



Russian Mineralogical Society



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THE OLDEST MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

“**Mineralogy in all the space of this word**”—this motto of the Russian Mineralogical Society (RMS) perfectly reflects its general purpose of uniting under its umbrella not only professional mineralogists but also those who are interested in minerals from the standpoint of their beauty, their relevance to other sciences (biochemistry, archeology, materials research, etc.), or their practical use. The RMS was founded in 1817 as the Mineralogical Society of Saint Petersburg and is the oldest of the existing national mineralogical societies. It traces its history back to Lorenz Pansner (1777–1851), a German expatriate who obtained his PhD in physics from the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena (Germany) but who, after 1803, worked in Russia as a cartographer and mineralogist. Pansner founded the RMS and served as its first director. Its other founding members were C.B. von Vietinghoff-Scheel (1767–1829), Ya.G. Zemnitsky (1784–1851), D.I. Sokolov (1788–1852), V.M. Severgin (1765–1826; who developed the concept of paragenesis), and several other prominent naturalists. Between 1817 and 1882, the RMS undertook the geological mapping of the Russian Empire, and, between 1869 and 1928, published the voluminous *Materials on the Geology of Russia*. The society received new momentum in the 1860s when it became Imperial and moved its headquarters to Saint Petersburg Mining Institute, Russia’s first geological and mining school. In the 1950s, the society, then known as the All-Soviet Mineralogical Society (Vsesoyuznoe Mineralogicheskoe Obshchestvo, VMO) was involved with the International Mineralogical Association and opened its first Republic branches in Ukraine, Uzbekistan and elsewhere. Some of these daughter organizations now continue to function as national societies.



St. Petersburg Mining Institute

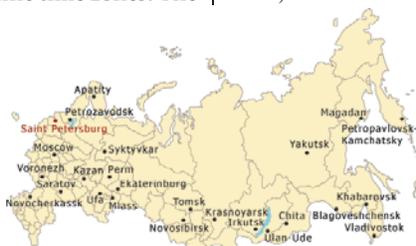
Some of the members of the RMS who achieved international fame include N.I. Koksharov, E.S. Fedorov (who derived the 230 space groups), V.V. Dokuchaev, D.I. Mendeleev (the father of the periodic table), A.P. Karpinsky, V.I. Vernadsky (the celebrated Russian geochemist), A.E. Fersman, A.N. Zavaritsky, A.G. Betekhtin, N.V. Belov, D.S. Korzhinsky (the only Russian Roebbling medalist), D.P. Grigoriev (member of the IMA Founding Committee and one of its first vice-presidents), V.S. Sobolev (IMA President in 1974–1978), I.I. Shafranovsky, V.I. Smirnov, G.B. Boki, and V.A. Frank-Kamenetsky. More recently, Nikolay V. Sobolev of Novosibirsk Geology and Mineralogy Institute was awarded the IMA Medal of Excellence for 2013 (*Elements*, 2013, v9, p 326), whereas Igor V. Pekov of Moscow State University set an unprecedented record in terms of the number of new mineral discoveries (161 species, including 99 where he is the lead author; see also *Elements*, 2015, v 11, pp 214–215).



RMS President D.V. Rundqvist

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Today, the society is 900 members strong and has 25 regional branches spanning nine time zones! The current president is Dmitry V. Rundqvist, who is assisted by three vice-presidents: Yury B. Marin, Nikolay V. Sobolev, and Sergey V. Krivovichev (IMA President during 2014–2015). The RMS activities are coordinated by 17 special commissions focusing on a wide range of topics (mineral processing, mineral museums, organic



RMS regional branches

mineralogy, to name but a few). The society’s library is a unique collection of literature on mineralogy and related disciplines, including rare editions of classic works published between the 16th century and the 19th century.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

The RMS organizes 10–15 conferences annually on mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and crystallography. Its general meetings are held every five years and include elections of honorary fellows, award presentations, and council elections. The XII General Meeting (www.minsoc.ru/2015) will be held 13–16 October 2015 in Saint Petersburg. Registration will be open until 15 September 2015 for anyone interested in the excursion program (natural stone in the architecture of Saint Petersburg and in the State Hermitage Museum). Scientific sessions will cover a wide range of topics: fundamental mineralogical problems, strategic mineral deposits, alternative and unconventional deposit types of deposits (including technogenic mineral deposits, e.g. accumulations of waste metals, often rare metals, as a result of industrial processes), advancements in mineral analysis (including environmental and gemological applications), crystallography and crystal chemistry, and natural stone in the history of culture.

The RMS will celebrate its 200th anniversary with a special meeting in Saint Petersburg in January 2017 (www.minsoc.ru/2017). The session topics proposed so far are fundamental problems of modern mineralogy; mineralogy and geochemistry of mineral deposits; applied mineralogy; mineral crystallography, crystal chemistry and new minerals. Interested in attending? Mark your calendar with two important deadlines: March 2016 (call for sessions; new suggestions are welcome!) and November 2016 (nominations for RMS Honorary Fellows). Furthermore, persons nominated for RMS awards, or for any of the competitions that are announced on our website (www.minsoc.ru/award), need not be RMS members. A prominent scientist anywhere in the world can be nominated for an **Honorary Fellowship**. Since 1817, more than 140 foreign scientists have been elected as honorary fellows, including Charles Lyell, Alexander von Humboldt, Jöns J. Berzelius, René-Just Haüy, Roderick I. Murchison, Victor M. Goldschmidt, William H. Bragg, Max T. F. von Laue, Norman L. Bowen, James D. Dana, Reginald A. Daly, Paul A. Ramdohr, Alfred E. Ringwood, and seven past IMA presidents. Competitions for an outstanding contribution by a young researcher (published in *any* peer-reviewed journal) and photo contests are run by the RMS on a regular basis.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RMS

Since 1830, the RMS has published its own journal, which was initially entitled *Transactions of the Mineralogical Society*, then became the *Proceedings of the Imperial Mineralogical Society of Saint Petersburg*, changing again during the Soviet era to *Zapiski VMO*. The journal is presently published six times per year as the *Proceedings of the RMS (Zapiski Rossiiskogo Mineralogicheskogo Obshchestva, ISSN 0869-6055)*. Some of the 60-plus papers contributed annually to *Zapiski* are translated as a supplement to *Geology of Ore Deposits* (MAIK/Springer). The journal welcomes manuscripts in all areas of mineral science and related fields, written in either Russian or English. A special section of the journal offers articles on new minerals and *Elements'* readers should be aware that more than 460 new species descriptions have been published in *Zapiski* since 1958.

