

COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY
International Mineralogical Association

COM activities since Edinburgh Business Meeting

1. Organisation of session VGP 30, EGS-AGU-EUG Joint Assembly, in Nice, France, 7th-11th April 2003.

The session 'Gold and Platinum Group Minerals: from experimental mineralogy and microanalysis to deposit Modelling' has attracted 23 contributions. Convenors are Kari Kojonen, Roland W. Merkle and Nigel J. Cook (Norway). Two session participants successfully applied for travel and registration funding from the conference organisers. COM funds will be used to invite the keynote speaker, Roland W. Merkle, to present the paper 'Gold and platinum-group element containing minerals – reflections on the reliability of observations'.

2. Planning for sessions at 32nd International Geological Congress

The commission has proposed three sessions for the 32nd IGC, Florence, Italy, 20th-28th August 2004. These have been accepted by the local organising committee and will appear in the 2nd circular. The sessions are:

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*European gold deposits in diverse geological environments*' (co-proposed by COM and IAGOD).

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Conventional and unconventional platinum group mineral deposits*'.

SYMPOSIUM G15 'Mineralogy' session on '*Telluride and selenide minerals related to gold and platinum group element deposits*'.

3. Advance planning for COM Short Course workshop in Granada, Spain, 2004.

COM will hold its next short course in Granada, Spain during late Summer 2004. The COM vice-chairman will visit Granada during May to help plan a schedule and to help the local organising committee with coordination of the workshop.

4. COM website

COM has created a new website hosted at the Geological Survey of Finland. The website provides a central source of information on COM activities, with a mission statement, a brief history of the commission, an updated list of national representatives, details of past and future activities and publication reports. The site will be added to over the coming months, including reports from sub-commissions and a section devoted to virtual ore microscopy, with links to other ore mineralogy/microscopy libraries available online.

5. COM excursion

Giorgio Garuti (Modena, Italy) is organising a field excursion on behalf of COM 'Metallogenic features of the Ivrea-Verbanò Zone, Western Alps (Italy)', between 2nd and 6th April 2003.

6. COM initiatives

At the Edinburgh business meeting, COM officers suggested that a list of standardized abbreviations of ore minerals should be prepared. A discussion document on this issue has been prepared for distribution and discussion among COM members. Contact has been made with CNMMN on this issue.

COM also intends to take a more active role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data in the future. Proposed sets of guidelines for publishing of microprobe data etc. are in preparation.

The cataloguing of collections of polished ore mineral specimens in museums and mineralogical institutions in digital form is under way with discussion among various institutions on the optimal way to ensure a systematic and common approach.

7. Reports of COM sub-commissions

Work is underway to update the report of the sulphosalt sub-commission of COM. The report will be presented, in abridged form, on the COM website later this year.

8. Participation in new project of the International Geological Correlation Programme

A number of COM 'members' joined the vice-chairman and secretary in proposing the IGCP project "*Au-Ag-telluride-selenide deposits in Europe and in developing countries*". The project (IGCP 486; 2003-2007) has been approved. In the assessment document, the evaluation committee noted, positively, that the project had the backing of an IMA commission.

9. Mini-business meeting during the Nice conference

A mini-business meeting of COM officers will be held during the Nice conference. Goals are to further coordinate future meetings and short course workshops. The opportunity will also be used to draft a response to the question of experience with the EUG-EGS conference organisation.

We express our general satisfaction with the efficiency of conference organisation, but stress our disappointment that the oral session was restricted to just two hours, with only sufficient time for a few oral presentations and an enforced 15 minute timeslot for each presentation. We feel that our session could have been better planned as a full-day session with 20- or 30-minute timeslots.

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Secretary COM

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IMA-COM Officers 2002-2006

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