Fritz Laves was mainly responsible for my writing this paper; Laves was a great scientist and a warm, generous, courageous person. Fritz Laves was mainly responsible for my writing this paper; Laves was a great scientist and a warm, generous, courageous person. Fritz Laves was mainly responsible for my writing this paper; Laves was a great scientist and a warm, generous, courageous person.

During the writing some problems arose that required further experiments, with which I was assisted by G. P. Espinosa. I was also committed to other projects, not the least important of which was an attempt to prepare the superconductors Nb, Si, which I predicted would have a transition temperature of 32 K. Thus, the final paper was not sent to Laves until four months after I had received the invitation. Laves's response included a copy of his letter, recommending publication to Menzer, who had been unaware of this contribution to his festschrift. The superlatives used by Laves in his estimate of the paper were overwhelming and greatly appreciated by me. I subsequently wrote to Laves, "Your very kind words are most rewarding.... I consider them to be a priceless gift."

The paper is a critical review of the work undertaken in garnet crystal chemistry by my colleagues and me, as well as others. Much of our work was done while I was at Bell Laboratories. Part of my research at what was then the North American Aviation Science Center involved the garnets; from the beginning (1956) my primary interest was in the static magnetic behavior of the materials. In fact, much of the information on ionic site preferences was deduced from the static magnetic behavior. My interest in this field has continued periodically, and since 1973 I have worked in collaboration with a group at the Istituto di Elettronica dello Stato Solido del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Rome; our latest publication recently appeared in the Physical Review.

The paper has most likely received many citations because it contains a survey and discussion of the site preferences of the ions that enter the garnet crystal structure. Both the particular ions and their site preferences have an important bearing on the physical properties of the garnet crystals. Needless to say, they are important in studies of the crystal chemistry of the naturally occurring silicate garnets. Ferrimagnetic garnet crystals are used in various electronic devices, and the physical properties required for these devices are generally attained by synthesizing materials with appropriate compositions based on ionic site preferences. One important laser system uses an yttrium aluminum garnet crystal doped with Nd ions (that replace Y ions). Indeed, the garnets are of interest to chemists, electrical engineers, mineralogists, and physicists. Although I don't expect gemologists to cite the article, there are some beautiful natural-garnet gemstones.

The garnet-structure refinements of the previous decade were reviewed. A survey was made of all the cations that enter the garnet structure, and their site preferences were given. With respect to the site preference, the relative ionic size is of primary importance, but the electronic configurations of certain ions also play an important role. [The SCI® indicates that this paper has been cited in over 215 publications.]

5. ———. Die Kristallstruktur von Granat (Garnet crystal structure). Z. Kristallgr. 61:157-8, 1926.
6. ———. Die Kristallstruktur von Granat (Garnet crystal structure). Z. Kristallgr. 69:300-46, 1928. (Cited 5 times since 1955.)