

Zeitschrift: Schweizerische mineralogische und petrographische Mitteilungen =
Bulletin suisse de minéralogie et pétrographie
Band: 75 (1995)
Heft: 3

Vereinsnachrichten: IMA NEWS

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IMA NEWS
International Mineralogical Association

COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY
BUSINESS MEETING, Pisa, Italy September 1994

The meeting was chaired by Prof. D.J. Vaughan and, in the absence of the Commission's Secretary (Prof. J.R. Craig), the Vice-Chairman, Dr Alan Criddle, took the minutes.

Apologies for absence: Prof. J.R. Craig, USA, Dr H.-J. Bernhardt, Germany

Those attending:

1. National Representative/Delegate/Officers

Dr L.J. Cabri (Canada), Dr Yves Moelo (France), Dr Adrian van der Veen (The Netherlands), Dr Orlando Gaspar (Portugal), Dr Purificacion Fennell Hach-Ali (Spain), Prof N. Mozgova (Russia), Prof D.J. Vaughan (UK), Dr A.J. Criddle (UK).

2. Observers/alternates

Dr N. Bortnikov (Russia), Dr Marek Zakrzewski (The Netherlands), Dr Thomas Kerestedjian (Bulgaria), Dr John Bowles (UK), Dr Eugen Libowitzky (Austria), Dr Olivier Legendre (France), Dr Francisco Velasco (Spain), Dr Richard Hagni (USA).

Report of activities since last meeting at Peking

The Chairman informed the meeting of the more important activities organised by the COM:

(a) Dr Brodtkorb, the Representative for Argentina, was thanked for organising a very successful Short Course in ore mineralogy in Buenos Aires in 1993. This was the first such Course to be held in S. America and attracted students from several countries in addition to Argentina. Professor Jim Craig (USA) and Dr Heinz-Juergen Bernhardt (Germany) taught at the school (at which the Course Notes from the Ottawa School were used).

(b) The Short Course notes (referred to above) remain on sale by the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

(c) Carol Gerlitz and Ben Leonard (both of the USGS) and Alan Criddle (NHM) made available a computerised "search and match" identification scheme for ore minerals based on the 2nd Edition of the Quantitative Data File for Ore Minerals. This is published by the USGS as an Open File Report, i.e., the computer discs are available at cost plus postage from the Survey (Open File Report 89-306B-E from US Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Box 25046, Mail Stop 905, Denver, Colorado 80225, USA).

(d) The 3rd edition of the Quantitative Data File for Ore Minerals, edited by Alan Criddle and Chris Stanley was published for the COM-IMA, in 1993, by Chapman & Hall, London at #75.00. It includes reflectance spectra and tables and compositional data for 505 species and 130 varieties of minerals. Prof Mozgova asked whether some special arrangement could be made to sell this work at greatly reduced cost in those countries where it was prohibitively expensive to buy. Alan Criddle regretfully explained that this would not be possible: he had insisted that the publishers keep the publication cost to a minimum and that, by their standards they had, however, the print run was too short for a commercial publisher to sell below cost.

(e) Dr Yves Moëlo presented a brief summary of the "Revision of Sulfosalt Nomenclature and Definition", a report of the joint sub-committees of the COM and CNMMN, produced by him, Prof N.N. Mozgova and Drs T.T. Chen and D.C.

Harris. This lengthy and valuable report is to be circulated to all National Representatives for the comments. However, before sending-out the report, it will be necessary to find out who the current National Representatives are. A copy of the most recent list is appended to these minutes, and it is to these people that these minutes will be sent. If you have relinquished your position as National Representative, and know who has taken on the job, would you please let them have a copy of the minutes and let the new Secretary of the COM (Dr N. Bonnikov) know. It would be most helpful if, in addition to addresses and telephone numbers, FAX and E-mail numbers were supplied to him.

Present and future activities:

(a) Professor Vaughan reported on input from the COM to the Pisa meeting of the IMA: in addition to the "Symposium on Mineral Surfaces" organised solely by the COM (essentially DJV), two symposia were held jointly with the Commission on Applied Mineralogy: one on "Mineralisation in Ultramafic Rocks", the other on "Mineral Textures in relation to Problems of Beneficiation".

