



## Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

<http://ssmp.scnatweb.ch>

### IMA COMMISSION ON MUSEUMS: LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Mineralogy museums, which are becoming more and more attractive to a broad public, have common rules and aims to preserve scientific and systematic mineralogy. The mission of the IMA Commission on Museums (CM), which counts national representatives from 37 countries, all members of IMA, is to foster recognition of mineral science collections as essential scientific, educational and cultural resources; promote support for growth, maintenance and use of collections and exhibits; and finally advance museum practice through cooperation in the development, review and dissemination of information. The CM keeps the catalogue of type minerals, in close contact with the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification. The CM meets officially every two years, at the IMA General Meeting and at the International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums. During the IMA General Meeting in Budapest, CM held a session on the history of mineralogy, 'Mineral Museums and Historical Mineralogy', which was well attended. The next conference is MM 7 in 2012, to be held in Freiberg, Germany.

In addition, members meet several times a year at the world's largest mineral shows, such as in Tucson (Arizona, USA) in February and München (Germany) in November. This gives an opportunity for curators to meet with university mineralogists and others with related interests. In 2001 a group of mineral museum curators meeting at the Munich Show established a European branch of the Commission.

A catalogue of type mineral specimens – a complete listing of type minerals and their depositories – is now currently available on the Internet ([www.smmp.net/IMA-CM](http://www.smmp.net/IMA-CM)). The Commission on Museums welcomes participation from anyone interested in the preservation and attractive display of the Earth's treasures.

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### NO-NAME MINERALS!

At an open meeting of the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) held at the recent, highly successful IMA meeting in Budapest, Hungary, Dorian Smith reviewed the official IMA unnamed mineral codes and their usage. There are now more than 1600 entries on the **Valid list** and nearly 1850 on the **Invalid list**. These lists, which are on the CNMNC website (<http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/ima-cnmc>) in pdf format, can be searched using the facilities built into the freely available Adobe Reader© software. Unnamed minerals on both lists are arranged first by year of publication, next (the Valid list) by a trivial (i.e. unique) number within that year, and then (both lists) by alphabetically ordered codes.

Authors submitting new minerals to the IMA (CNMNC) for approval must now indicate that they have checked these lists to see whether the new mineral has been previously reported with an "Unnamed" status. Authors reporting new unnamed minerals should, wherever possible, use the format indicated by Smith and Nickel (2007)<sup>1</sup>. Such new unnamed minerals will be added to the lists most quickly if authors themselves draw the reports to the attention of the Sub-Committee on Unnamed Minerals. An e-mail giving their interim code and the reference for the publication can be sent to [Dorian.Smith@ualberta.ca](mailto:Dorian.Smith@ualberta.ca). Anyone interested in working on this IMA CNMNC sub-committee should contact either Peter Williams ([P.Williams@uws.edu.au](mailto:P.Williams@uws.edu.au)), Stuart Mills ([smills@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:smills@eos.ubc.ca)) or Dorian Smith.

**Dorian Smith**

<sup>1</sup> Smith DGW, Nickel EH (2007) A system of codification for unnamed minerals: report of the subcommittee for unnamed minerals of the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification. *Canadian Mineralogist* 45: 983-990

### TEACHING EARTH SCIENCES IN THE FIELD



Students, their supervisors, and field guides discussing phenomena along the contact between a mafic dyke and its granodioritic host at Onion Valley, California.

Doctoral students and their supervisors from Swiss universities studied plutonic rocks and their contact metamorphic aureoles in the Sierra Nevada and Quaternary volcanic rocks in the southern Cascades, California, in September 2010. The field school was led by geologists from the USGS (Thomas W. Sisson) and MIT (Tim Grove and Christy Till) and was attended by eighteen doctoral students and their supervisors from the Swiss universities of Lausanne, Geneva, Fribourg and ETH Zürich, most of them members of the Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology. Exchanges between the students and these leading scientists were beneficial to all. Long discussions were held on the outcrops and during the evenings on fundamental issues of magmatism, batholith formation and metamorphism.

Field schools are an integral part of Earth science education at the PhD level in Switzerland, enhancing scientific exchange on orogenic processes. In the California field school, the participating students were an interdisciplinary group whose PhD topics included numerical modeling, magmatic and metamorphic petrology, and isotope geoscience. The school was part of the doctoral program "4D Adamello", which is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the rectorates of the Swiss universities and includes nine PhD projects. Other attending PhD candidates are working on related projects in Europe and South America. This and other doctoral programs and schools at Swiss universities have identified field workshops as a powerful and efficient tool for teaching forefront science to doctoral candidates. Future field schools on magmatism will be held at Quaternary volcanoes in Chile, in Miocene magmatic rocks and their country rocks in Patagonia, and in ultrahigh-grade metamorphic rocks and Tertiary intrusions in the Alps.

For further information, visit [www.unil.ch/img/page72459\\_en.html](http://www.unil.ch/img/page72459_en.html) (4D Adamello; Doctoral School ProDoc) and <http://mineral.cuso.ch> (Doctoral Program in Mineral Sciences).

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