

MINUTES OF CNMMN BUSINESS MEETINGS

IMA, Edinburgh, September 2002

Tuesday September 3

Present: J. Grice (Chairman), G. Ferraris (Vice-Chairman), B. Birch (Secretary). Delegates; E. Burke (Netherlands), O. Johnsen (Denmark), G. Raade (Norway), S. Graeser (Switzerland), S. Matsubara (Japan), G. Papp (Hungary), M. Pasero (Italy), M. Welch (UK), D. Atencio (Brazil), U. Hålenius (Sweden), A. Roberts (Canada), V. Bermanec (Croatia). Proxies; O. Yakubovich (Russia), J. M. Génin (France). Apologies: A. Bulakh (Russia), J. Sejkora (Czech Republic), P. Keller (Germany), G. C. Parodi (France).

Discussion proceeded on the items as numbered on the Agenda distributed by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

1. **Reports of Officers.** The Chairman welcomed delegates to the meeting and referred to the new delegates (for UK, NZ and China) who had joined the Commission since the previous meeting. Dr Grice acknowledged the great contribution made by the late Alan Criddle. He also reported on discussions with the President, Tony Naldrett, over the essential role played by the CNMMN in the IMA's activities. The Commission had not been targeted for termination. The Vice-Chairman distributed a summary of the nomenclature proposals handled by the Commission in the 4 years to August 2002. The Secretary tabled his report on the past 4 years activities of the CNMMN presented to the IMA Secretary.
2. **Mineral Nomenclature subcommittees report.** Dr Birch outlined the history of the tourmaline group nomenclature scheme as published by Henry and Hawthorne and subsequently rejected by CNMMN members. The idea of a new subcommittee to review the tourmalines was accepted. Milan Novak was suggested as a possible Chairman, with Frank Hawthorne, Stefano Merlino and Carl Francis as members. Dr Birch was to set this subcommittee up.

Members agreed that it was also an appropriate time to establish a subcommittee to examine nomenclature of the epidote and allanite groups. Possible members included Scott Ercit, Vladimir Bermanec, Silvio Menchetti, Paola Bonazzi? and Thomas Armbruster.

3. **Proposed changes to voting procedures.**

- (a) For new minerals. The incoming Chairman, Dr. Burke, spoke to this item. He believed the present scheme of voting was costly and time-consuming. Two alternatives he suggested were to send proposals and vote on them by email or, for members who can't handle attachments, to provide a password-based link to proposals posted on a website. There was some discussion centring on a few members who refuse to use email. It was agreed unanimously that a new electronic system possibly combining both options be adopted, retaining the 2-month voting period. Responses could be emailed, faxed or posted. The system would be phased in over the next two months, as Dr Burke set up the necessary facilities and contacted all members.
- (b) For redefinitions and discreditations. Dr. Ferraris described the current 2-step procedure as useful and wants to maintain it, despite it being quite long. He pointed out that some

authors publish changes without approval. He advocated that an electronic approach be adopted, with 2 months for comments, but the voting period reduced to 1 month. This change was agreed to by the meeting, with one abstention (S. Graeser). The meeting expressed no concerns about the procedures adopted by Dr. Birch for commenting and voting on nomenclature of groups.

4. **Classification of mineral groups.** Dr Grice indicated that he had had second thoughts about suggesting that the CCM take over mineral group nomenclature subcommittees and no longer felt it was a desirable course of action. It was suggested however that a CCM member could be an *ex officio* member of any nomenclature subcommittee. The epidote group could be used as a trial, with the CCM Chairman (D. Puscharovsky) to be approached for a nomination.

Wednesday September 4

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Discussion proceeded on the items as numbered on the Agenda distributed by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

7. **Proper accreditations.** S. Graeser outlined a situation concerning monazite-(Nd), in which his data had been used in the Nickel-Nichol database but the credited reference was to an earlier unapproved use of the name in a publication. This appeared to contravene CNMMN rules. Some discussion took place on this case. Dr Ferraris pointed out that the official list of CNMMN-approved species gave Dr Graeser's reference.

9. **Voting rights for specialists.** Dr Ferraris raised the possibility of a specialist being coopted and given voting rights in a situation where expertise on a particular mineral group was not present amongst the 30 CNMMN members. Discussion took place but there was a general feeling that this wasn't necessary because an expert's comments would influence the members' votes anyway.

10. **Automatic acceptance of new REE-dominant species.** The mood of the members was against this suggestion.

Thursday September 5

Open session

Discussion took place on Items 5 and 6, led by Dr. Nickel.

6. **IMA database of mineral names.** Dr Nickel gave a rundown on the origin and details of the complete MINERAL database, with many searchable fields, to be placed on the CNMMN website. It contains only those minerals on which the CNMMN has made

decisions. Unnamed minerals will eventually be added. The project had been undertaken by arrangement with Materials Data Inc. MDI will make CDs available at cost to anyone interested and the entire database will be available on the MDI website in 2003.

At the suggestion of Dr Ferraris, a vote was taken to accept the approved species on the MINERAL database. There were no dissenting votes.

5. **Unnamed minerals project.** Dr Nickel gave a progress report on his project of compiling a list of unnamed minerals. This had been started by Dorian Smith in 1993 and the CNMMN had approved the establishment of a subcommittee in 1995. Dr Nickel explained his cataloguing system. It is complete up to 1980, with about 700 entries. When up-to-date, the list will be submitted to the CNMMN for checking.

12. **Other Business**

- (a) Dr Martin described the manuscript prepared by Jeffrey de Fourestier on the history of the CNMMN. It was suggested that it be sent to Doug Coombs and Ivan Kostov.
- (b) The appointment of Professor Akira Kato and Dr Joel Grice (from January 2003) as Emeritus Chairman of the CNMMN was approved.
- (c) Dr Burke congratulated the outgoing Chairman on his role over the past 8 years.