

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Newsletter 2008/2 (June 2008)

<http://www.mineralogy.be>

This newsletter is a special one as we celebrate the first anniversary of our site, open to the public as of June 22, 2007.

We are pleased to see that the initial success of the Virtual Museum is ongoing. The number of visitors, their positive comments and encouragements are proofs of a large and lasting interest. This interest is also materialized by the contributions offered by enthusiast private collectors, dealers and curators of institutions. In this respect, and as pointed out before, the important contribution from the Museum for the History of Sciences, Universiteit Gent, Belgium is gratefully appreciated.

In the previous newsletter (January 2008), we announced a modified classification of the collections of the Virtual Museum. Since then, the objects are distributed into the following categories:

· Mineralogy and crystallography books	(60)
· Goniometers	(59)
· Optical instruments	(38)
· Non-optical instruments	(6)
· Antique crystal models	(10)

The figures between brackets represent the number of objects described in detail within each category. The total amounts to 173 items which is more than double compared to the start of our site one year ago.

The success of the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy motivates us to actively continue its development and to offer an illustrated work based on sound documentary evidence. Of course, we continue to encourage collectors and institutes to offer an active participation; we always appreciate receiving pictures and information to include in the collections.

We also welcome advertisements for the “museum shop”. Please remember that this service is entirely free and gives you the possibility to sell and/or to acquire antiquarian books, instruments or crystal models.

May our visitors enjoy finding useful information in the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy and also contribute through active participation in the diffusion of information amongst collectors, curators and historians. This is our first birthday's wish.

Claude Hootelé, Paul Tambuyser
info@mineralogy.be