

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Newsletter 2011/1 (June 2011)

<http://www.mineralogy.be>

This is the tenth newsletter originating from the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy since its opening to the public almost four years ago. We are quite happy that visitor's statistics reveal an increasing interest for our Museum. We from our side will continue to regularly inform you about its development.

Since the publication of our previous newsletter in December 2010 we had the opportunity to enrich our virtual collections by adding new items in the field of goniometers, crystal models and antiquarian books.

The newly introduced goniometers comprise two contact- and a Mitscherlich-type instruments.

- The first [contact goniometer](#) (John Newman, London - 1st half 19th century) is very intriguing by its unusually shaped limbs - that are not attached to the instrument. We are not aware of other comparable examples.
The second one is a [quarter-circle contact goniometer](#), unsigned but certainly made by Fuess; this model was described by Th. Liebisch and is depicted in P. Groth's "[Physikalische Krystallographie](#)".
- The [Mitscherlich-type goniometer](#), produced by Augustus Oertling (Berlin) is a beautiful and also a remarkable instrument as both telescopes can be rotated around the center of the vertical graduated circle. This feature seems entirely original as the telescope supports of Mitscherlich-type goniometers are normally mounted on the base plate.

A rich [wooden crystal model collection](#) from Germany or Austria (end of 19th century) was described. The models used for teaching purposes are mounted on black painted wooden bases and bear labels stating "K. K. Staatsgymnasium Wien I." Interestingly, this collection was proposed for selling in our [museum shop](#) and quickly found a buyer.

As far as books are concerned, detailed descriptions and pictures of 39 books were added during the last six months.

Interesting to mention is the work by [Zippe on azurite crystals](#) that bears a written dedication from the author to the famous crystallographer Samuel Weiss.

Another noteworthy inscribed copy is the [Tableaux Des Minéraux Des Roches](#) with a dedication of the authors (Michel Lévy and Lacroix) to Becquerel.

Several books with hand colored plates were also added recently:

- Observations Relative to the Mineralogical and Chemical History of the Fossils of Cornwall. by [Martin Klaproth](#) (1787)
- Der Mineralog, by [Teichmann](#) (nd)
- Natuurlyke Historie of Uitvoerige Beschryving der Dieren, Planten en Mineraalen, by [Martinus Houttuyn](#) (1780-1785)
- Naturgeschichte des Mineralreichs, by an [anonymous author](#) (1806)
- Erfahrungen vom Innern der Gebirge, by [von Trebra](#) (1785)

We greatly appreciate the input of some collectors during the past few months. If you also have an item that you wish to insert in the virtual museum, do not hesitate to contact us. Please bear in mind that this project is only possible with the help of many contributors.

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