

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy (VMHM)

Newsletter 2017/2 (December 2017)

<http://www.mineralogy.eu>

Since our last newsletter published May 2017, the collection of the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy has continued to grow and the 5 items below were added recently. We would like to stress that these additions all came from enthusiast collectors willing to share their interest in early mineralogy and crystallography.

Goniometer

A vertical circle goniometer of the Wollaston type signed by Jules Duboscq. This goniometer was made before 1883 and therefore earlier than the same type of goniometer also present in the collection of the VMHM signed by the Parisian constructors J. Duboscq and Ph. Pellin whose merging of firms dates back to 1883

Polariscopes

- A projector polariscope for the demonstration of polarization phenomena in crystals by means of projection. This interesting and beautiful instrument is signed by J. Duboscq and Ph. Pellin and may therefore be dated end of the 19th century.
- An inclinable Biot-type reflecting polariscope was produced by Lerebours in Paris during the first half of the 19th century with the same purpose to demonstrate and investigate polarization phenomena in crystals. It comes with accessories and mutually interchangeable parts ; interestingly, two inclinable mirrors are present : one is plane black glass while the two faces of the second have a black glass mirror and a stack of plate glass.

Spectroscopes

In this category two new instruments were proposed by a Belgian collector who previously contributed and enriched this spectroscopical section

- A brass pocket direct vision spectroscope from J.A. Hilger produced after 1892 as determined from the signature.
- A more recent Rayner multi-slit prism spectroscope may be dated around 1950-1955.

Your interest in the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy is stimulating for us and the contribution by some of you by pictures and information to be added in the collection will always be greatly appreciated.