

**THE HAWLEY MEDAL FOR 1995
TO
T. SCOTT ERCIT**

The Hawley Award is presented for what is judged to be the best paper to appear in *The Canadian Mineralogist* in a given year. The winner for 1995 is T. Scott Ercit of the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. His award-winning paper, entitled "The geochemistry and crystal chemistry of columbite-group minerals from granitic pegmatites, southwestern Grenville Province, Canadian Shield", appeared in Volume 32, pages 421-438 of *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

The Selection Committee reported that it was a hard choice among several excellent papers, but chose Scott's paper because "Ercit's paper throws new light on the mineralogical diversity of granite pegmatites, an accomplishment all the more notable for a study on the well-documented Grenville Province. Careful delineation of the crystal chemistry, structural state and geochemistry of columbite-group minerals from Grenville granitic pegmatites has revealed several anomalous properties of this mineral group, as compared with columbite-group minerals associated with many other granitic pegmatites. These properties are especially valuable as indicators of the degree of internal evolution of the pegmatites, a property often difficult to assess for Grenville pegmatites, which generally exhibit only low to moderate degrees of fractionation. Thus the paper establishes the columbite-group minerals as a promising key to help constrain models of the genesis of Grenville pegmatites, especially in regards to the relative significance of anatexis and magmatic processes."

It is pleasing for me, as a mineralogist at ROM, to present this medal to Scott because in 1976, early in his undergraduate career, Scott spent the summer working as a student assistant at the ROM. Thus, it has been particularly satisfying to watch Scott progress from Laurentian University, to the University of Manitoba and on to the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. Obviously, his early work in a museum made a lasting impression.

This is not the first medal Scott has won. He was awarded the Winthrop Spencer Gold Medal at the University of Manitoba in 1986 for his outstanding Ph.D. thesis, entitled "*The Simpsonite Paragenesis. The Crystal Chemistry of Extreme Ta Fractionation*". He has also won several Fellowships, Scholarships and Student Research Awards throughout his academic career. His research interests center on oxide minerals and the mineralogy, geochemistry and genesis of

granitic pegmatites, the topics of his Hawley-Medal-winning paper.

Scott's work is an excellent example of mineralogical studies applied to the solution of geological problems. This is a heritage he was taught at the University of Manitoba; the Department of Geological Sciences developed this tradition in the late 1940s, when Bob Ferguson began teaching there. With the development of electron and laser microbeam techniques designed to analyze single grains of minerals, a host of geochemists, petrologists and geochronologists have found themselves brushing up on mineralogy in order to do their work. It will be good for Scott to have their company in his future studies.

Fred J. Wicks, President

*Mr. President and Fellow Members
of the Association,*

It is with considerable gratitude that I accept the Hawley Medal for my paper on columbite-group minerals from granitic pegmatites of the Grenville Province. A certain amount of shock goes with the gratitude; in no way did I anticipate the sort of recognition that I thank you for today. I suspect that most scientists who study granitic pegmatites suffer from a mild identity crisis. Petr Černý touched on this when he received the Past Presidents' medal eleven years ago, and, to the chagrin of his graduate students, introduced "pegmatology" to the literature. Given this, perhaps "field crystallography" isn't too oxymoronic a description of where my interests lie, namely the direct application of crystallography and mineralogy to problems in pegmatite genesis. Having said this, you will certainly understand that I appreciate receiving the Hawley Medal for my most field-oriented and multidisciplinary publication to date.

The 1980s and 1990s have been a wonderful time to carry out work involving both granitic pegmatites and the Grenville Province. New tectonic models and regional thermobarometric investigations have certainly paved the way for those of us interested in selected aspects of the natural history of the Province. As regards pegmatites, renewed interest in experimental studies and in pegmatite systematics have provided



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genetic models ripe for the testing. Work to date has mainly focused on rare-alkali- and tantalum-enriched pegmatites; as I showed in my paper, it is now time to

start testing our predictive models with data from other geochemical classes of pegmatite if our reach is for truly global models.

As a student, I was extremely fortunate to start my career under the guidance of mineralogists at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Geological Survey of Canada. I attended Laurentian University for my undergraduate degree. Jim Davies's lectures on granitic pegmatites and his mapping experiences in Manitoba whetted my appetite for pegmatite studies. It was only natural that I attend the University of Manitoba for my graduate degree. Advisors Petr Černý and Frank Hawthorne gave me ample direction, yet tremendous freedom in selecting and conducting my research program. As for my post-doctoral years, I don't think I could have experienced a better working environment than the old Mineral Sciences section of the Canadian Museum of Nature. I thank Joel Grice, Bob Gault and George Robinson for creating the atmosphere of collegiality requisite to the kind of work that resulted in this award.

Previous medalists are no doubt aware of the significant role of Robert Martin. Each Hawley Medal is a testament to the dedication of our editor. As regards the paper for which this medal has been awarded, not only did Bob take great care with its editorial input, he presented me with one of the better scientific reviews.

In closing, Mr. President, friends and colleagues, I thank you again for the honour of this award.

T. Scott Ercit
