

REPORT TO THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

SGA 9th Biennial meeting, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

19th - 23rd August 2007

“Microanalysis of ore forming fluids at El Teniente, Chile”

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I am writing to thank the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland for providing a postgraduate bursary allowing my attendance at the SGA 9th Biennial meeting at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland from the 19th – 23rd August 2007.

My current research focuses on the hydrothermal fluid evolution of the giant El Teniente porphyry copper deposit in Chile. In particular I am using LA-ICP-MS as an in situ microanalytical technique to analyse single fluid inclusions. I was able to present a poster in the session “Felsic Intrusive Related Deposits” summarising my current work which showed a preliminary set of analyses revealing several fluid types present in late magmatic stage

veins from El Teniente with important metals such as Cu strongly partitioning into the vapour phase.

The conference brought together economic geologists from all over the world and from both academia and industry, making this a highly diverse and interesting meeting. Attending this meeting allowed me to meet cutting edge researchers in the field of economic geology, and in particular those working on all aspects of porphyry copper deposits, giving me an excellent opportunity to receive feedback and discussions as to the future direction of my research. I was also able to establish contacts and possible future collaborations.

The meeting in particular highlighted the need for student funding and opportunities to be a focus given the current boom in the mining industry. To this end the conference organisers arranged a highly successful student and industry night which enabled me to make contacts for the future and to understand what the industry requires from graduating students in terms of a skills and knowledge base. I was also able to secure sponsorship for a Society of Economic Geologists Student Chapter at Imperial College – providing a platform to promote economic geology to students.