(b) Alan Criddle reported briefly on plans for a short course in ore mineralogy to be held at Eotvos University, Budapest from 9th to 14th July, 1995. The "First Announcement" of this "Advanced Studies in Ore Mineralogy" workshop was posted on the notice boards at the Pisa meeting. Apart from the IMA-COM, the Scientific sponsors for the course include: the IMA-CHTM; Eötvös University; The Natural History Museum, London; Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the IUGS Hungarian National Committee. Technical sponsors include some of the major microscope and preparatory equip-

ment manufacturers. Eight speakers have been invited and participation will be strictly limited. Further information may be obtained from the following address: ASOM '95, c/o Department of Mineralogy, Eötvös University, Budapest, Muzeum krt. 4/A. H-1088 Hungary, FAX: ++(361) 2667952; E-mail emin003@ursus.bke.hu

Election of Officers

Those nominated for Office for the four year term starting in 1994 at Pisa were:

Chairman: Dr Louis J. Cabri (Canada)

Vice-Chairman: Dr Alan J. Criddle (UK)

Secretary: Dr Nicolai Bortnikov (Russia)

As no other nominations were received, these nominations were presented to the Council of the IMA and the Officers were duly elected at the Business Meeting of the IMA.

Addresses, telephone, facsimile and E-mail numbers of the Officers:

Dr Louis J. Cabri, CANMET, 555 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0G1; Tel. (613) 995-4073; Fax (613) 996-9673; E-mail on Internet: louis.cabri@cc2smtp.emr.ca.

Dr Alan J. Criddle, Department of Mineralogy, The Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 5BD, UK; Tel. +44 171-938-9227; Fax +44 171-938-9268; E-mail on Internet: ajc@nhm.ac.uk.

Dr Nicolai Bortnikov, Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry, Academy of Sciences of Russia, Staromonetny per., 35, 109017 Moscow, RUSSIA; Tel. (007) (095) 231-72-70; Fax (007) (095) 230-21-79; E-mail on Internet: Bortnikov@igem.msk.su.

Business Meeting

Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary, 13th July, 1995

The meeting was chaired by Dr L.J. Cabri and, in the absence of the Secretary of the Commission (Dr N. Bortnikov), the Vice-Chairman, Dr Alan Criddle, took the minutes.

Those attending:

National representatives/delegates/Officers

Dr L.J. Cabri (Chairman), Dr A.J. Criddle (Vice-Chairman), Dr H.-J. Bernhardt (Germany), Dr Yves Moëlo (France), Prof N. Mozgova (Russia), Prof D.J. Vaughan (U.K).

Observers / alternates

Dr P. Andras (Slovakia), Dr K. Bogdanov (Bulgaria), Prof G. Buda (Hungary), Prof B. Cervelle (France), Dr M. Chovan (Slovakia), M. Doppler (Switzerland), Dr I. Gatter (Hungary), B.A. Grguric (Australia), Prof U. Hålenius (Sweden), W. Holler (Austria), B. Howard (Canada), Dr K. Kojonen (Finland), Dr V. Kovachev (Bulgaria), Dr J. Majzlan (Slovakia), Dr V. Mladenova (Bulgaria), Dr F. Molnar (Hungary), Dr G. Papp (Hungary), Dr G. Simon (Romania), Dr S. Strashimirov (Bulgaria), Dr C. Stanley (UK).

Opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting with a vote of thanks to Professors Gy. Buda and T. Weiszbürg and staff for providing the facilities for the Business Meeting and for their hospitality and organisation of the Eötvös Workshop in Science: Advanced Studies in Ore Mineralogy, Budapest, July 9–14, 1995.

The minutes of the Business Meeting at Pisa, 1994, were approved *nem. con.*

Matters arising:

Dr Yves Moëlo reported that circulation of the report of the joint sub-committees of the COM and the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names on "Revision of Sulfosalt Nomenclature and Definition" had been postponed until an accurate list of National Representatives had been compiled.

Review of activities:

The Advanced Studies in Ore Mineralogy (ASOM) short course and accompanying open

session had attracted 45 registrants and 8 tutors from seventeen countries. Many of the registrants received financial support from the organisation (to cover the cost of travel and accommodation). The Organising Committee comprised: A.J. Criddle, D.J. Vaughan, C.J. Stanley, Gy. Buda and T.G. Weiszbürg, and Local Arrangements were made by: I. Gatter, M. Jánosi, Gy. A. Lovas, F. Molnár and G. Papp and T.G. Weiszbürg. In addition to the COM, the major scientific sponsors had been the Commission on History and Teaching of Mineralogy; Eötvös University, Budapest; The Natural History Museum, London; Hungarian Academy of Science; the International Mineralogical Association; IUGS Hungarian National Committee and the Mineralogical Association of Canada. In addition to the three days of lectures/tutorials and practical sessions and the open session, field trips were made on the 9th July to the Mátra Mountains and on the 14th July to the Transdanubia–Lake Balaton region.

