

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

COMMISSION ON GEM MATERIALS (IMA-CGM)

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The following delegates of the Commission met on Saturday August 21st during the IMA meeting in Budapest. Present at the meeting were: Lee Groat (Chair; Canada), Corina Ionescu (Romania), Pornsawat Wathanakul (Thailand), Somruedee Satitkune (Thailand), James Shigley (USA), Ruslan Kostov (Bulgaria), Erik Jonsson (Sweden), Vladimir Bermanec (Croatia), and Željka Žigovečki Gobac (Croatia). The meeting began with the Chair repeating the concerns of a number of the delegates that we do not have representatives from many of the major gem-producing countries, such as Brazil. The Chair will ask IMA representatives to forward names of potential delegates for these countries. Other items discussed at the meeting include the following:

1. FROM IMA-14: ATLAS OF GEM DEPOSITS AND NOMENCLATURE SUBCOMMITTEES

There was much discussion of the Atlas of Gem Deposits. Jim Shigley suggested that the first question we should ask is “what do we want it to provide?” The most difficult thing might be determining boundaries. We discussed setting it up as on online wiki, but we would have to control who is allowed to make changes. Vladimir Beranec graciously volunteered space on their server in Croatia, and students to maintain the web site. There would be a link to the Atlas on the CGM web page on the IMA site. The Gemological Institute of America graciously offered location information and references from their upcoming and previous review articles in *Gems & Gemology*. Lee Groat pointed out that Scott Ercit at the Canadian Museum of Nature has created a vast data base of mineral specimen localities with positional information (UTMs?). This could be useful. There was also discussion about creating a web site of upcoming events of gemmological interest.

2. ABBREVIATIONS FOR GEM MINERALS

We discussed creating a list of recommended varietal names and abbreviations, in collaboration with the ICA and other trade organizations. This would help eliminate confusion.

3. JOINT PROJECT WITH THE COMMISSION OF MUSEUMS ON A CATALOGUE OF UNIQUE GEMS

There was some discussion that “unique” is not the correct word. 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.

4. PARTICIPATION IN IGC

We discussed participation in a gem material session at the 34th International Geological Congress, 5-10 August 2012, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. There is a theme Mineralogy/gemstones listed in the IGC forward program, so this would be a good avenue to increase the active program of the IMA CGM. Lin Sutherland is willing to act as a facilitator in helping organise such a session with the Australian IGC committee.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was some discussion that we don't meet enough. The Chair volunteered to keep track of upcoming meetings and who will be attending.

Subsequent to the meeting Jim Shigley graciously agreed to become Secretary of the Commission.