

Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Newsletter 2012/1 (June 2012)

<http://www.mineralogy.eu>

Five years ago, on June 22, 2007, we announced the opening of the [Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy](#) to the public. It was a modest opening with only a few classic works by René Just Haüy accompanied by some goniometers in the instrument section.

Ever since the virtual content of the museum has grown considerably and today we present a library of more than 270 mineralogical books, a collection of 79 crystallographic goniometers (to our knowledge the largest virtual collection of such objects) and 50 other mineralogical and crystallographic instruments.

We would like to thank everybody who, during these past five years, contributed to the museum by sending photographs and descriptions of instruments or books. Not only those recorded in the [list of contributors](#), but also those who requested to remain anonymous.

We have been pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm for our project and address a special word of thanks to all who sent us comments and proposals. Following these suggestions we made efforts to improve the feel and look of the virtual museum and to speed up the consultation and search.

A small collection of crystal models was present at the onset of the museum; this section grew along the years but too slow in our opinion. As pointed out earlier, we would like our museum to become a more important source of information in this field too and we welcome contributors to enlarge this collection and consequently knowledge.

Among the items that have recently been added to the collections we wish to point out the following four instruments:

- a [polarizing Leitz microscope](#) (early 20th century)
- a [Steward pocket gem refractometer](#) (1st half 20th century)
- a [Wollaston type goniometer by Secretan](#), Paris (ca. 1880)
- a [Wollaston type goniometer signed Brunner F`res à Paris](#) (between 1862 and 1895)

On newly added books, there are:

- [Metallotheca](#) (1717-1719) by M. Mercati, "a landmark treatise in the history of mineralogy and mining" (Schuh)
- the beautifully illustrated [Oryctographie de Buxelles](#) (1784) by Fr. Burtin
- the second edition of A. Cronstedt's [Försök til en Mineralogie](#) (1781)
- the rare [Amphiteatrum Sapientae](#) (1619), a collected work including J. Kepler's treatise on the snowflakes.
- the classic regional mineralogical work [Minéralogie de Madagascar](#) (1922-1923) by A. Lacroix
- the 12th edition (1768) of [Systema Naturae](#) by C. Linné with the first classification of minerals according to a binomial system
- Roze's monograph [Über das Krystallisationssystem des Quarzes](#) (1846): a separately published paper entirely devoted to the morphology of quartz crystals
- the rare volume of [Etudes Cristallographiques](#) (1866) by A. Bravais consisting of the collected works of this author
- [Die ersten Begriffe der Mineralogie und Geognosie](#) by Fr. Mohs (1842)

We hope you enjoy the Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy and we look forward to your participation in its enrichment.

Claude Hootelé
Paul Tambuyser
info@mineralogy.eu