

**IMA  
COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND  
CLASSIFICATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 TO IUGS**

(Prepared by the Secretary, William Birch)

**1. COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION (formerly COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS AND MINERAL NAMES)**

**Officers**

Chairman: Ernst A.J. Burke (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Vice Chairmen: Giovanni Ferraris (Torino, Italy) (until July 2006); Stanislav [Filatov](#) (St Petersburg, Russia) and Frédéric Hatert (Liege, Belgium) (both from July 2006).

Secretary: William Birch (Melbourne, Australia)

**2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

The Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names was established in 1959 to deal with all nomenclature matters in mineralogy. Its main roles are to ensure that strict procedures are followed before new mineral species can be established and before redefinitions and changes to nomenclature can be applied. Following the CNMMN's merger in August 2006 with the Commission on Classification of Minerals, the new CNMNC will also coordinate the procedures for classification of minerals.

**3. ORGANISATION**

**Officers for 2006**

(see above). Professor Ferraris retired as Vice Chairman at the IMA meeting in Kobe in July. His two replacements, Professor Filatov and Dr Hatert, will have duties which reflect the changed work of the new CNMNC following the merger of the two former commissions.

**Business meetings**

The CNMNC holds its business meetings every two years, when its members participate in IMA General Meetings and Mineralogy and Museums Conferences, each of which are held every four years. The CNMNC last met in Kobe in July 2006. No meetings are scheduled in 2007.

**Main activities**

The former CNMMN partitioned its workload amongst the three officers: the chairman prepared the new-mineral proposals, the vice-chairman handled the proposed changes to existing nomenclature (discreditations and redefinitions), and the secretary coordinated the subcommittees created to examine the nomenclature of mineral groups. Under the new Commission arrangements currently under discussion, it is likely that the role of the Chairman will essentially remain the same, but the other office-bearers' duties and how they are to be apportioned have not been finalised. The 30 voting members of the former CNMMN, now transferred to the new CNMNC,

represent national mineralogical organisations affiliated with the IMA. The members evaluate all nomenclature proposals (new minerals, changes in existing minerals, mineral groups) and cast their votes on a monthly basis for the new-mineral proposals and as they come for the other proposals.

### **Financial support**

The distribution of proposals and the subsequent rounds of comments and voting are carried out via the internet, so postage costs have largely been eliminated. The IMA covers the Chairman's costs for office supplies, while the costs of members' emailing and internet time are borne by their respective institutions.

## **4. INVOLVEMENT WITH IMA AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

The CNMNC participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the IMA in Kobe, Japan.

## **5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2006**

### **Activities**

By the end of 2006, the CNMNC will handle about 60 new-mineral proposals, approximately the same number as in the previous few years (64 proposals in 2005; 59 in 2004, 70 in 2003, 67 in 2002) in batches of, on average, five proposals per month. Members will also have deliberated on five proposals involving mineral nomenclature revisions, the most substantial being a new nomenclature system for the pearceite–polybasite group and for minerals in the monazite group. In addition, members approved the discreditation of about 130 minerals and names on the Commission's listing of 'grandfathered, questionable and non-approved' minerals.

Seven CNMNC subcommittees were active during 2006:

1. Sulfosalt (Chairman: Yves Moelo, France)
2. Pyrochlore (Chairman: Scott Ercit, Canada)
3. Tourmaline (Chairman: Milan Novák, Czech Republic)
4. Alunite (Chairman: Peter Bayliss, Australia)
5. Epidote (Chairman: Thomas Armbruster, Switzerland)
6. Amphibole (Chairpersons, Frank Hawthorne and Roberta Oberti, Canada)
7. Unnamed minerals (Chairman: Dorian Smith, Canada)
8. Aenigmatite (Chairman: Dr Ed Grew, USA).

Three of these subcommittees finalised their reports in 2006. Members approved both the Epidote and Unnamed Minerals reports and these have been submitted for publication, with the former now published (see below). The very substantial Sulfosalts report is currently being considered by the CNMNC members. After a long period of chairmanship under Bernard Leake, the Amphibole Subcommittee was re-established in 2006 under Frank Hawthorne and Roberta Oberti. The Tourmaline report will be completed before the end of the year. The Aenigmatite group subcommittee was established following the IMA meeting in Kobe.

