

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy (VMHM)

Newsletter 2022/1 (June 2022)

<http://www.mineralogy.eu>

Since our last newsletter, the website of the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy has been updated with several novelties and adjustments.

First of all, the layout of our website has been redesigned and thoroughly renewed. The site is now easier to consult and navigation should now be smoother using the custom links in the right column of each page. The pages adapt to the width of the browser making the site smartphone and tablet friendly.

Spectroscopes

Our permanent collaborator Mark McElyea provided us with photos and a description of a beautiful Kirchhoff Bunsen-type spectroscope from his collection: a well-designed and extremely accurate instrument. This instrument allowed the user to analyze two different light sources simultaneously for comparison purposes or to combine the light sources into one spectrum. It was produced around 1900 by the Hamburg firm A. Krüss, in operation since 1796.

Books

A Belgian collector provided photos and descriptions of a number of books that mainly date from the 19th century and were written by famous German mineralogists such as Naumann, Liebsch, Zirkel, Groth etc. Interesting to mention is the catalog that Paul Groth made of the mineral collection at the Kaiser-Wilhelm University of Strasbourg and which is a historically important description of the collection in the second half of the 19th century.

Crystal models

For several years now, our museum has been an important source of information in the field of crystal models, in particular through our extensive publication of many of the catalogs of the German company Krantz in our "archive".

However, the consultation and fruitful use of the Krantz catalogs is not easy due to several factors, including their number, their complex and sometimes erroneous original numbering, their internal organization, etc. To facilitate navigation and content search, we have recently created and added two spreadsheets dedicated to Krantz crystal models.

In the first, sets of crystal models were sorted by material (wood, glass, cardboard) and ordered by decreasing number of models in each set. For each set it is indicated in which catalog(s) it is described and on which page the description begins. The second spreadsheet lists Krantz's wooden model sets produced over the course of the 20th century. We hope that this new presentation (co-proposed by our colleague Johan Kjellman of the Museum of Evolution in Uppsala, Sweden) will facilitate the use of the digitized catalogs.

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