

New employee joins the MMTA team



The executive team outside MMTA's London office

The MMTA main committee is delighted to announce that Emma Newman has joined the MMTA's team at the executive offices in central London. Emma will be assisting the General Manager, Roland Chavasse, in running the MMTA office and supporting committees and members as the Association grows from strength to strength.

Chairman Guy Darby said that the new position was needed because of the continued success of the Association and its record membership level. "The board of directors decided that the smooth running and efficiency of the Association must not be compromised and therefore decided to hire an assistant", he said.

Emma graduated from the University of Nottingham with a BEng in Civil Engineering in 2010. She is enthusiastic about promoting the Association and said, "I am very excited to start work within an industry which is going to become ever more important as technology develops. I'm particularly looking forward to meeting existing and potential members at the International Minor Metals Conference in Philadelphia next month".

MMTA gives evidence at UK Government inquiry

As part of the continuous discourse between the MMTA, governments and international non-governmental organisations, on February 16th Charles Swindon ([RJH Trading Ltd](#)) and Anthony Lipmann ([Lipmann Walton & Co Ltd](#)), both former chairmen of the MMTA, together with Roland Chavasse, met with the UK's House of Commons (HoC) Science and Technology Committee to discuss minor metals and what the HoC has determined to be "strategically important metals".

The HoC's inquiry is being led by Andrew Miller, MP, and will focus on the market fundamentals of certain metals said to be strategic to the UK economy. Mr Miller said this list will include cobalt, platinum, titanium, tantalum and the rare earth elements and that "the inquiry has the potential to be wide-ranging, from concerns about availability... to how metals are recycled from discarded technological devices". The inquiry is ongoing and will include an examination of material substitutability, economic vulnerability, and the market fundamentals of these elements.



The MMTA team talking to the HoC Committee

Further information on this inquiry including interview transcripts and written evidence submitted by the MMTA and other organisations are available online at www.parliament.uk. If member companies have any comments on the draft MMTA trade policy document circulated in March, or wish to be involved with the MMTA's Trade and Lobby Committee please contact the executive.

New MMTA Members:

Since the last editions of *The Crucible* the following companies have joined the MMTA community:

Evans Analytical Group (EAG) specialises in the analysis of all solid materials. They provide certificates of purity for many materials including minor metals. EAG is a leading, fully integrated and independent material characterisation services organisation. For further information on the range of services available please contact Nicole Cuq on +33 (0) 5 61 73 15 29, info@eaqlabs.com or via their website www.eaqlabs.com.

HardAssetInvestors.com (HAI) provides extensive coverage of all aspects of the minor metals industry and other commodity markets. Resources include in-depth articles and interviews of leading industry participants. HAI aims to be a robust and informative centre for discussion for all hard assets investors. For more information contact Ed Lopez and Tom Vulcan on +1 (212) 293 2000 or via their website www.hardassetsinvestor.com.

ICD Metals LLC is involved in trading minor metals and ferro-alloys, including antimony, cadmium, bismuth, manganese, cobalt, ferro-vanadium, ferro-tungsten, molybdenum metal, ferro-molybdenum, ferro-titanium, ferro-phosphorus, ferro-silicon and more. For more details please contact Mr Zwick on +1 (212) 644 1500, info@icdmetals.com or via their website www.icdmetals.com.

New Approved Warehouse: Odin Warehousing & Logistics BV

The MMTA's Warehousing Committee has confirmed that following a successful independent inspection by Cunningham Lindsey Marine they can confirm that Odin Warehousing and Logistics BV is now a fully approved warehouse for the storage and handling of minor metals in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The approved location is at: Klompenmakerstraat 89, 3194 DD Hoogvliet-Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Odin is involved with warehousing, transport, logistics and customs activities relating to minor metals and other metals.

For further information contact Marcel Schot on +31 (10) 4284284, info@odinwarehousing.com or online at www.odinwarehousing.com.



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The benefits of using MMTA approved warehouses:

Many members' open cover insurance policies do not cover them for unexplained losses of material stored in warehouses. However, to gain MMTA approval as a warehouse, they must not only have exceptional security and service as defined by the Warehouse Committee, but also hold liability insurance of a minimum of US\$1.25m (any one occurrence) against an unexplained loss of an MMTA members' minor metals stored in their care.

