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GRANITIC PEGMATITES: THE ČERNÝ – FOORD VOLUME**PREFACE**

In late 1995, Alan Anderson used the Dalhousie University granite list server to announce an upcoming Mineralogical Association of Canada symposium on granitic pegmatites in honor of Petr Černý and Eugene Foord. Within days, his e-mail box was crammed with messages from enthusiastic PIGs (*i.e.*, members of the Pegmatite Interest Group) interested in contributing to the session. It was clear from the immediate response that the symposium was going to be a large and special event. Nevertheless, the GAC–MAC organizers were momentarily stunned by the flood of over 70 abstracts submitted by “pegmatologists” from 15 different countries. In view of the great interest in the symposium, the originally scheduled half-day of talks was extended to two full days for the Černý symposium, and one morning session dedicated to pegmatite mineralogy in honor of Gene Foord. With the inclusion of two poster sessions, the pegmatite symposium at the Winnipeg GAC–MAC meeting (May, 1996) became the largest in the history of these annual meetings, a deserving tribute to two scientists who have inspired so many and have contributed so much to our understanding of granitic pegmatites.

The papers in this issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist* are an outgrowth of the Černý and Foord symposia. Consistent with the interests of both Petr and Gene, the topics of the papers span a wide spectrum of pegmatite research, from regional field-based studies to detailed characterization of pegmatite minerals and fluids. However, the emphasis of the issue is clearly on the mineralogy of granitic pegmatites, which is also an accurate reflection of Petr’s and Gene’s principal scientific passion. The papers in the volume appear in a progression from regional-scale processes of derivation and migration of pegmatite-forming melts to internal evolution of an individual pegmatite, to detailed studies of mineralogy and fluid chemistry.

The mineralogical section of the issue begins with papers on phosphate minerals from pegmatite localities in central Africa, Canada, Sweden and Argentina. This is followed by studies on boron- and beryllium-bearing minerals, micas, rubidium feldspars and pollucite. Then, hydrothermal processes are represented by a paper on zinc speciation in fluid inclusions from a granitic pegmatite. The Černý–Foord issue appropriately concludes with eight papers on tantalum and niobium oxides, a subject very close to the hearts of Petr and Gene.

It has been a privilege to have been involved with the organization of the pegmatite symposium and in the editing of this thematic issue. Sadly, Gene Foord lost his battle with cancer while this issue was in preparation. He will be deeply missed by his friends and colleagues. We thank Scott Ercit for originally proposing the symposium honoring Petr Černý. Our sincere gratitude is also extended to editors Robert F. Martin and Wallace H. Maclean for expertly guiding this issue to completion. Finally, special thanks to the many reviewers who contributed their time and expertise to make this a better PIGFEST.

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