

Luminescence Phenomena in Minerals: Thematic Set

A. FINCH

Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB, UK

LAST year's Mineralogical Society winter meeting, held at Imperial College, London, from 7–9 January 1998, took the general theme of 'Microbeam Techniques in the Geosciences' and was divided into six different thematic sessions. The Mineral Physics Special Interest Group sponsored the session on 'Luminescence Phenomena in Minerals', which was targeted at the wide range of different luminescence methods currently at work in the Geosciences. The session was also supported by the Society for Luminescence Microscopy & Spectroscopy, and by Oxford Instruments.

Ten presentations were given as part of the thematic session, including an invited presentation by Professor Peter Townsend of the School of Engineering, University of Sussex. This thematic set follows from the discussions and presentations at that meeting. It reflects the vibrant and wide

ranging interest there is in luminescence methods within the Geoscience community, ranging from predominantly physical studies of the behaviour of minerals and synthetic mineral analogues as a function of composition and structure, to more interpretative studies using luminescence as a petrological tool. Ideally, a geoscientist using luminescence should be able to appreciate *both* the physical mechanisms leading to luminescence *and* the nature of the geological processes that spectra and images elucidate. This is clearly a difficult task, but one that is necessary to interpret fully CL spectra and images.

The presentations at the conference, and the six articles in this thematic set resulting from it, reflect the breadth of interest in luminescence spectroscopy and petrology.

[*Manuscript received 16 September 1998*]