

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

(Prepared by the Secretary, Stuart Mills)

1. COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION

Officers

Chairman: Peter Williams (Sydney, Australia)

Vice-Chairmen: Frédéric Hatert (Liège, Belgium); Marco Pasero (Pisa, Italy).

Secretary: Stuart Mills (Vancouver, Canada)

2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

This commission (CNMNC) was established in 1959 (under the former title of Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, or CNMMN) to deal with all nomenclature matters in mineralogy. Its main roles are to ensure that strict procedures are followed before new mineral species can be established and before redefinitions and changes to nomenclature can be applied. The CNMNC also coordinates the procedures for classification of minerals and groups.

3. ORGANISATION

Officers for 2010

Officers are listed above and the full membership of CNMNC is given in 8 (below).

Business meetings

The CNMNC holds its business meetings every two years, when its members participate in IMA General Meetings and Mineralogy & Museums Conferences, each of which are held every four years. The CNMNC last met in Budapest, Hungary in September 2010. The next meeting will be during the M&M7 in Germany in 2012.

Main activities

The CNMNC partitions its workload amongst the four officers. The Chairman prepares the new mineral proposals, the Vice-Chairmen handle proposed changes to existing nomenclature (discreditations and redefinitions) and classification issues (including groups), and the Secretary coordinates the subcommittees created to examine the nomenclature of mineral groups. The 34 voting Members of the CNMNC represent national mineralogical organisations affiliated with the IMA. The members evaluate all nomenclature proposals (new minerals, changes in existing minerals, mineral groups) and cast their votes on a monthly basis for the new mineral proposals and as they come for the other proposals.

Financial support

The distribution of proposals and the subsequent rounds of comments and voting are carried out solely via the internet. The IMA covers the Chairman's costs for office supplies, while the costs of Members' emailing and internet time are borne by their respective institutions.

4. INVOLVEMENT WITH IMA AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Vice Chairman Frédéric Hatert is currently a member of the IMA-OC (Outreach Committee). In collaboration with Bob Downs, he is involved in the updating of the RRUFF database of minerals.

5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2010

Activities

By January 01 2011, the CNMNC will have dealt with 88 new-mineral proposals for the 2010 year. The high number of new minerals is carried over from the previous year (97). It appears that this high level of activity will be sustained for some time.

Members will also have deliberated on and approved several nomenclature proposals including:

1. Discreditations: “orthobrochantite” and “paraspurrite” discredited.
2. Renamings: alumopharmacosiderite renamed to pharmacoalumite. 3 other renaming proposals are currently under consideration.
3. Nomenclature of mineral groups:
 - (a) tourmaline supergroup; nomenclature passed, awaiting publication;
 - (b) pyrochlore supergroup; nomenclature passed, published in CM June 2010;
 - (c) apatite supergroup; nomenclature passed, published in EJM March 2010;
 - (d) alunite supergroup; nomenclature passed, published in MM Nov 2010;
 - (d) amphibole supergroup; to be sent to members August 2010, waiting for revisions.

Other CNMNC subcommittees were operational during 2010:

1. Hydrotalcite (Chairman: Stuart Mills, Canada)
2. Garnets (Chairman: Anton Chakhmouradian, Canada)

Major changes to CNMC procedures:

1. Early publication of mineral names: published in Mineralogical Magazine February 2010;
2. Establishment of the CNMNC Newsletter: published in Mineralogical Magazine February 2010;
3. Establishment of rules for group nomenclature: published in EJM October 2009.

New members

New members for Slovakia and Russia replaced long serving members

Outreach

The ex-Chairman and current Secretary regularly participate in discussion on minerals and their nomenclature in the Message Board of the website www.mindat.org, a forum aimed at collectors and amateur mineralogists, but also used by professionals to discuss mineralogical issues.

Technical meetings

No technical meetings were held in 2010.

6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2008

In 2010 Ernie Nickel passed away and thus maintaining the IMA list which was under his control needed to be sorted out. Since then, the work has been undertaken by Bill Birch and Marco Pasero and within the next few months it is hoped that the list will be up to date.

7. WORKPLAN FOR 2010

Activities

It is anticipated that the number of new mineral proposals, nomenclature revisions and discreditations will continue to be high. New subcommittees are being established to replace the ones that have completed their work and several are near completion. It continues to be a very active period in mineralogical sciences.

8. OFFICERS AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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