

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

COMMISSION ON GEM MATERIALS (IMA-CGM)

MEETING REPORT 2012

The following delegates of the Commission met on Tuesday August 7th during the International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia. Present at the meeting were: Lee Groat (Chair; Canada), Jayshree Panjekar (India), Frederick Lin Sutherland (Australia), and Pornsawat Wathanakul (Thailand). Also present as observers were Suporn Boonsue (Canada), Mike Breeding (USA), Stefanos Karamelas (Switzerland), Brendan Laurs (USA), Dietmar Schwarz (Switzerland), David Turner (Canada), and Khin Zaw (Australia). Complete affiliations are given in Appendix 1.

Items discussed at the meeting include the following:

1. ATLAS OF GEM DEPOSITS

There was much discussion of the Atlas of Gem Deposits, first proposed at the 14th International Mineralogical Association meeting. However it appears that this may be supplanted by GemDat.org, a new web site being created by Jolyon Ralph, the creator of MinDat.org. Lee Groat will investigate.

2. RECOMMENDED VARIETAL NAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS FOR GEM MINERALS

We discussed creating a list of recommended varietal names and abbreviations which would help eliminate confusion. We agreed to start with the varietal names beginning with those listed in the CIBJO¹ “blue book” on gemstones (http://download.cibjo.org/CIBJO_Gemstone_Book_2011-1.pdf, officially “The Gemstone Book”). In addition Jim Shigley of the Gemological Institute of America has a list of names that was developed during the Commission’s previous foray into producing a gem glossary. Lee Groat agreed to create a list from both sources which he will circulate for edits and comments.

The list of abbreviations will then be generated from the finalized list of varietals. It would be good if the list complemented existing mineral abbreviations as listed in Kretz (1983) and Whitney and Evans (2010)².

¹ Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie, des Diamants, Perles et Pierres, which translates as the International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones (normally shortened to the International Jewellery Confederation).

² Kretz, R. (1983) Symbols of rock-forming minerals. *American Mineralogist*, 68, 277–279; Whitney, D.L. and Evans, B.W. (2010) Abbreviations for names of rock-forming minerals. *American Mineralogist*, 95, 185-187.

Subsequent to the meeting Brendan Laurs forwarded a list of gem variety abbreviations published in a past *Gems & Gemology* article (Appendix 2).

3. LIST OF WORLD GEM MUSEUMS

We discussed creating a web page with contact information and links for all world gem museums. We could ask the Curators to nominate their five top specimens and describe these on the web page. Lee Groat volunteered to compile a list of world gem museums when he returns to the University of British Columbia in mid-September.

Subsequent to the meeting Brendan Laurs forwarded the following:

“The Gems & Gemology web site has a list of gem and jewelry exhibits; see <http://www.gia.edu/research-resources/gems-gemology/gem-and-jewelry-exhibits.html>.

The Gemological Institute of America Library did a web search for gem/mineral museums, and here are the results of their search:

Searching “minerals museums around the world”:

<http://www.minerant.org/museums.html>
<http://www.mineralmuseums.com/minmus/index.shtml>
<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugmuseums.html>
http://www.inlandlapidary.com/user_area/museums.asp

Searching “natural history museums around the world”:

<http://www.travelmuse.com/articles/general-features/top-natural-history-museums>
<http://paleo.cc/kpaleo/museums.htm>

Searching using “gems” or “gemstones” in the phrase yielded nothing useful.”

4. PARTICIPATION IN 34th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Most of those present at the meeting were also speaking at or attending the Gemstones Session on Thursday August 9th at the 34th International Geological Congress. The Session was dedicated to the memory of George Bosshart, and the conveners were F. Lin Sutherland, Ian Graham, Lee Groat, and Khin Zhaw. The Session comprised 10 talks and five posters. After the Session many of the participants met for dinner.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was some discussion of a web site. At the 2010 meeting of the Commission Vladimir Beranec graciously volunteered space on their server in Croatia, and students to maintain the web site. The idea was to have a link from the main International Mineralogical Association web site. Lee Groat will ask Vladimir Beranec if he is still willing to host and maintain a Commission web site.

