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EDITORIAL

THE subject matter of papers published in the *Mineralogical Magazine* has always reflected the diversity in approaches to mineralogically based research. Many readers have come to recognize this as a particular feature of the *Magazine*, representing the range of disciplines practised by members of the Mineralogical Society; yet, others regret that the journal does not specialize more. The two points of view are irreconcilable, but, as a contribution towards narrowing the gap, from this issue the papers are grouped under broad subject headings.

These headings appear only on the contents pages and are intended as an indication of the type of subject matter covered—the title of a paper can occasionally be misleading in this respect. They will obviously vary from one issue to the next, depending on the papers in hand, but there will be no change in the scheduling of manuscripts in order to fill a particular section—date of receipt of the final manuscript is the overriding factor governing publication priority unless referees recommend a high priority status to a contribution.

At this same time a section entitled *Mineralogical Notes* has been introduced; it will contain a number of short papers, usually of a topographical nature, on noteworthy mineral occurrences. There has been demand for the inclusion of such contributions for some time, and to group them together will free the remainder of the journal for the longer papers. Intending contributors should bear in mind that the printing style for this section requires illustrative and tabular material to be kept to a minimum and, in any case, to be suitable for

reproduction restricted to a single (6.8 cm wide) column. The existing sections—full papers and short communications—are retained, and reserved for papers containing important mineralogical, petrological, and geochemical contributions of wide interest and general application.

Mini-print has proved over the last nine years to be an inexpensive method for the direct reproduction of authors' camera-ready material. But it has not found universal favour with either readers or authors, and the Society has decided to discontinue its use for the reproduction of *text* material. Nevertheless it will continue to be used for the reproduction of tables, so authors are reminded that all tables should be submitted in a form suitable for direct reproduction, that is, as uncreased original copies in the style presently used in the journal, particular attention being paid to the degree of reduction required to fit the table on to a printed page. They should avoid using a dot-matrix printer if possible and also bear in mind that alterations to tables are not normally possible at the proof stage, so careful checks on figures and totals should be made prior to submission.

The problem to which mini-print was directed nevertheless remains—the large number of papers continually being offered for publication. Authors can co-operate with the editors by ensuring that their contributions are concise but clear, avoiding unnecessary detail; thereby will this major source of publication delay be kept under control.

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