

## Sixth International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums

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Photo: Michael B. Leybov

Tamás G. Weiszburg, Chairman of International Organising Committee of 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association



The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums took place on September 7–9, 2008 in the small picturesque town of Golden located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in half an hour drive from Denver, the capital of Colorado State. Today it is the most important next to General Meeting of International Mineralogical Association periodical (quadrennial) meeting to discuss wide range of questions of mineralogy. As the name of it clarifies, the meeting focuses on aspects of museums and collections. Colorado School of Mines in Golden and Denver Museum of Nature and Science organized the meeting.

The meeting had participants from 18 countries and almost half of the reports were dedicated to questions directly related to mineralogical museums: history of collections, their development, methods of organizing exposition and funds, computer databases, mineralogical research in museums and on museum material, popularization of geological knowledge in museums. Different subject of mineralogy as a science were addressed besides that. Reports on genetic, regional mineralogy, ore mineralogy, chemistry, crystal chemistry and mineral properties, new minerals, mineralogical approach and methods used in petrology and geochemistry were presented at the meeting. Nomenclature of minerals was one of the actively discussed subjects of the conference. Some reports were dedicated to history of mineralogy, precious stones, meteorites and stone in architectural design. Workshops of the Commission on Museums and the Commission on New Minerals Nomenclature and Classification of International Mineralogical Association took place during the meeting.

Participants visited museum of Colorado School of Mines and Denver Museum of Nature and Science. There are a lot of magnificent exhibits to see, particularly from famous mineralogical localities in Colorado State. The work of the meeting was organized very well in both oral and poster sessions and in all other respects. The organizers should be praised for the timing the event to coincide with Colorado Gem and Mineral Show held in Denver, one of the worlds biggest and the biggest in the USA next to one organized in Tucson. Thus participants of the meeting were very lucky and pleased to visit this spectacular, interesting and very educative Show representing mineral exhibits from all over the world.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Common Meeting of International Mineralogical Association which will be held in Budapest in 2010 was widely announced during the meeting.





1. Participants of the conference
2. During Meeting of the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of Minerals (*left to right*): Stuart Mills, Peter Williams, William Birch and Antony Kampf
3. James Hurlbut (Denver Museum of Nature and Science) and Igor Pekov (Lomonosov Moscow State University)
4. Maria Alferova (Fersman Mineralogical Museum) and Brian Jackson (Scotland National Museum) are preparing their poster
5. Peter Modreski is studying poster
6. An opening meeting
7. Dr. Bruce Geller, Director of CSM Geology Museum
8. Marie Huizing (Managing Editor of Rocks & Minerals) and Maria Villasenor (Professor of Mexico University)
9. Jeffrey Post (Smithsonian Institute), Dermont Henry (Museum Victoria), and George Harlow (American Museum of Natural History) are discussing museums problems
10. Igor Pekov reports on amazing new minerals