There was a question as to whether we could post talks and posters from past gem sessions at technical conferences on our web site. Lee Groat will investigate.

The *Gems & Gemology* website has a list of upcoming conferences of interest to gemologists; see <http://www.gia.edu/research-resources/gems-gemology/upcoming-conferences.html>.

Attendees were encouraged to attend the Gem and Jewelry Institute of Thailand's Third International Gem and Jewelry Conference (GIT 2012), December 12th to 16th in Bangkok with excursions to Chanthaburi, Thailand and Pailin, Cambodia.

We should have gem materials sessions at the upcoming International Mineralogical Association meeting in South Africa, August 31st to September 5th, 2014 (<http://www.ima2014.co.za/index.php>), and the 35th International Geological Congress, also in South Africa, August 27th to September 4th, 2016 (<http://www.35igc.org/>).

Khin Zaw will also propose a session for the 2013 Goldschmidt Conference, August 25th to 30th in Florence, Italy (<http://goldschmidt.info/2013/>). The session suggestion form is at <http://goldschmidt.info/2013/sessionSuggestion>.

There is a desire to sustain such gem sessions at additional future International Mineralogical Association, International Geological Congress, and Goldschmidt Conferences.

Lin Sutherland has decided to step down as the Australian delegate to the Commission in favour of Khin Zhaw. We thank Lin for his years of service and hope that he will continue to be involved.

APPENDIX 1. Attendees at the meeting of the Commission on Gem Materials, August 7th, 2012.

Name	Delegate	Observer	Affiliation
Suporn Boonsue		X	University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
Mike Breeding		X	Gemological Institute of America, Carlsbad, California, USA
Lee A. Groat	X		Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, University of British Columbia, Canada
Stefanos Karampelas		X	Gübelin Gem Lab, Lucerne, Switzerland
Brendan Laurs		X	Gemological Institute of America, Carlsbad, California, USA
Jayshree Panjekar	X		Pangemtech, India
Dietmar Schwarz		X	Gübelin Gem Lab, Lucerne, Switzerland
Frederick Lin Sutherland	X		University of Western Australia, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
David Turner		X	Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, University of British Columbia, Canada
Pornsawat Wathanakul	X		Bangkok, Thailand
Khin Zaw		X	CODES, University of Tasmania, Australia

APPENDIX 2. List of varietals and abbreviations from *Gems & Gemology* article.

Abg Amblygonite
AC Amber/copal
And Andalusite
Alx Alexandrite (chrysoberyl)
Alm Almandine/rhodolite
Adr Andradite/demantoid
Ap Apatite
Ax Axinite
Brl Beryl
Brz Brazilianite
Chb Chrysoberyl
Chp Chrysoprase
Dnb Danburite
Dia Diamond
Dsp Diaspore
Em Emerald (beryl)
Euc Euclase
Fsp Feldspar
Grs Grossular/hessonite/tsavorite
Crd Iolite (cordierite)
Jd Jadeite
Krn Kornerupine
Ky Kyanite
LL Lapis Lazuli
MSS Maw-Sit-Sit
Nph Nephrite
Opl Opal
Ol Peridot (olivine)
Phk Phenakite
Prp Pyrope
Qz Amethyst/citrine/ametrine
Rds Rhodochrosite
Rdn Rhodonite
RQ Rose quartz
Ru Ruby (corundum)
Sa Sapphire (corundum)
Scp Scapolite
Spd Spodumene
Ttn Sphene (titanite)
Sil Sillimanite
Sdl Sodalite
Spl Spinel

Sps Spessartine
Taf Taaffeite
Tur Tourmaline
Tpz Topaz
Trq Turquoise
Zo Zoisite/tanzanite
Zrn Zircon