

International Mineralogical Association (IMA)

COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY (COM)

Annual Report to IUGS for two years 2003-2004

Report on COM activities

for the period from the IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh until August 2004

1. 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 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. The COM website will, in future, also include reports from sub-commissions and a section with links to other ore mineralogy/microscopy resources available online.

2. 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' 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. Approximately 50 persons attended the session, which consisted of 12 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations. A selection of papers presented during the session are presently being prepared for a special issue of *Ore Geology Reviews*.

3. Scientific sessions at the 32nd International Geological Congress, Florence, August 2004

COM has organised three scientific sessions for the 32nd IGC, Florence, Italy, 20th-28th August 2004. The sessions are:

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Gold deposits in diverse geological environments*' (co-proposed by COM and IAGOD). This symposium session received 108 contributions and will be held as an all-day session on Saturday 21st August.

SYMPOSIUM G15 'Mineralogy' session on '*Telluride and selenide minerals related to gold and platinum group element deposits*', co-sponsored by IGCP project 486. The session received 52 contributions and will be held as an all-day session on Sunday 22nd August.

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Conventional and unconventional platinum group mineral deposits*'. The session will be held on Friday 27th August.

4. Involvement in new IGCP project

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.

5. Reports of COM sub-commissions

The sulphosalt sub-commission of COM has presented a full-length report to be presented at the COM Business Meeting to be held during the Florence IGC.

6. Other activities, initiatives and advance planning for 2005-2006

COM have proposed five scientific sessions for the next IMA General meeting in Kobe, Japan (2006).

COM intends to take a more active role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data in the future. COM President Roland Merkle will make a call for COM 'members' to become involved in international initiatives of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) aimed at establishing guidelines for standardisation of microbeam data acquisition routines.

COM had originally intended to hold its next short course on Advanced Ore Mineralogy in Granada, Spain, between October 17th and 23rd 2004. These plans had to be cancelled during to difficulties in obtaining funding experienced by the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, who will host the event. COM is optimistic that the workshop can be rescheduled for Autumn 2005.

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)).

COM is currently looking at the possibility of collaboration with the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.).

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.

A discussion document containing a list of standardized abbreviations of ore minerals has been prepared.

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Secretary COM

Oslo, Norway. 13.08.2004

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