

# COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY (COM)

## ANNUAL REPORTS FROM IMA COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES YEAR 2003

<b>OFFICERS -</b>	Chairman:	R.K.W. MERKLE
	Vice-Chairman:	KK. KOJONEN
	Secretary:	NJ. COOK

Corresponding member in the Council: Kari Kojonen

*(Attached document 11/11/03)*

### **1. Session VGP 30, EGS-AGU-EUG Joint Assembly, in Nice, France, 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2003.**

The session 'Gold and Platinum Group Minerals: from experimental mineralogy and microanalysis to deposit Modelling' was held as planned. Convenors were Kari Kojonen (Finland), Roland W. Merkle (South Africa) and Nigel J. Cook (Norway). Two session participants successfully applied for travel and registration funding from the conference organisers. COM funds allowed the keynote speaker, Roland W. Merkle, to present the paper 'Gold and platinum-group element containing minerals – reflections on the reliability of observations'. Approximately 50 persons attended the session, which consisted of 12 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations. A selection of papers presented in the session are presently being prepared for a special issue of *Ore Geology Reviews*.

### **2. Planning for sessions at 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geological Congress**

COM has proposed three scientific sessions for the 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC, Florence, Italy, 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August 2004. 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. COM Short Course Workshop in Granada, Spain, 2004.**

COM will hold its next short course on Advanced Ore Mineralogy in Granada, Spain, between October 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004. The short course will be organised by the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, in conjunction with COM. The local organising committee will prepare a first circular during Autumn 2003. As with previous COM short courses, the Granada course is primarily designed to meet the needs of locally based participants (both students and practising professionals). The range of topics covered is yet to be fixed, but will include traditional ore mineralogy, topics of specific local interest and environmental mineralogy.

### **4. Ore microscopy course, Pretoria, South Africa, 2004**

COM will co-sponsor an ore microscopy course in South Africa during 2005 (in conjunction with MINSa and University of Pretoria (venue and date to be arranged).

### **5. COM website**

COM has created a new website hosted at the Geological Survey of Finland; <http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/ima-com.htm> 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. COM will, in future, include reports from sub-commissions and a section devoted to virtual ore microscopy, with links to other ore mineralogy/microscopy libraries available online.

## **6. 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 during Winter 2003/4.

## **7. Virtual ore mineralogy**

COM is committed to providing, on its website, a series of representative images of ore minerals. The nucleus of a collection of digital images is now in preparation and appropriate, high-quality photomicrographs of ore minerals will be sought from authors who have recently published in the mineralogical literature. Work will continue on this project, also in conjunction with preparation of written material to accompany the short course in Granada.

## **8. Other activities, initiatives and advance planning for 2005-2006**

COM are considering operating a one-day workshop in PGE ore mineralogy at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Platinum Symposium to be held in Oulu, Finland, in August 2005.

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.

COM are in contact with Japanese COM representatives concerning the participation of the commission at the next IMA General meeting in Kobe, Japan (2006).

A discussion document containing a list of standardized abbreviations of ore minerals has been prepared. First contact has also been made with CNMMN on this issue.

COM 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.

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.

Nigel Cook, Secretary COM, Trondheim, Norway. 15.10.2003