



## **Minutes**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Business Meeting**

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association,**

#### **Melbourne, Australia**

**Time: Monday, August, 13, 2018, 12:30 – 13:30**

**Location: Melbourne Conference Center Plenary Three**

1. **OPENING, WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
The President opens the meeting and welcomes the participants. Participants agree on the agenda presented.
2. **ROLL CALL OF THE DELEGATES**  
The voting procedure was recalled. National Representatives who are not able to attend, can be substituted by their representatives.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING IN RIMINI, 2016.**  
The minutes of the Business Meeting in Rimini were unanimously approved.
4. **APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITING COMMITTEE (IMA CONSTITUTION, ART. 5C)**  
Ulf Hålenius and Andrew Christy were proposed and unanimously approved to act as the auditing committee
5. **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

In September 2016 I stated my concern about the state of affairs pertaining to the publication of scientific research results in mineralogy. Identified issues were the lack of appropriate outlets for specific types of mineralogical research that are central to our discipline, and the time that it takes for mineralogical papers to pass through the publication process.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMA Council meeting in Rimini Council decided that I should (1) engage in a conversation with the Editors and Presidents of the associations currently publishing mineralogical journals and Presidents of Adhering Organizations in an attempt to identify ways of alleviating the issues within the current publishing models, and (2) develop a plan specifying how IMA could launch a new international journal of mineralogy. I attempted to contact all of the Presidents and IMA representatives of adhering associations via e-mail, although several of the e-mails were returned as undeliverable. I received detailed written commentary from the German Mineralogical

Society, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Mineralogical Society of America. I joined a Mineralogical Association of Canada Council meeting via Skype for discussions. I also received commentaries from several other national associations that do not currently publish mineralogical journals.

I have developed a rough financial plan for launching an IMA mineralogical journal. An absolutely lean operation that relied heavily on volunteer contributions but that employed a managing editor and outsourced page setting overseas would require approximately \$70,000 USD to publish 1000 pages online only per year. Discussions with potential authors indicate that it would be very difficult or impossible to achieve this level of financial backing through open access fees or page charges. I have not conducted any sort of sophisticated market analysis to determine if an IMA is feasible, but it is clear that without a significant income stream, launching an IMA journal would bankrupt IMA in less than two years.

The volume of replies to my letters to representatives and association leaderships was underwhelming, although the associations publishing journals were responsive. An issue raised several times is the financial viability of a new IMA journal, and the potential impact it could have on the financial model of existing mineralogical journals. IMA is currently entirely operated by volunteers and has no experience with publishing a major journal. Library subscription income is shrinking, and the ability of mineralogists to pay open access fees is limited owing to shrinking research funds. There is a finite amount of funding available for mineralogical journals, and an IMA journal could negatively impact the financial models of the current mineralogical journals.

Subsequent to the Rimini meeting, there have been two important developments pertaining to mineralogical publishing that are noteworthy. First, The Canadian Mineralogist appears to have survived its near-death experience and is again a potential outlet for mineralogical research. Second, Mineralogical Magazine has become online only (the first major mineralogical journal to do so), and this will permit more rapid publishing to alleviate their backlog of manuscripts. My recommendation is that IMA should not launch a mineralogical journal at this time, but should revisit the subject from time-to-time. I will provide my correspondence on this issue to the IMA Archivist.

I recruited Prof. David Bish to serve as Treasurer subsequent to the resignation of Prof. Robert Downs. There was a span of several months between when Prof. Downs stopped conducting IMA business and Prof. Bish assumed the duties. IMA accounts were moved to Indiana, USA (where Prof. Bish resides) and efforts have focused on catching up on billing the associations. Prof. Bish tracked down various documents pertaining to the tax status of IMA in the USA, some of which currently reside in the Mineralogical Society of America offices near Washington, DC. Billing for 2017 and 2018 was executed and some payments have been received, although several of the association e-mail addresses on file have failed (Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Uzbekistan). Treasurer Bish has decided to retire from his university position and has therefore also stated his intention to retire as Treasurer. He is preparing an operation manual for the next Treasurer and is committed to help with the transition. The next Treasurer must be located in the USA.

The Commission on Museums required some attention as there was a diversity of views on the future that apparently could not be internally reconciled. After some discussions the then Chair (Federico Pezzotta) resigned and Council voted unanimously to appoint an interim chair (Mike Rumsey) until an election can be conducted at the current meeting.

The 2022 General Meeting of IMA will take place in Lyon, France. I am unaware of any proposals to host the 2026 General Meeting. It will be essential for the future President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to encourage development of proposals and to establish a process for selection.

The financial status of IMA is healthy (see Treasurer report). A challenge facing IMA is the engagement of different adhering associations, which is uneven at best. Consistent communications between IMA and the adhering associations has been lacking. It is not clear if all of the adhering associations remain active.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The website of any organization is an important presentation to the outside and the communication with our webmaster Wolfgang Zirbs from University of Vienna is very productive. New information on different topic such as on the "Mineral of the year", the IMA medal winners, the Student Ph.D.-Student Award etc. goes immediately online. Especially the "Meeting Calendar" enjoys great popularity, as documented by many requests from different Mineralogical Meetings to indicate the respective information.