### **Administration**

A major development during 2006 was the approval of the merger of the former CNMNC and CCM, to form the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and

Classification (CNMNC). The merger received the blessing of the IMA Council and delegates at the IMA Business Meeting in Kobe in July. Members of both former commissions had previously approved the merger in principle. Discussion is currently underway as to how the expanded responsibilities of the CNMNC will be handled by the office-bearers and how to increase the participation rate of the members in the voting procedures.

### **Outreach**

The Chairman regularly participates in discussion on minerals and their nomenclature in the Message Board of the website [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), a forum aimed at collectors and amateur mineralogists. (See also Publications)

### **Technical meetings**

The only technical meeting held in 2006 was the CNMNC's sponsorship of a session entitled 'New Minerals and Mineral Classification' at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the IMA in Kobe.

### **Publication**

Several papers dealing with decisions of the CNMNC were submitted for publication in the scientific literature during the year:

1. Recommended nomenclature of epidote-group minerals. Armbruster, T. *et al.*, 2006: *European Journal of Mineralogy*, 18, 551–567.
2. The arrojadite enigma: I. A new formula and a new model for the arrojadite structure. Camara, F. *et al.*, 2006: *American Mineralogist*, 91, 1249–1259.
3. The arrojadite enigma: II. Compositional space group, new members, and nomenclature of the group. Chopin, C. *et al.*, 2006: *American Mineralogist*, 91, 1260–1270.
4. New minerals approved in 2005 and nomenclature modifications approved in 2005 by the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, International Mineralogical Association. Burke, E. A. J. and Ferraris, G., 2006: *Canadian Mineralogist*, 44, 547–552.

The website of the CNMNC is now an important vehicle for communication. Each month, it publishes its decisions on new minerals and changes in nomenclature. Also published in 2006 were the lists of new minerals approved in 2005, and of agreed mineral names published before 1959.

### **Attributions**

The retiring Vice Chairman, Professor Giovanni Ferraris, has worked tirelessly for the CNMNC and provided support and advice for his fellow office-bearers since 1998. The retiring Chairman of the Amphibole Subcommittee, Professor Bernard Leake, has also provided immense service to the Commission for several decades.

## **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2006**

Generally the work of the Commission proceeded smoothly in 2006. However, both the Chairman and the retiring Vice Chairman drew attention to the consistent failure of some members to vote and comment on proposals for new minerals and for redefinitions. This seems to be an ongoing problem partly related to the heavy work load of the Commission

For many years, the journal *Canadian Mineralogist* has provided great support for the Commission by publishing its official reports without requesting page charges. In 2006, the Editor of the journal informed the Commission that from now on such charges would be required. The IMA Council decided that it was not able to provide funds to cover these charges, so the situation remains uncertain.

## **7. WORKPLAN FOR 2007**

### **Activities**

It is anticipated that the number of new mineral proposals, nomenclature revisions and discreditations will remain at much the same levels in 2007 as in 2006. The nomenclature schemes proposed for the sulfosalt and tourmaline groups will be subject to voting early in the year. It is hoped that the remaining nomenclature subcommittees will submit their final reports later in 2007.

Besides these ongoing duties, there will be a major attempt made to rationalize the existing mineral nomenclature, in particular the amphibole group. A complete archive of all CNMMN activities from 1959 is also being progressively assembled.

There are no current plans for participation in any conferences in 2007.

### **Administration**

As well as the reassignment of the duties of the office-bearers, a possible new system of voting by CNMNC members is being formulated. This may involve the members being allocated to a number of standing subcommittees based broadly on mineral classes. Such a system would diminish the workload of individual members but without sacrificing any of the status and authority of Commission decisions. It is envisaged that a new system will be implemented during 2007 after consultation with the members.

The amalgamation between CNMMN and CCM may also lead to changes in the national representatives, although this has not so far been addressed by the new CNMNC office-bearers.

## **9. OFFICERS AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**(see attached list)**