

**International Mineralogical Association
Commission on Museums Activity Report
2013-14**

Preamble

After the success of the 2012 Mineralogy and Museums conference in Dresden, Germany, thoughts are now turning to the selection of the next venue. Before that, the IMA 2014 Conference is almost upon us running as it is from 1st to 5th September this year. 2014 also marked the UNESCO International Year of Crystallography with a number of exhibitions and events worldwide.

Commission Activities

1. As promised in the activity report for 2012-13, the Commission has finally selected a new Chairman to replace our retired colleague Lydie Touret. After a call for nominations, two candidates emerged – Alan Hart from the Natural History Museum, London, and Federico Pezzotta from the Natural History Museum Milan. A ballot was organised and at the end of August 2013 and Federico Pezzotta was duly elected to be the new Chairman. In recognition of the closeness of the vote and of the valuable contribution he could make, Alan has agreed to become the Vice-chairman to fill what has been a long standing vacancy.
2. Ad hoc meetings have been held in conjunction with the Society of Mineral Museum professionals at the Tucson, USA and Munich, Germany mineral shows.
3. There are currently two bids tabled to host the 2016 Mineralogy and Museums Conference (M&M8). One is based in Japan and one is based in China. These proposals will be discussed at the Commission meeting in Johannesburg at IMA2014. If possible, a vote will be taken there and a decision made. If this doesn't prove possible then the information will be circulated to the Commission Members and a postal vote will be held.
4. The list of Commission Council members is continually being updated. There have been a number of changes over the last couple of years and these have been noted. In gathering this information, the secretary has noted that in some cases it has been almost impossible to contact certain members in order to establish exactly who is the National Representatives for each of the countries eligible to select members.

5. As noted previously, a Facebook site has been opened under the name of the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals. This will be supplemented by an online discussion forum hosted by the MinDat site. Activity at the Facebook site was initially disappointing but has picked up a bit since then as people have become aware of it. The secretary has also now taken over responsibility for the IMA-CM website from Tony Kampf. I would like to record the Commission's thanks for all the years of effort you put in.

Chairman's Report

I see my election as a great opportunity for renewing the activity of IMA-CM after some period of minor activity. As mentioned above, Alan Hart, of the Natural History Museum of London has kindly agreed to become the vice-chairman.

The first opportunity of meeting with some other IMA-CM members (and SMMP members) was at the Munich 2013 Mineral and Gem Show. During this annual meeting, as has become the tradition, every curator was asked to give a brief account of the activity of their museum during the last 12 months. Moreover, we spoke about the application by the Japanese consortium to host M&M8 as well as the potential application from China. Also discussed was the development of new potential activities of IMA-CM. One of the most important projects proposed concerns the development of a more complete database of type-minerals specimens, developed with connection with the IMA Commission on New Minerals. Giovanni Ferraris of the CNMNC-IMA was present at the meeting and contributed to the discussions some suggestions. In any cases, everybody agreed that IMA 2014 General Meeting, in Johannesburg, was the best the moment for reviewing the situation and to set the new programs and directions.

I encouraged the national representatives to organize annual mineralogy curators meetings in their country following the model of Germany and USA.

On half February 2014, in Tucson, I attended the SMMP members meeting where there was more discussion about potential new activities for IMA-CM and the program for the IMA-CM meeting in Johannesburg.

On last May, I was invited by the Changsha Mineral & Gem Show organization to attend two conferences at the Museum Forum and to present to Chinese Mineralogy Museum Curators information about IMA-CM, about SMMP, and about IMA General Meetings. This was a very successful meeting as it produced a lot of interest in the participants. During the Museum Forum, a Chinese delegation proposed to publish a preliminary program for a Chinese application for hosting SMMP8, which will be officially presented at IMA 2014 in Johannesburg.

At present, the IMA-CM meeting is expected on September first in Johannesburg and the Mineralogy Museum session is in program for September 5. I am already registered for the conference and I hope that many members of IMA-CM will be

present. As already discussed in Munich, the first important project to develop will concern the development of a homogenous, updated and modern type-specimens database. I expect that more programs will be proposed and discussed. I already personally have some suggestions. The voting for the SMMP8 location will be also take place.

I really hope that IMA 2014 in Johannesburg will see the beginning of a new period of intense activity of the IMA-CM as I am convinced that Museum Curators have a very important role in mineralogy science. I also hope that the new activity will create better collaboration and connection with members of the other IMA commissions.

Federico Pezzotta,
Chairman IMA-CM,

Peter Davidson,
Secretary IMA-CM

Friday, 25 July 2014