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EDITORIAL

AT the start of this new volume of *Mineralogical Magazine* it is timely to remind members of the Mineralogical Society and other readers of this journal of some of the advantages of submitting their important research papers to the *Magazine*. This is particularly pertinent at a time when new journal titles in the fields of mineralogy are being relentlessly promoted.

As the *Magazine* is received by a larger proportion of the members of the Society and is purchased by major earth science libraries throughout the world, authors may be assured that their work will enjoy a wide circulation. The *Magazine* is published quarterly, less frequently than some other mineralogical journals, but any time lapse is somewhat alleviated by the fact that published articles are abstracted in *Mineralogical Abstracts* at the proof stage—more rapidly than for other journals. The editors are also able to recommend particularly important papers for rapid publication.

The Mineralogical Society is one of the few organizations which gives authors (who are members of the Society) an adequate number of free reprints of their contributions; and there are no page charges. Anyone caring to analyse the dates printed at the end of each paper will find that the majority of the contributions, and particularly the shorter ones, have been published well inside a

year from the date of receipt of the final manuscript. This situation is likely to improve through 1989, since the publication of another supplementary issue is planned.

In addition, the editors are scrutinizing the papers received very carefully, in conjunction with suitable referees, to ensure that those to be published meet the standards of an international journal. As I write these notes at the beginning of November 1988, I see that more than one-third of the papers submitted since 1 January have had to be rejected. Although this may be discouraging for authors who have their manuscripts returned, it does mean that more space will be available for papers of quality with a wide potential readership.

During 1989 we will be strengthening the editorial board by adding editors from overseas areas in which the *Magazine* has considerable numbers of readers. Authors may care to channel their contributions through 'local' editors.

The editors will always endeavour to process manuscripts quickly, but authors can also help themselves greatly by ensuring that their paper are prepared in accordance with the current instructions to authors. A revised version is now available on request from the Publications Office in Queen's Gate.

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