To ensure that all MMTA approved warehouses maintain the exceptional standards that are required each warehouse must undergo an independent inspection every two years and also comply at all times with the criteria, standards and requirements set out by the MMTA's Warehouse Committee lead by David Brown (Lambert Metals International). Details of the warehouse criteria are available online.

A full list of all MMTA approved warehouses, their contact details and their locations around the world can be downloaded from the MMTA website at <http://www.mmta.co.uk/warehouses/>. There are currently twelve locations approved by the MMTA for the storage of members' minor metals.

If you wish to recommend a warehouse for MMTA approval please inform the executive.

Mufulira Lunch at The National Liberal Club

London, 20th July 2011



Please join us for the MMTA's first Mufulira Lunch to be held at The National Liberal Club in central London.

Enjoy the summer atmosphere and company of other MMTA members along with teachers and pupils of Ansford School who took part in this year's exchange with Mufulira.

There is no charge for attending this event which is intended to report on projects that have been supported by MMTA members.

It is sponsored by Lipmann Walton & Co. While tickets are free booking is essential and donations to the charity will be most welcome. To reserve your place please contact the MMTA.



The International Minor Metals Conference 2012 will be in Europe in April.

Full details of the special early-bird rates exclusively for MMTA members will be released very soon.

Members pay attention at Bribery Lunch

On April 7th the MMTA held a quarterly lunch at the RAC club in central London. After lunch Jon Heuvel ([Penningtons Solicitors](#)) gave attendees a fascinating overview of the UK's new legislation on bribery. Jon's presentation gave an insight to the restrictions covered by the new bribery laws and how to ensure that an organisation is not breaking UK law.

The Bribery Act 2010 aims to support free and fair competition between businesses and to eradicate corruption by British companies operating at home and around the world. Currently the benchmark anti-bribery legislation is the USA's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977. This not only applies to US businesses and nationals wherever they are in the world, but also applies to foreign persons making use of US financial institutions for their nefarious activities. However, when it becomes law on 1st July 2011, the UK's new law threatens to take anti-bribery statutes a step further.



Jon Heuvel

The UK's current anti-bribery laws are said to need urgent attention, having been largely neglected for a century and public awareness of corruption has recently been fuelled by scandals involving corrupt defence firms, politicians claiming excessive expenses and more.

However, while popular opinion is broadly in favour of a tightening anti-corruption measures, in the business community there are said to be growing concerns that the new law has gone too far in its attempts to stamp out all forms of bribery and corruption. In contradiction to the government's belief that this Act is "an important step forward for both the UK and UK plc", many business commentators fear that it threatens to jeopardize the competitiveness of UK businesses operating in an increasingly international marketplace.

A full version of Jon's talk has been made available on our website. For further information please contact Jon direct via <http://www.penningtons.co.uk/en/Profiles/F-J/Jon-Heuvel> and don't forget to mention that you are a member of the MMTA!



The main committee would like to thank Jon Heuvel and his colleagues at Penningtons Solicitors who generously sponsored the lunch and arranged for such an interesting presentation. Penningtons has been a member of the MMTA since December 2007.

Dates for your Diary

MMTA annual general meeting	Philadelphia, PA, USA	5 May 2011
Minor Metals Dinner	Changsha, Hunan, China	17 May 2011
Open day at Umicore and dinner in Antwerp	Antwerp, Belgium	21-22 June 2011
Mufulira Lunch at The National Liberal Club	London, UK	20 July 2011
MMTA .v. Wogen cricket match	London, UK	25 July 2011
Trade Policy Workshop	Brussels, Belgium	tbc September 2011
38 th Anniversary Dinner	London, UK	4 October 2011
Import Training Course	London, UK	13-14 October 2011
North American Dinner	New York, NY, USA	8 December 2011
Christmas Lunch	London, UK	14 December 2011

Focus on

Lanthanum (La)



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Lanthanum (La) was first discovered in 1839 by C.G. Mosander in Stockholm, Sweden. It is the element under atomic number 57, occurring at 32ppm in the earth's crust making it the 28th most abundant element. Lanthanum was first extracted from, or rather discovered in cerium nitrate, however it can be obtained from all minerals containing other 'rare earths'/ lanthanides. The main ores from which it is extracted today are Monazite and Bastnäsité, where Lanthanum makes up 25% and 38% of the minerals, respectively. Allanite and Cerite also contain Lanthanum, but these ores are not mined for their lanthanum content in particular.

