Museum (Natural History) in April 1970. The session on the Moon was opened by Professor Harold C. Urey; Dr. S. O. Agrell and Professor G. M. Brown spoke on petrological work on the lunar samples done in Britain.

The Groups play an important part in the life of the Society and in turn they undertake responsibilities for organizing its Spring meeting.

*The office.* The increasing activities of the Society as the years went on meant that it was no longer practicable for the work to be done entirely by the Honorary Officers as it had been, and it was decided to enlist the services of a full-time clerk and to seek for office accommodation within the means of the Society. In January 1952 the Geological Society of London very generously put two rooms at our disposal and Miss Enid Lambert was appointed as the first Clerk.

This was of necessity only a temporary arrangement and other accommodation was

<sup>1</sup> *Min. Mag.* 1970, 37, Proc. lxi-lxiii.



sought and eventually a lease was taken of rooms in the Royal Entomological Society's house at 41 Queens Gate, South Kensington, and other staff engaged.

In 1956 it was decided that the sales of all the Society's publications should be handled from this office and an Honorary Publications Manager, Dr. A. F. Seager, was appointed and a Publications Clerk was engaged. The work of the Publications Manager was considerable at the start and is now more so, involving as it does not only the subscriptions and sales of current numbers of the Magazine and Abstracts, and the maintenance of a stock of back numbers, but also sales of the Monographs, which in 1973 amounted to nearly £4000. These varied activities, meetings, and publications could never have been accomplished without the continual help of the Honorary Officers, Presidents, Editors, Secretaries, and Treasurers over all these hundred years. They worked devotedly for the Society and we owe them grateful thanks and acknowledgement.

To our *Benefactors* too we acknowledge the indebtedness of our Society. They, having served the Society in various capacities in their lives, have at their deaths bequeathed to the Society sums of money in aid of publications or the general funds. They are:

Richard Pearce. A member since 1880. Distinguished mining engineer and metallurgist	£105	1924
Sir William Phipson Beale, Bart. President and Treasurer	£200	1927
Sir Henry Alexander Miers. President and Editor	£200	1942
Frederick Noel Ashcroft. President and Treasurer	£250	1949
Leonard James Spencer. President and Editor	£200	1960
Arthur Francis Hallimond. Vice-President and Clay Minerals Group Chairman	£250	1970

The Henry Miers bequest was used as the nucleus of a fund to be called the 'Miers Memorial Fund' to be used, in the first instance, for the provision of illustrations in the Society's publications. Members of the Society were invited to contribute to the fund. Later the Ashcroft and the Spencer bequests were added to this fund and it was renamed the 'Miers-Spencer Memorial Fund'. In 1970 this fund, which then stood at £1126, was incorporated in the General Fund but the names of all the Benefactors will henceforth be printed in the Lists of Members and so all will be remembered. In addition, it is a pleasure to acknowledge a very recent gift of \$400 from a Life Member, Mrs Katherine Mather of Vickburg, Mississippi; it is being put towards the cost of printing this history.

*The officers and office staff.* In his Jubilee address Professor Watts gave an appreciation of the pioneer work of the Society's first President, Henry Clifton Sorby, 'to whom we owe the application of the microscope to the study of metals, minerals and rocks. . . . He has well earned the title of "Father of Petrology" bestowed on him recently at Sheffield University.'<sup>1</sup> Sorby introduced his methods to others at home and abroad. Among these were the Abbé Renard in Belgium, and Zirkel, who in turn founded the German school of petrology.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WATTS (W. W.), 1928, *Min. Mag.* **21**, 111.

<sup>2</sup> JUDD (J. W.), 1910, *Min. Mag.* **15**, 181.

Sorby retired after his three years as President and was succeeded in turn by M. F. Heddle, W. H. Huddleston, T. G. Bonney, and Lazarus Fletcher. Maskelyne was President for five years, 1893–8, and Sir Henry Miers for five, 1904–9. From 1909 until 1963 Presidents served only for three years each, and since 1965 for only two years. Of the thirty-four Presidents of the Society only one, Professor C. E. Tilley, has held the office for more than one term; he served from 1948 to 1951 and from 1957 to 1960.

