

**THE YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD FOR 1999
TO
LEE A. GROAT**

This year we are pleased to recognize Lee Groat, Associate Professor of Mineralogy at the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, the University of British Columbia, as the recipient of the Mineralogical Association of Canada's Young Scientist Award. Lee's accomplishments over the past decade have been prolific and pervasive to the extent that he is perceived by many to be at least "mid-career" rather than still a young scientist. Lee has already published almost 50 papers in highly respected periodicals such as *The Canadian Mineralogist* and *American Mineralogist*, together with a similar number of abstracts. These publications have established his international reputation for high-quality research.

Equally important, Lee has demonstrated to mineralogists a commitment that extends beyond his own research interests in the crystallography of mercury minerals and the mineralogy of granitic pegmatites. Thus in 1997, he was the organizer and coeditor of MAC Short Course Volume 25 on Biological – Mineralogical Interactions, in which he also coauthored two chapters. He was co-organizer (with T.S. Ercit and A.J. Anderson) of a special session on "Granitic Pegmatites" at the 1996 GAC–MAC Annual Meeting, and the trio subsequently guest-edited the 350-page thematic issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist*: "Granitic Pegmatites: the Černý – Foord Volume (*Can. Mineral.* **36**, 249–680, 1998). Lee also served on MAC council from 1993 through 1995, and during his term, he was notably active as Membership Secretary.

He has been an invited speaker at European Universities and Science Foundations and in 1995 was a MAC Distinguished Lecturer. Recently, he has been involved in furthering proposals urging the development of a Canadian synchrotron facility. Last year, Lee completed his term as an Associate Editor of *American Mineralogist*, but at the Editor's request, he kindly agreed to a year's extension. Upon completion of this extended term in 1998, Lee has already agreed to serve as an Associate Editor with *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

Although he is still a young scientist, Lee's contributions have been formidable; not only has Lee shown that he is an accomplished researcher, but he has also demonstrated himself to be a person of scientific generosity, one who has been willing to share his expertise and time for the success of others and the betterment of

mineralogy. His nomination for the MAC Young Scientist award is most appropriate, and I have great pleasure in presenting this award to him.

Roger H. Mitchell
Chairman, MAC Young Scientist Award Committee

Thank you, Roger, for your generous citation. I am deeply honored that the Association has selected me as this year's recipient of the Young Scientist Award. In response, I thank my nominees, the selection committee, and those individuals and institutions that have contributed to my career to date.

I was introduced to mineralogy by Len Berry, in the last class he taught at Queen's University. A year later, I was introduced to X-ray diffraction by Ron Peterson, in his Advanced Mineralogy class. I remember my fascination with precession photography, which led to a desire to learn more about the crystal structures of minerals. Ron kindly agreed to supervise my B.Sc. thesis, and in return I helped talk him into buying an old wooden sailboat. Some of my happiest memories of this time are the voyages we made together around Lake Ontario. I thank Ron, and the rest of the faculty in the Department of Geological Sciences at Queen's, for the quality of their teaching and for their interest in undergraduates as individuals; theirs is an example I have tried to emulate at UBC.

The summer after graduation, I worked for Joe Mandarino at the Royal Ontario Museum. From Joe, I learned about the Gladstone–Dale relationship and some of the more traditional mineralogical techniques, which have held me in good stead ever since. I thank Joe, and I am pleased to be working with him again, as one of the gang of forty producing the new *Encyclopedia of Minerals*.

In late 1982, I moved to Winnipeg to begin graduate work with Frank Hawthorne. Although my thesis project was the crystal chemistry of vesuvianite, we worked on many other projects, which provided great experience (and an impressive publication list upon graduation). When I finally got around to working on vesuvianite, it soon became obvious that my thesis research would only scratch the surface, and in truth it continues to the present day.

I am grateful to Frank for his supervision and support. I also thank the other faculty at the University of Manitoba, especially Petr Černý, George Clark, Bob Ferguson, and Norman Halden. In addition, I acknowledge the assistance of the staff (especially Neil Ball), and the other graduate students (in particular Scott Ercit).

I arrived at UBC after an abbreviated postdoctoral fellowship at Cambridge University. At UBC, I was encouraged to add a field component to my research. To this end, I enlisted Scott in a study of pegmatites in the Canadian Cordillera. Despite an impressive list of mishaps, the project has been very successful, the highlight being our discovery of the O'Grady gem tourmaline deposit. I thank Scott, Bob Gault, Mati Raudsepp, and all of the students involved for their contributions to this study.

Also at UBC, I was encouraged to do research in mineral physics, and this has led to a long-term collaboration with investigators at the universities of Cambridge and Hamburg. I thank the latter institution for offering me a Guest Professorship in 1997, and I am grateful to Ulli Bismayer, Ekhard Salje and their staff and students for making me feel at home in both Hamburg and Cambridge.

I also thank John Jambor for his advice, support, and example. I believe that with John, myself and Mati, and with the opening of the Pacific Mineral Museum under the direction of Mark Mauthner, the future of mineralogy on the West Coast looks very bright.

I also thank my colleagues at UBC, in particular Kelly Russell, and I thank my graduate students, past and present, for their hard work and enthusiasm. Others who have contributed to my career include Barry

Ernewein, Joel Grice, John Hughes, George Lager, Bob Martin, Andy Roberts, Richard Taylor, and Fred Wicks. Thank you all.

I remain grateful to my late grandmother, Elizabeth Potter Groat, for her support, and to my late cousin, "Jackie" Groat, for his friendship and example. Finally, I thank my wife, Anita Green, for her love, patience, and support over the years. Thank you.

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