The main mining regions of the aforementioned ores are USA, Brazil, India, Sri Lanka and Australia, making up the world production of lanthanum at 12,500 mt/year. The reserves of this element are thought to be in the region of 6 million mt. Despite being one of the 'rare earths', Lanthanum is probably one of the least rare, occurring in a tonnage similar to that of lead and tin combined! Lanthanum metal itself is produced by reacting lanthanum fluoride and calcium metal, however lanthanum is only commercial in its other forms such as, lanthanum oxide, carbonate, chloride, fluoride, nitrate and sulphate.

Despite there being no commercial uses of lanthanum alone, it is often utilised once alloyed with other elements. For example, lanthanum nickel is a good absorber of hydrogen gas, and as a powder can absorb up to 400 times its own volume. This could prove useful for future use in hydrogen fuelled cars, as a way of storing the hydrogen gas. However today, it is mainly uses as an addition to glass. It is used as a core material in carbon arc electrodes for film/ photographic studio lighting and floodlighting as it produces an emission spectrum similar to that of sunlight. When lanthanum oxide is added to glass for lens making it improves the refractive index, where up to 40% of lanthanum oxide is consumed by optical glass manufacture. In these applications, in addition to increasing the refractive index, it improves low colour dispersion and renders it more resistant to attack by alkalis. Finally lanthanum salts included in zeolite crystals used in petroleum refining, help stabilise the zeolite at high temperatures.

To discover which MMTA members can supply lanthanum please visit www.mmta.co.uk.



48 Hours in Philadelphia



This year the MMTA’s International Minor Metals Conference is being held in Philadelphia, a city which resonates with history and commerce. For delegates looking to explore this historic metropolis here are some of the key attractions that make this city worth a second look.

History: America’s capital city 1790-1800

Visitors to this former US capital have an abundance of historical attractions to visit, crowned by the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

The Liberty Bell (named due to its association with abolitionists in the 1830s) is an iconic symbol of American independence, cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London in 1752. It is made of 70% copper and 25% tin with traces of lead, zinc, arsenic, gold and silver.

The bell was originally hung in Independence Hall and tolled to mark the first reading of the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, a momentous event which declared that England’s thirteen American colonies were no longer a part of the British Empire and instead were independent states.



Culture: Rocky and Rodin

If you prefer the arts then a visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art is a must. Not only is there ‘high’ art in abundance (including the superb Rodin Museum) inside the museum, but at the bottom of the museum steps stands an iconic bronze statue (left) of the Rocky character who famously trained outside the museum in the Rocky films.

Once inside the Museum you can view an assortment of fabulous exhibitions, including Roberto Capucci’s Art into Fashion, Anne d’Harnoncourt Sculpture Garden, and more.

Eating out: Philadelphia’s favorite sandwich

Another must-have while you visit this city is the infamous Philly cheese-steak sandwich. Legend has it that the cheese-steak was developed in the early 20th century by combining frizzled beef, onions and cheese in a small loaf of bread.

According to locals, *Pat’s King of Steaks* on Passyunk Avenue was the original cheese-steak vendor and still one of the best places to sample this hearty snack.

Science: The Franklin Institute and Chemical Heritage Foundation

In a city such as Philadelphia there is no shortage of world class museums to visit, but two in particular stand out as relevant to the metals industry; the Franklin Institute (50 yards from the conference hotel) and the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in the city centre.

The Franklin Institute, named after Benjamin Franklin, the Founding Father and scientist depicted on \$100 bills, is one of the oldest centres of science education in the United States, dating to 1824. The CHF is located in the old city centre and focuses on chemistry’s impact on society, including a hall of fame exploring the unique properties of minor metals and other elements.

