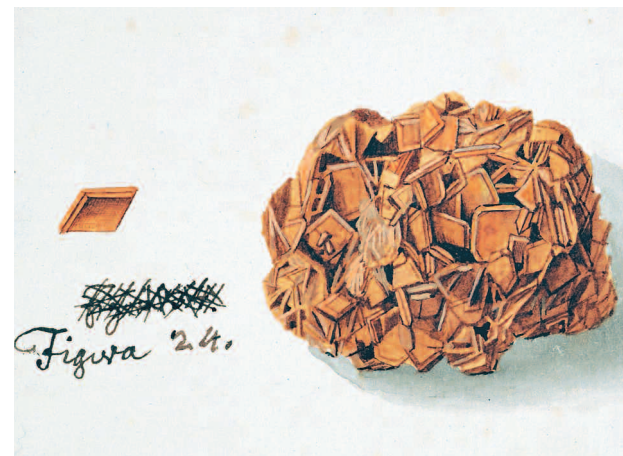
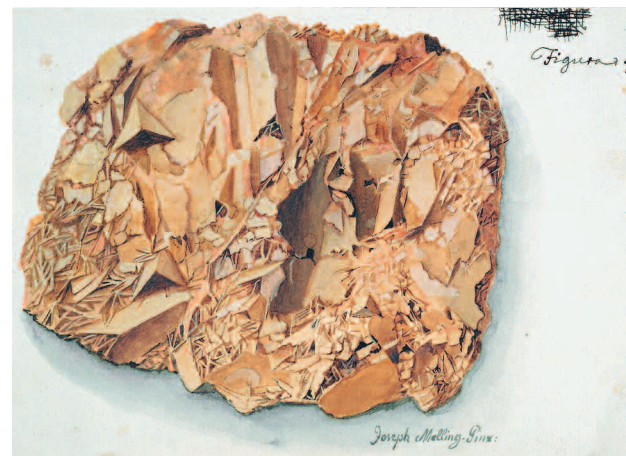
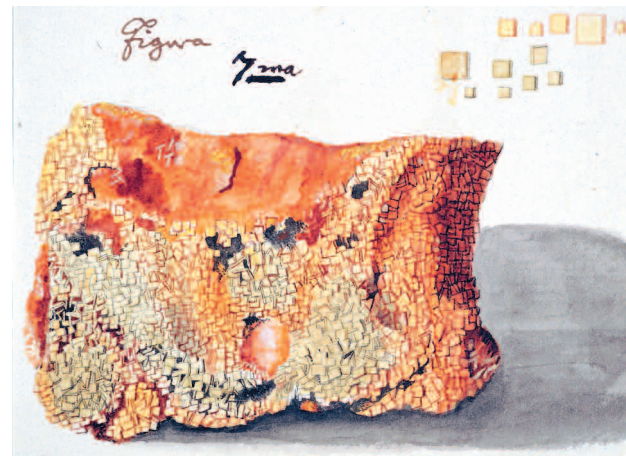




53. Franz Xaver Freiherr von Wulfen (1728–1805).

54–57. Four of Mellings hand-coloured wulfenite illustrations. The original paintings are belongings of the Natural History Museum Vienna. Photo: Alice Schumacher.

