

MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Dr. N. F. M. Henry
Assistant Editor: Dr. I. D. Muir

Department of Mineralogy & Petrology
Downing Place, Cambridge, England
Telephone 3193

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Dr C. Guillemin,
Laboratoire de Minéralogie-
Cristallographie,
Faculté des Sciences,
1, Rue Victor-Cousin,
Paris-V^e,
France.

Dear Monsieur Guillemin,

Thank you for your letter of 7th May with information about your absences from Paris in the near future. I shall certainly arrange in good time for us to have a talk during my next visit, as I feel that we are ready for a step forward in our co-operating of abstracts. I am very pleased to sponsor your membership of our Mineralogical Society. Would you please fill in and return the enclosed form to Dr Claringbull who will be pleased to be the other sponsor. I shall certainly pay the subscription and will be pleased to do this regularly in order to save you the trouble of sending small sums in foreign currency. It is very convenient for me to have a few thousand francs available on my visits to Paris.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum which I have sent to Professor Buerger. I am enclosing a copy also for you to give to M. Wyart and I should be glad if you could discuss it with him as he will be going to Montreal.

I propose, in future, to send to you (and MM. Fleischer and O'Daniel) proof copies of abstracts on new minerals. I hope that in this way we can begin co-operating in practise.

Yours sincerely,



N.F.M. Henry.

Memo. from H.F.W. Henry to the Chairman of the Committee to Investigate the Possibility of Establishing an International Organisation of Mineralogy.

I should like to put forward the following suggestions for discussion by the Committee.

1. In France they have been able to set up some kind of control over the publication of new mineral names, and it would be very interesting to find out how this is working. It is quite clear that we could never achieve complete control in this important matter, but that does not, in my opinion, absolve us from the duty of doing our best. I suggest that we should investigate the possibility of getting the major mineralogical countries to follow the French example, working together in this through whatever international organisation may be set up. It should later be possible to get the cooperation of the major journals concerned and increasingly to exercise some moral control over the position. Abstracts would, of course, have to cover all publications, but a distinction could be made between 'authorised' new mineral names and the others.
2. At present new mineral names are published by at least five separate countries. Until such time as some kind of international scheme can be worked out for this, would it not be possible for these five bodies to exchange information so that each would publish new names from a common pool. I believe that this would help to develop the international scheme, as well as immediately improving the coverage of the separate publications.
3. We should explore the possibility of reaching agreement on mineral names and symbols. Apart from the existence of quite different names for the same mineral, there is the difficulty of purely orthographical differences between languages for the same name. Although a lot of useful information exists in the new Dana 'System', it would be extremely useful to have complete lists of mineral names for each of the languages in which mineralogical work is published. The task of compiling indexes is bound to assume an even greater importance in the future than at present owing to the growth of the volume of publication.
4. Are we to prepare any activities at the two International Congresses to be held in 1960 - Geology and Crystallography?