

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy (VMHM)

Newsletter 2014/1 (May 2014)

<http://www.mineralogy.eu>

Among the most recent additions we like to draw your attention to some interesting books (from the 18th or early 19th century) and to an archive document: transcription of letters from the Belgian physician and naturalist Jean Démeste to Romé de l'Isle.

Books

Once more, [Simone and Peter Huber](#) (Austria) kindly contributed to the book section of the museum by sending photographs and descriptions of rare books from their private collection:

- **Blum** [Die Pseudomorphosen des Mineralreichs](#), according to Schuh "the classic, fundamental work on pseudomorphs that has never been surpassed". The work includes five volumes: the basic text and four supplements added over 36 years.
- **Von Born** [Ueber das Anquicken der gold- und silberhältigen Erze, Rohsteine, Schwarzkupfer und Hüttenspeise](#). The book describes the economic amalgamation process invented by Von Born for extracting gold and silver from their ores and contains interesting information regarding 16th century mining techniques.
- **Breithaupt** [Vollständige Charakteristik des Mineral-Systems](#) where the author explains his mineral classification system based mainly on external characteristics.
- [Hacquet's mineralogisch - botanische Lustreise, von dem Berg Terglou in Krain, zu dem Berg Glokner in Tyrol, im Jahr 1779 und 81](#). The naturalist B. Hacquet (one of the first alpine geologists) offers a description of the Carpathian and Transylvanian mountains.
- **Kern** [vom Schneckensteine oder dem sächsischen Topasfelsen](#). The first comprehensive study of the famous topaz deposit at the Schneckenstein (Saxony). Nice views of the site from the four cardinal points are depicted on four (of the five) folding plates.

- **Mohs** [Beschreibung des Gruben-Gebäudes Himmelsfürst, ohnweit Freyberg im sächsischen Erzgebirge](#). This is the first and only volume of an intended journal: Sammlung mineralogischer und bergmännischer Abhandlungen, von F. Mohs.
- [Wulfen's Abhandlung vom kärnthenschen pfauenschweifigen Helmintholith oder dem sogenannten opalisirenden Muschelmarmor](#) with its 32 nicely handcolored plates. Not in Schuh.

Archive

Jean Démește (Liège 1745-1783) is the author of a book entitled [Lettres du docteur Démește au docteur Bernard, sur la chymie, la docimasie, la cristallographie, la lithologie, la minéralogie et la physique en général](#) (Paris, 1779). The writing of this book was strongly encouraged by Romé de l'Isle and led to an interesting correspondence between the two scholars.

Claude Hootelé made an annotated [transcription of letters written by Dr Jean Démește and addressed to Jean-Baptiste Romé de l'Isle](#) that is available through the archive menu entry on our site.

Help!

We hope to get more contributions for the development of our site in the near future allowing us to regularly present new entries in all the sections of the VMHM. If you have an item that you wish to insert in the virtual museum, do not hesitate to contact us. We will be glad to assist you.

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