

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Newsletter 2008/1

From the opening of the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy in June 2007, it has been our aim to organize the objects of the museum in a clear and transparent way. Half a year after its start it is time to review the presentation and the classification of the collections in order to improve the usefulness of the site. Please find an overview of the changes that resulted in a revised edition of our website.

We felt that the presence of both galleries (presenting a few selected objects) and collections (covering all the objects of the museum) could be confusing and hindered the systematic examination of the collections. By entirely removing the galleries from the site, we were also able to simplify the layout of the homepage. For the moment, most of the objects that were depicted in the galleries are already transferred to the collections and the complete shift will be achieved shortly.

The collections are now distributed into the following categories:

- mineralogy and crystallography books
- goniometers
- optical instruments
- non-optical instruments
- antique crystal models

The “antique labels” collection was removed from the site because a very rich collection of labels (probably the largest one in the world) with detailed biographic information is available on the *Mineralogical Record* website.

The instruments category was split into optical- (with 6 subcategories) and non-optical instruments (with 3 subcategories). This division allows a better distribution and overview of the growing list of instruments.

For the description of the antiquarian books we slightly altered the collation method allowing us to improve the description of early works. As pointed out earlier, we describe the exact collation of the actual copy in the museum. The expansion of the book collection is on our agenda for the coming months.

We hope that this renewed version of the Virtual Museum will prove to be more useful, attractive and enjoyable.

Please remember that you have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this site; we always appreciate receiving pictures and information to include in the collections as well as advertisements for the “museum shop”.

We wish to thank all our contributors.

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<http://www.mineralogy.be>