

# Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy (VMHM)

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Newsletter 2022/2 (December 2022)

<http://www.mineralogy.eu>

In our June newsletter, we reported that our site's layout has been significantly redesigned for easier navigation. We've also added two spreadsheets dedicated to Krantz crystal models to ease the previously difficult content search.

Among the new additions to the Museum we would like to mention books by three German and one Swedish author from the 18th and 19th centuries. Interestingly, three of them remain historically important works in the development of ideas about the classification of minerals, a field that, inspired by advances in chemistry, left behind the search for a natural classification.

Schultz's Entdeckung einer dem Kreuz-Steine (1780) provides a description of andalusite and discusses the origin of the cross figure in crystals of the chiastolite variety of this mineral. This little book offers a very attractive engraved hand colored frontispiece plate.

In the rare Försök Til Mineral-Rikets Upställning (1795), the Swedish author Anders Jahan Retzius presents a discussion and his approval of the mineral classification method of the chemist and compatriot A.F. Cronstedt. This first part is followed by a detailed descriptive mineralogy in which the species are classified according to Cronstedt's system, based mainly on the elemental composition of minerals.

Scarce second edition of Mohs' Die Charaktere der Klassen, Ordnungen, ... (1821) in which Mohs' hardness scale (a qualitative ordinal scale, from 1 to 10) and the mineralogical system developed by him are discussed. An English translation appears during the same year, bringing the Mohs scale to the English-speaking world (Schuh).

In his renowned book Das Krystallo-Chemische Mineralsystem (1852), Gustav Rose developed a new and coherent classification system of minerals based on a combination of chemistry and crystallography; this crystallochemical system became an inspiring model for most later classifications. The mineral roselite is named after Gustav Rose.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a stimulating New Year and we hope you will continue to enjoy the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy.

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