Very popular is the Ph.D.-Student Award initiated by Partick Cordier. The winners this year are Philippe Belley (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), Stefan Farsang (University of Cambridge) and Marek Tuhý (Charles University, Prague).

Due to the costs organizing a face-to-face meeting, in December 2015 the Council of the IMA for the first time hold a Video Conference. In 2016 the Council met at the European Mineralogical Conference in Rimini and in December 2017 a communication via e-mail exchange has been organized.

Information related to Commissions:

In November 2017 I visited the annual meeting of the Commission on Museums, traditionally held during the mineral fair "Munich Show" in Germany. The Bulgarian Mineralogical Society offers to host the Conference on Minerals and Museums in 2020 in Sofia; they already submitted a list of topics and field trips to be visited during the conference.

The new Secretary of the Commission on Museums is Kim Tait from Royal Ontario Museum (since October 2017); new chair is Mike Rumsey from Natural History Museum, London; the position of the Vice-Chair is currently vacant. Some sad news: it should be noted that Kay Schürmann from Marburg in Germany, who was active for 10 years as Secretary of the Commission on Museums, passed away on July 11, 2018 in the age of 79.

In December 2017 we had a discussion with Mickey Gunter from the MSA on a possible working group related to asbestos issues. Since this topic is very interesting for the Commission on Museums and since it also involves the work of the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC), Mickey is in contact with the chairs, vice chairs and secretaries of the respective Commissions.

In 2018 the IMA sponsored the session "Mineral Evolution and Ecology: Potential directions for the Next 100 Years with the Mineralogical Society of America" at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, following a request by Bob Hazen from the Geophysical Laboratory and Ed Grew from the University of Maine.

In March 2018 Falko Langenhorst and Daniela Rubatto (for 3 years of service) and Maria Luce Frezzotti and Sergey Krivovichev (for 4 years of service) were welcomed as new members of the IMA Medal Committee.

One problem that I would like to address, and which I already addressed in my last report in 2016, refers to the "Response behavior" and availability of the National Representatives. Whereas most colleagues are very helpful and send regular updates regarding changes of their executive boards, from others we do not receive any update. Some countries currently even don't have a National IMA Representative. In near future I am planning to identify possible colleagues whom to ask for help, and also to send an e-mail to the Presidents / Secretaries of the respective National Mineralogical Associations in order face this problem. Doing so, I am hoping to find active colleagues and discussion partners who are willing to support our work.

The most recent project to be mentioned: During the last 6 months Stuart Mills, Walter Maresch (former IMA President) and I focused on a "Compendium of IMA-approved Mineral Nomenclature" which will be freely distributed to all participants of the Melbourne General IMA meeting. We have concentrated on some of the most significant and common rock-forming minerals, but have also included examples of technical and economic interest. We would like to thank the IMA Council who provided mental and financial support and made the printing of this nomenclature compendium possible. The project would not have been possible without the support and permission of various scientific journals and mineralogical associations; many thanks are due to J. Alexander Speer (American Mineralogist), Jodi J. Rosso (Elements), Lee Groat (The Canadian Mineralogist), Kevin Murphy (Mineralogical Magazine), Christian Chopin and Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung (European Journal of Mineralogy).

These are - besides a lot more of various further topics - the most import issues I was involved in during the last 2 years.

## REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Unfortunately, our Communication Officer Anton Chakhmouradian was not able to attend the General Meeting of IMA in Melbourne because his application for an Australian e-visa has been declined. He provided a short Powerpoint presentation shown by the President in order to highlight some of his activities over the past four years, and a compendium of his previous reports.

One important point referred to the future of the International Encyclopedia of Minerals (for which a copyright waiver has now been received from Mandarino's family). Between the Mid-1990s and 2007 with the help of 75 contributors from 21 countries a compilation was prepared that contains information on 4360 mineral species (and groups). One further point referred to the potential co-operation with the Guinness World Records (GWR). Examples discussed were, for instance, the largest cut gemstones grandidierite, serendibite, musgravite and taaffeite as well as the most abundant minerals on Earth. The correspondence with one of the GWR editors just started two weeks ago and a discussion was raised on whether an extraordinary mineral, crystal, gemstone or something else related to mineralogy deserves to be listed. These contacts are expected to enhance our visibility. Further activities comprise IMA on facebook and the cooperation of IMA with the Journal "Elements".

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Due to the absence of the Treasurer, the president gave his report.