Future activities:

1. Promotion of the COM:

The Chairman urged National Representatives to take a more active rôle in promoting the activities of the Commission. One way that this might be done is by providing a report on COM activities to the bulletins/newsletters of their National Society's. Prof Mozgova recommended publicity in the periodical literature as well.

2. User group / electronic network

Dr Kojonen suggested that the COM establish some kind of electronic network user group. Dr Lovas offered to check the feasibility of setting up an automated mailing list and to implement such an initial network service after discussion with the Officers of the COM to see if it meets the needs of the COM.

3. Future short courses

It was agreed, following the success of the Budapest Course and its immediate predecessor (held at Ottawa), that consideration should be given to further courses, but that none should

take place before 1997. Some discussion took place on the need to broaden the scope of the courses to include some of the more recently developed analytical techniques.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter of invitation from Dr Orlando da Cruz Gaspar for the COM to hold its next workshop in Portugal. It was agreed that he would write seeking further details from Dr Gaspar.

Other invitations were expected from South Africa and from Bulgaria, the latter offering a combined ore mineralogy/ore deposit/fluid inclusion course. Dr Stanley would liaise with colleagues in S Africa concerning the possibility of a school there and would report to the Officers of the COM.

In the event that one or more of these workshops came to fruition it was agreed that the COM should seek the support of one of the National Mineralogical Societies in the publication of a new book of short course notes. In this way, continuity and longevity of the work would be achieved (much as it had from the handbook produced for the COM, by the MAC, for the 1990 Ottawa Meeting – and used as the course-book in Buenos Aires in 1993 and Budapest in 1995).

An offer to seek partial funding towards the cost of the next short course was made by Mr William Howard of Calgary, Canada. Funding would be contingent on the host country possessing within its stratigraphic column a sedimentary sequence which might be oil-bearing. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Mr Howard with a request for funds when the location of the next meeting was agreed.

Directory of ore mineralogists:

Dr Bortnikov (Secretary) made the suggestion that the COM should compile a list of all people active in the field of ore mineralogy. Prof Weiszbürg drew attention to the various compilations of Institutions in N America and in Europe. He will be editing the new directory for the European Journal of Mineralogy and will make it available on the Internet.

Dr H.-J. Bernhardt undertook to develop a list of individuals (as opposed to institutions). He would contact the National Representatives of the COM to ask them to provide details for individuals from their countries. The success of this enterprise would depend greatly on the enthusiasm and support of the National Representatives.

Multimedia version of the Budapest ASOM

Prof Weiszbürg, on behalf of the Commission on History and Teaching of the IMA, sought approval from the COM to produce a multimedia version (interactive CD-ROM) of the 1995 short course. This aroused a great deal of debate but the consensus was that existing data compression techniques would be inadequate to the task of storing the vast amount of pictorial and audio-visual information collected on VHS tapes during the course. It was also considered beyond the mandate of the COM to lend its approval without reference to the Council of the IMA.

On a related topic, Prof Weiszbürg sought the approval of the COM for the production of a short (~ 20 minutes) tape, edited from the VHS tapes made during the short course. This was given, with the proviso that the Officers of the COM would need to approve the finished tape before it is distributed.

Other business

In the light of rumours concerning the late Paul Ramdohr's incomparable working collection of polished mounts at Heidelberg, it was agreed that the Chairman would write on behalf of the COM to the current Head of Department at Heidelberg, expressing our interest and that of the international mineralogical community in the continued well-being of this collection, and seeking reassurance that the collection was to be maintained as a working collection.

Prof Stumpfl (Leoben) suggested that the COM undertake a project to correlate the reflectance, VHN and compositional properties of the ore minerals. It was pointed out that the COM's publication, the Quantitative Data File for Ore Minerals sought to do this already (if in a highly condensed form).

Dr Kojonen drew the Commission's attention to a recent development concerning reference materials and standards, ISO TC 202, and the fact that a meeting was scheduled shortly in China at which such materials would be discussed. He undertook to provide the Chairman with additional information concerning this meeting. It was suggested that the Chairman contact the Secretary of the IMA about these matters (since standards for mineral and rock analyses were of considerable interest to a wide audience in mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry).

The meeting ended at 18.30.