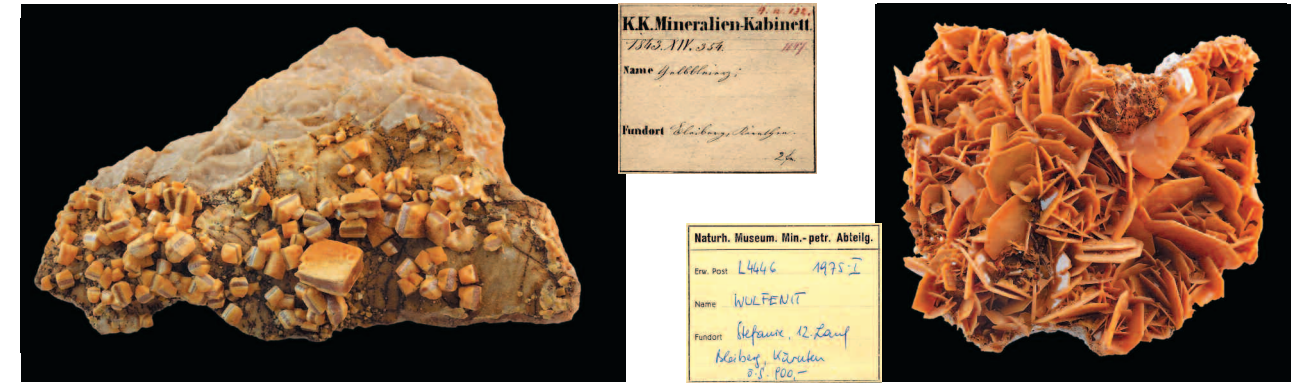


The Austrian Mineral Wulfenite. Special Exhibition at the TGMS 2019

Dr. Vera M.F. Hammer, Natural History Museum Vienna

Originally, the mineral wulfenite was named in 1772 as plumbum spatiosum flavo pellucidum, ex Annaberg, Austria by the mineralogist and metallurgist Ignaz von Born (1742–1791). In 1781, the botanist Nikolaus Joseph von Jacquin (1727–1817) called the same mineral Minera plumbi spatosa Carinthica. The mineral was renamed in Kärnthnerischer Bleyspath in 1781 and 1785 by Franz Xaver von Wulfen and in 1845 in wulfenite by the mineralogist Wilhelm Karl von Haidinger (1795–1871) in honour of Franz Xaver von Wulfen's monograph on the lead ores of Bleiberg, Carinthia, Austria. Franz Xaver von Wulfen was born in Belgrade, Serbia.

His father, Christian Friedrich von Wulfen, was a high-ranking lieutenant in the Austrian Army. His mother, née Mariassy, was a Hungarian countess. Wulfen's early education took place at the Jesuit Gymnasium in Košice, Slovakia. In 1745, at the age of 17, he joined the Order of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit order) in Vienna. After the usual two noviciate years, he first completed his knowledge of Latin and Greek and then made philosophical studies, which he supplemented by further studies with great interest in mathematics and in the natural sciences. In 1753, he became a teacher for the lower studies (grammar) in Gorizia, Italy and in 1754 an educator at



58. **Wulfenite** ('Gelbbleierz'). 9 x 6 x 2.5 cm, 106 grams. Bleiberg, Karinthia, Austria. NHM Vienna, Inv. No. An132, 1843.

59. **Wulfenite**. 8 x 6.5 x 3 cm, 96 grams. Grube Stefanie, 12 Lauf, Bleiberg, Karinthia, Austria. NHM Vienna, Inv. No. L4446, 1975, purchased from W. Knobloch, Austrian mineral dealer.

60. **Wulfenite**. 3 x 2 x 1.5 cm, 10 grams. Bleiberg, Karinthia, Austria. Donated by Franz Ritter v. Hauer, I intendant of the museum. NHM Vienna, Inv. No. D8948, 1887.

61. **Wulfenite** ('Gelbbleierz'). 12.5 x 8.5 x 4.5 cm, 456 grams. Bleiberg, Karinthia, Austria. NHM Vienna, Inv. No. An143, 1843.

the Imperial Academy Theresianum in Vienna. In 1755, he began his theological studies in Graz. Later he taught mathematics and philosophy in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Wulfen built comprehensive reference collections of natural objects found around Klagenfurt, including probably a modest collection of minerals, whose whereabouts are unknown. His observations were published in a series of well-illustrated works. One of his first books on minerals, the *Abhandlung vom kärnthnerischen Bleyspathe*, was published in 1785. The overall 46 wulfenite- and lead mineral paintings from the Bleiberg District depicted (including the 4 reprinted here), are finest hand-coloured mineral illustrations by Joseph Melling (1724–1764). In 1763, Franz Xaver von Wulfen was ordained a priest and came to Klagenfurt, Carinthia. He held various positions there: teacher of physics, mathematics, logic and metaphysics, until his retirement in 1768 and became a pastor for the Ursuline Order. Wulfen died on 16th March 1805 in Klagenfurt of pneumonia.

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Foto 54–61:
Alice Schumacher, NHM Vienna.