

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007 TO IUGS**

(Prepared by the Secretary, William Birch)

## **1. COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION**

### **Officers**

Chairman: Ernst A. J. Burke (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Vice Chairmen: Frédéric Hatert (Liege, Belgium); Stanislav [Filatov](#) (St Petersburg, Russia).

Secretary: William Birch (Melbourne, Australia)

## **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.

## **3. ORGANISATION**

### **Officers for 2007**

(see above).

### **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 Kobe in July 2006. No meetings were scheduled in 2007.

### **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, and the secretary coordinates the subcommittees created to examine the nomenclature of mineral groups. Arrangements currently under discussion may result in some changes to the way the work is apportioned. The 28 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 via the internet, so postage costs have largely been eliminated. 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**

There are currently no international projects with which the CNMNC is involved.

## **5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007**

### **Activities**

By the end of 2007, the CNMNC will have dealt with about 60 new-mineral proposals, approximately the same number as in the previous few years (63 proposals in 2006, 64 proposals in 2005; 59 in 2004, 70 in 2003) in batches of, on average, five proposals per month. Members will also have deliberated on and approved three proposals involving mineral nomenclature revisions, the most substantial being a proposal to 'tidy up' existing mineral names by incorporating suffixes, removing superfluous hyphens and adding correct diacritical marks. Approval of this proposal, which was prepared by the Chairman, should ensure a more consistent approach to mineral nomenclature in the future.

Seven CNMNC subcommittees were functioning during 2007:

1. Sulfosalt (Chairman: Yves Moelo, France)
2. Pyrochlore (Chairman: Scott Ercit, Canada)
3. Tourmaline (Chairman: Milan Novák, Czech Republic)
4. Alunite (Chairman: Peter Bayliss, Australia)
5. Amphibole (Chairpersons, Frank Hawthorne and Roberta Oberti, Canada)
6. Unnamed minerals (Chairman: Dorian Smith, Canada)
7. Aenigmatite (Chairman: Dr Ed Grew, USA).

Three of these subcommittees finalised their reports in 2007. Members approved the very substantial Sulfosalt report and this has now been submitted for publication to European Journal of Mineralogy. This report was initiated by the IMA Commission on Ore Mineralogy over a decade ago, but has been processed by the CNMNC. Final drafts of both the Tourmaline and Alunite subcommittee reports have been prepared and submitted to members for the initial round of comments. The first report of the Unnamed Minerals Subcommittee has been published in Canadian Mineralogist. It has established a codification system for nearly 3000 unnamed minerals, thereby assisting researchers to check the literature for previous descriptions of minerals similar to those they may be working on. This subcommittee will continue to operate by reviewing the literature so that the list can be regularly updated.

### **Administration**

Following the merger in 2006 of the former CNMMN and Commission on Classification of Minerals (CCM) to form the CNMNC, discussion has been occurring on how the expanded responsibilities of the new commission are to be handled by the office-bearers and how to increase the participation rate of the members in the voting procedures. A proposal involving several options for a change in voting procedures was developed by the office-bearers and is currently being voted upon by members.

### **Outreach**

The Chairman regularly participates in discussion on minerals and their nomenclature in the Message Board of the website [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), a forum aimed at collectors and amateur mineralogists. (See also Publications).

Updated versions of the official IMA–CNMNC list of mineral names were uploaded onto the Commission’s website periodically, the latest in September.

Also published on the CNMNC website in 2007 was a complete list of all CNMNC decisions made in 2006.

The CNMNC will participate in the IMA Council’s Outreach Committee, through the involvement of Vice Chairmen Dr Frédéric Hatert.

### **Technical meetings**

No technical meetings were held in 2007.

### **Publication**

Several papers dealing with decisions of the CNMNC were submitted for publication in the scientific literature during the year:

Smith, D. G. W. and Nickel, E. H. 2007: A system of codification for unnamed minerals: report of the Subcommittee for Unnamed Minerals of the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification. *Canadian Mineralogist*, 45(4), 983–1055.

Moelo, Y. et al.: Sulfosalt Systematics: a Review. Report of the Sulfosalt Subcommittee of the IMA Commission on Ore Mineralogy. (submitted to *European Journal of Mineralogy*).

Burke, E. A. J. 2008: Tidying up mineral names: an IMA-CNMNC scheme for suffixes, hyphens and diacritical marks. *Mineralogical Record* (in press).

The website of the CNMNC continues to be an important vehicle for communication. Each month, it publishes its decisions on new minerals and changes in nomenclature.

### **Attributions**

It was with considerable sadness that the Commission learned of the death of Chairman Emeritus of the CNMNC, Dr Joe Mandarino, in September this year. Dr Mandarino served as Chairman of the CNMNC from 1983 until 1994 and made an immense contribution to the role of the commission.

## **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2007**

Generally the work of the Commission proceeded smoothly in 2007. However, the office-bearers continue to be concerned about the low participation rate for some commission members. This seems to be an ongoing problem partly related to the heavy work load of the Commission. The proposal to change the voting procedure may, if approved and implemented, lead to better involvement.

An additional issue that has arisen over the past year or so is the relationship between the CNMNC and the RRUFF project administered by Dr Bob Downs in Arizona. The office-bearers approached the IMA Council in writing in June, seeking clarification of

how the Commission was expected to provide information on its decisions to the public. Discussion has centred on the format of the lists of approved new minerals posted on the CNMNC website.

## **7. WORKPLAN FOR 2008**

### **Activities**

It is anticipated that the number of new mineral proposals, nomenclature revisions and discreditations will remain at much the same levels in 2007 as in 2006. It is hoped that the Amphibole and Aenigmatite nomenclature subcommittees will submit their final reports later in 2008.

The CNMNC plans to have a business meeting at the 6<sup>th</sup> Mineralogy & Museums conference to be held in Golden, Colorado, in September 2008.

### **Administration**

A number of countries had different members in both the CNMMN and CCM. Following the merger to form the CNMNC, it has been recognised that respective national bodies need to nominate who their member on the CNMNC will be. So far this process has not been set in train, so that the CNMNC is currently operating under the previous CNMMN membership.

Both the Chairman and Secretary have foreshadowed their retirements within the next year, so replacements are being actively sought.

## **9. OFFICERS AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (see attached list)**