The Secretaries in the early days had no prescribed term of office (it is now six years). J. H. Collins, the first Secretary, resigned in 1881 on taking up an appointment at the Rio Tinto mine in Spain. R. H. Scott, who succeeded Collins as both Secretary and Editor, became President in 1888 and was himself succeeded by the retiring President, Lazarus Fletcher. He held the office of Secretary for twenty-one years, but handed over the editing of the journal to Henry Miers (1881–1900). G. T. Prior, the next Secretary, carried on from 1909 to 1927 throughout the First World War with L. J. Spencer as Editor and W. Phipson Beale and J. W. Evans as Treasurers. W. Campbell Smith succeeded Prior as Secretary and he handed over in 1938 to G. F. Claringbull who was later Keeper of Minerals and then Director of the British Museum (Natural History) as Fletcher had been before him. Claringbull, like Fletcher, was Secretary for twenty-one years. He introduced many changes that widened the scope of the Society and greatly increased its activity and its membership.

The later Secretaries were J. R. Butler of Imperial College, London, A. C. Bishop of Queen Mary College and British Museum (Natural History), and J. E. T. Horne, the present Secretary, of the Institute of Geological Sciences.

The first Foreign Secretary was Sir Clement Le Neve Foster, a founder member. He was succeeded by: Thomas Davies, J. W. Judd, and W. W. Watts who held the post for eighteen years until 1924, when he was elected President in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations. Several past-Presidents have held this office. L. J. Spencer was Foreign Secretary from 1949 until his death ten years later at the advanced age of 88. He was succeeded by W. Campbell Smith and by G. F. Claringbull; the office lapsed in 1971.

At the time of writing there have been only twelve Treasurers in the (nearly) hundred years of the Society's existence. In the early days the task of the Treasurer was a comparatively light one; now it demands very considerable experience and the devotion of much time. The income of the Society in 1877 stood at £221 and it rose slowly in the first fifty years. By 1927 it was near £1000, and in 1974 the income from all sources was over £30 000. Assets, put at £103 in 1877 were near £2000 in 1927, and £13 000 in 1974.

The subscription, originally fixed at a guinea with an entrance fee of a guinea, remained unaltered for 75 years. It was raised to two pounds in 1951 and it was again raised in 1965, 1969, and 1972 when it became £9 to cover all publications except special ones. This increase was accompanied by provision for concessions to research students and to retired members. There was also devised a code to establish composition fees payable according to the number of annual subscriptions paid and the expectation of life of any would-be compounder. The basic payment for life member-

ship was settled in 1964 at £75. In 1876 it was ten guineas. More recently, inflation has meant that the life membership option has had to be restricted to members over the age of 60.

Mention has already been made of the first Treasurer, R. P. Greg, and of Sir W. Phipson Beale and Dr. J. W. Evans, Treasurers during the First World War. F. N. Ashcroft succeeded Evans in 1924 and served for 18 years, devoting himself wholeheartedly to the work. Ashcroft's successors were A. J. Bull, E. H. Beard, J. H. Taylor (also a President and one of the Managing Trustees), A. F. Seager, A. A. Moss, and A. H. Weir, the present Treasurer. In 1956 A. F. Seager was appointed Publications Manager to supervise the business of sales and subscriptions, rapidly increasing owing to the joint sponsoring of the Abstracts by the American Mineralogical Society and to the publication of the first monographs, all of which was proving too much for the office staff. Seager was ably followed by E. A. Jobbins, B. R. Young, and A. R. Woolley, the present Manager.

The office has now been well established and staffed for some years and it is a pleasure to record that many recent annual reports have expressed the Council's appreciation of the devoted and loyal service of Miss Jean Anderson in her multifarious duties and of Mrs. Jeanette Wilkinson in coping with the problems of publications and sales.

What has been the use of all this organization of meetings and publication of papers? The answer for the most part is to be found in the pages of the *Mineralogical Magazine*, wherein most of the work of our members has been published.

A brief review of the papers published in the Magazine up to 1926 was given by Professor Watts at the end of his Jubilee address. This showed to what extent the members of our Society, in the first fifty years of its existence, had contributed to the progress of mineralogy. Perhaps someone will attempt the task of tracing the further progress of our science in Great Britain and Ireland up to the date of the Centenary.

Watts foresaw what a wealth of new knowledge would have been gained by that date. In his concluding remarks he wrote (*Min. Mag.* 1926, **21**, 124):

'At no time has the science been more active or the outlook more promising than at present (1926). Those who will attend the centenary of the Society are to be envied in the wealth of discovery and correlation which the coming years will bring forth not only within our science itself but in the sister sciences with which its relations grow closer every day.'