

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Guidelines for contributors

The objects displayed in the Virtual Museum are treasures kept in different collections all over the world. In order to expand our virtual collections, we are keen to receive photographs and descriptions of objects that are relevant to the history of mineralogy and crystallography.

If you wish to contribute to this virtual museum project, please read the comments and recommendations below.

Physical description

In order to include an object in the collection, we need a description of the object and one or more photographs to present it to the museum visitors. The physical description of the objects should include the material(s) they are made of, dimensions, indication of the main parts or typical features, signatures. If an instrument is kept in its original case, that should also be described (material and dimensions).

If an object is signed please reproduce the exact signature on the object. If signed in majuscules, please reproduce the signature text in majuscules. For indicating the dimensions of objects in the VMHM we follow the metric system. For instruments and related objects this will mostly be centimeters (cm); for books we use millimeters (mm).

In case of antiquarian books we need a thorough description of the book. This includes not only information like title, author, pages, but also a complete collation of your copy. For more information on this topic use the examples on our site or consult the text by [Roger Gaskell](#)

Dating of objects:

Dating an instrument is not always straightforward. When an instrument is signed, one has at least a clue to the time interval during which it may have been manufactured. Publications in the literature may also help in indicating a time period when an instrument was in use (year it was invented, used, discussed, etc.). Please be as realistic as possible in assigning a date or date interval to your object.

Photographs:

We attach a great value to photographs because they are of extreme importance in describing the instrument. Please send as much images as you think necessary to clearly visualize the object.

We prefer photographs in jpg-format. The width of the pictures should be a minimum of 550 pixels. Larger sized photographs are however preferred as they allow us some editing and enhancement.

References:

Literature references are highly appreciated. Please use the following format

- for books: Author (year) *Title*, Place of publication.
example: Tutton, A.E.H. (1911) *Crystallography and Practical Crystal Measurement*, London
- for publications in journals: Author (year) *title*, Journal, volume, issue, pages.
example: Burchard, U. (1998) *History and Development of the Crystallographic Goniometer*, *The Mineralogical Record*, 29, 517-583.

Ownership:

Please let us know if you wish to be mentioned as the owner of the object that you propose for insertion in the VMHM-collection.

Do you want:

- to remain anonymous
- to be included in the list of contributors
- your name to be mentioned with your object
- a link to your website, or to your e-mail-address.

Copyright:

Please let us know if you wish to have copyright on the photographs and descriptive text that you supply to the VMHM. If you want to have copyright, then we will include a statement in the style:

© *owner name, institute, town, country*

If you do not indicate information regarding copyright, the copyright will reside with the VMHM.

Disclaimer:

We are not responsible for whatever effect due to placing your information on our site. We are not responsible for abuse of this information in whatever way possible.

Contact:

Please contact either [Paul Tambuyser](#) or [Claude Hootelé](#).

We hope to hear from you soon and appreciate your cooperation!

The Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy
www.mineralogy.be