



COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY
International Mineralogical Association

Report on COM activities for the year 2004

1. COM Business meetings

A short meeting was held August 24th 2004 in Room 7 of the Congress Centre "Forezza da Basso", Florence, 17.30-18.20, during the 32nd International Geological Congress. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nigel Cook, COM Secretary. 4 national representatives and 6 alternates were present.

The officers of COM held a short, informal meeting on January 7th 2005 in bath, U.K.

2. COM website

COM has created a 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, 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 ('Virtual Ore Mineralogy'). 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.

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

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

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Gold deposits in diverse geological environments*' (all-day session, 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 (all-day session, Sunday 22nd August).

SYMPOSIUM G14 'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Conventional and unconventional platinum group mineral deposits*' (Friday 27th August).

4. Joint meeting of IMA-COM and the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.)

A session on "Platinum metals in the urban environment - should we worry?" was jointly organized by and IMA-COM and held on 7th January 2005. The session formed part of the larger meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (6-7th January 2005, Bath, U.K.) with the title "Environmental Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Human Health". COM Chairman Roland Merkle gave a keynote lecture 'Large scale PGE anomalies in South Africa and possible mechanisms for the release of PGE to the environment'.

5. Reports of COM sub-commissions

The sulphosalt sub-commission of COM presented a preliminary version of their full-length report at the COM Business Meeting in Florence. The sub-commission is to be congratulated on their comprehensive work. A final version will be ready during the winter 2004/5.

6. Activities planned for 2005 and 2006

The Short course 'Current methods in applied mineralogy of platinum-group element ores and products' will be co-sponsored by COM and held during the International Platinum Symposium, Oulu, Finland (August 6th 2005), organized by Prof. Louis J. Cabri.

COM has proposed the following sessions for the 19th General Meeting of IMA to be held in Kobe, Japan, July 23-28th 2006:

1. Applied ore mineralogy (COM jointly with CAM).
2. Ore Mineralogy of Au-Te-Se deposits (COM jointly with IGCP-486).
3. Mineralogy of the PGE in surface conditions, including oxides and placers (COM).
4. Ore mineralogy of sulphosalt minerals (Sulphosalt sub-commission of COM).
5. Ore mineralogy of Kuroko type and deep sea sulfide deposits (COM).

(note: these sessions have not yet been confirmed by the Kobe organising committee).

COM had originally intended to hold its next short course on Advanced Ore Mineralogy in Granada, Spain, in October 2005. This has now been cancelled during to difficulties in obtaining funding experienced by the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, who will host the event. COM hopes that an alternative venue can be found for a short course in 2005 or 2006.

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)).

7. Other activities and initiatives

COM intends to take a more active role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data in the future. COM President Roland Merkle has called on 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 has urged individuals to help preserve valuable - and often irreplaceable - collections of polished ore mineral specimens, depositing them, ideally in museums and mineralogical institutions

Nigel Cook
Secretary COM

Oslo, Norway. 14.01.2005

IMA-COM Officers 2002-2006

Prof. Roland K. W. Merkle (Chairman)
Department of Geology
University of Pretoria
Pretoria 0002
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel.: +27 12 420 3504
Fax: +27 12 362 5219
E-mail: rkwm@scientia.up.ac.za

Dr. Kari K. Kojonen (Vice-Chairman)
Geological Survey of Finland
FIN 02150 Espoo
FINLAND
Phone: +358 205 50 2483
Fax: +358 205 50 12
E-mail: kari.kojonen@gsf.fi

Dr. Nigel J. Cook (Secretary)
Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse
N-7491 Trondheim
NORWAY
Phone: +47 73 90 42 03
Fax: +47 73 92 16 20
E-mail: Nigel.Cook@ngu.no