August 1, 2018 David Bish, Indiana University, took over as Treasurer of IMA in the fall of 2017, for Robert Downs. Dr. Downs believed that he had been replaced as Treasurer in January, 2017. With the assistance of Ms. Tamara Youngs (of The University of Notre Dame) we sent out 2017 invoices in the beginning of 2018. To avoid confusion, 2018 invoices were sent out in the May-June, 2018 time frame. The return rate has not been good. We experienced difficulty accessing the Bank of American account that was being used by Dr. Downs in Tucson, Arizona, and, as there was no local BOA branch bank in Bloomington, Indiana, I gradually transferred our funds to an Edward Jones business account. Dr. Downs had also put the majority of IMA funds (~\$122,000 out of ~\$130,000) in a multi-year certificate of deposit yielding 0.18%, which tied up our funds. I transferred these funds back to a savings account, as the accessible amount of our funds would have been insufficient to cover the 2018 IMA meeting (for a small fee). The BOA accounts all yielded essentially no interest on our funds, and our new Edward Jones account is yielding on the order of \$80/month interest. As an important aside, I have received several fraudulent e-mail requests to wire funds throughout the past year, appearing to originate with the president. I have experienced this with other societies; apparently people find the contact information on society web sites, impersonate the president, and write to the treasurer with a request to wire funds. They are reasonably convincing, although close inspection reveals a "reply-to" address that is not the president's. Additional activities included: 9/5/17; IMA scholarship sponsorship for 2018 IMA meeting, \$10,000 12/14/17: Transferred \$74,000 from BOA account to Edward Jones account 12/14/17: Funds transfer for administration of IMA activities, 810 Euros to Annamaria Kis and 900 Euros to Wolfgang Zirbs 5/22/18: Funds wired to the IMA meeting for Emil Makovicky (IMA Medalist) registration, \$918.02 5/22/18: Funds wired to Marek Tuhy, student travel awardee, \$1,400 5/30/18: Closed BOA account and transferred all funds to our Edward Jones account 6/4/18: Funds issued to Elements for full-page display advertisement, \$850.00 6/18//18: Funds wired to Mr. Phillippe-Maxime Belley, student travel awardee, \$1,400 6/26/18: Funds wired to Annamaria Kis, student travel assistance to IMA conference, \$1,000 6/26/18: Check issued to Sally McIntyre, Canada, IMA domain name, \$250.00 7/27/2018: The IMA account contains \$120,271.94 and is earning approximately \$80.00/month interest.

## 6. REPORT OF THE IMA MEDAL COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Medal Committee introduced the current members of the Committee. She thanked Paola Comodi and Anatoly Zaitsev for their service on the Committee and welcomed the new members Jana Kotková and Allan Pring. Finally she reported on the 2015 Medal of Excellence in Mineralogical Sciences, which went to Prof. Rodney Ewing at the meeting in Rimini. The Council has voted to award the Medal annually starting 2017.

## 7. NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The president presented Catherine McCammon and Mark Welch as new candidates for Council Members; in addition he presented the list of candidates, nominated for election of Executive Committee, Council Officers and Councillors. Two candidates, Prof. Patrick

Cordier and Prof. Anhuai Lu were presented as candidates for the First Vice-president of the IMA.

#### 8. POTENTIAL CHANGES OF OFFICERS FOR COMMISSIONS

On April 12, 2015, Nigel Cook (Chairman), Biswajit Mishra (Vice-Chairman) and Hassan Helmy (Secretary) were approved as new officers for the Commission on Ore Mineralogy (COM) by the IMA Council.

#### 9. ESTABLISHMENT FOR NEW COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

No new Commissions and Working Groups were suggested to be established.

#### 10. REPORT ON THE IMA ARCHIVE

Annámárie Kis (in collaboration with Gábor Papp, Ekkehart Tillmanns and Tamás Weiszbürg) presented the effort of the IMA Archive group. Most of the abstract books of the IMA General Meetings have been explored and digitalized and different data have been processed. Likewise data related to the venues of past IMA Business Meetings have been scanned and processed. Future work refers to the uploading of scanned documents and abstract volumes to the IMA website.

#### 11. FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS IMA - 2018 AUSTRALIA IMA - 2022 IMA - 2026 OUTLOOK

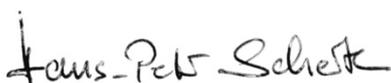
Important data related to the recent General IMA meeting in Melbourne, Australia were presented. In addition a bid documenting to host the 23rd General Meeting of the IMA in 2022 in Lyon was presented by Razvan Caracas, potential Congress President. It should be noted that it was exactly 200 years ago, when the second edition of René-Just Haüy's *Traité de Minéralogie* and the first edition of his *Traité de Cristallographie* was published; 1822 was also the date of his death. Thus, the meeting in 2022 is scheduled to honor and commemorate Haüy and his works.

#### 12. OTHER BUSINESS

The president gave a short report from the Outreach Committee. The database news was that NASA-Ames is creating a Planetary Materials database at its supercomputing facilities and IMA is invited to contribute data. In return we get free hardware, storage, management, etc, and an opportunity to design our needs into a system that will share knowledge and data. Bob Hazen's Mineral Evolution and the American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Databases will all be transferred there and currently Bob Shannon is creating an optics database on the platform.

The President thanked all contributors and participants; the meeting was closed at 13:05.

Bochum, September 6, 2018



(Secretary)



(President)