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Editorial

Readers may have noticed that the February publication date of this first issue of volume 60 is one month earlier than usual. The reason for this is that the *Mineralogical Magazine* is moving from quarterly publication to six issues per year, bringing it into line with the major learned society mineralogical journals published in north America and the continent of Europe. The numbers of papers recommended for publication by our panel of referees is such that the publication delays have long been a matter of concern to the editors. We hope that the extra two issues each year will speed the publication of many suitable papers.

The *Mineralogical Magazine* also publishes from time to time groups of papers presented at the Society's scientific meetings, thereby reflecting the active programme of activities in the Society and its specialist groups. This first issue of 1996 includes papers given at the 1995 Winter Conference on magmatic processes and the associated Hallimond Lecture.

These extra issues are being published without an immediate increase in subscription rate to Society members or subscribers and represents very good value for money.

A. M. CLARK

Magmatic processes: do the answers lie in the rocks?

Introduction

WHEN Council of the Mineralogical Society decided that the 1994/95 Winter meeting should be held in Sheffield with the theme of Magmatic Processes it was appreciated that, as so often in recent years, there was likely to be a clash with the Geological Society's Volcanic Studies Group's main annual 'Research in Progress' meeting. However, during the 1993/94 Winter Conference in Glasgow discussions between the organisers of the Sheffield meeting and representatives of V.S.G. presented an opportunity for this to be avoided by holding a 3-day combined meeting of the Mineralogical Society and the

Volcanic Studies Group in Sheffield from the 4th-6th January 1995.

The format adopted was two days of thematic sessions, during which the Hallimond Lecture, seven invited talks and fifteen offered talks were presented, followed by one day in which seventeen oral presentations were given on 'research in progress'. Concurrent with these was a 3-day session in which 36 posters and two other exhibits were displayed. The experiment in combining the meetings proved highly successful, attracting a record attendance of over 170 (including delegates from South Africa, Canada, U.S.A. and six European countries) and setting a precedent which is to be repeated in Bristol in 1996.