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BOOK REVIEW

Vladimir BERMANEC: *Sistematska mineralogija – mineralogija nesilikata*

(*Systematic Mineralogy – Non-Silicate Minerals* – in Croatian)

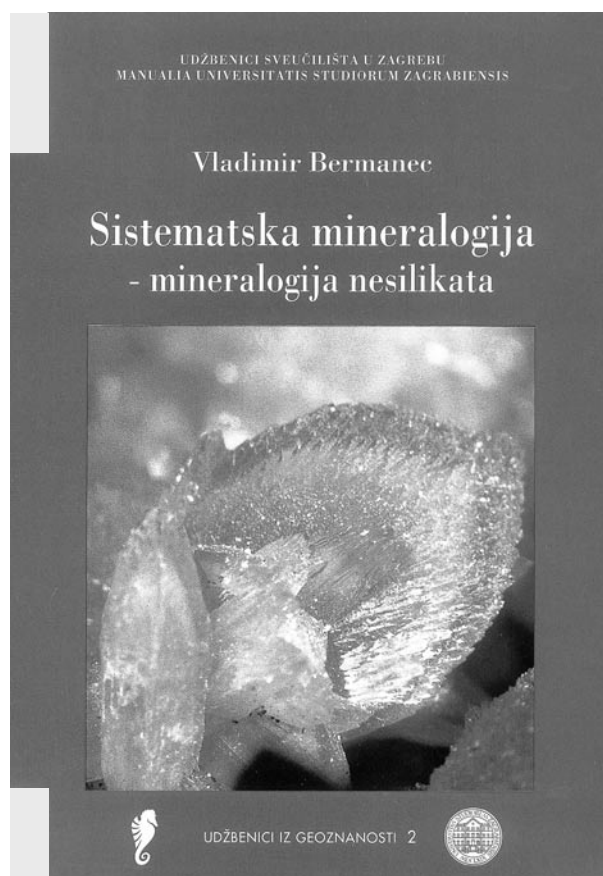
264 p., 140 illustrations, Targa, Zagreb, ISBN 953-186-045-9

This book (together with its companion volume – see this journal issue for the other book review) has in these latitudes been a long awaited text in mineralogy. It is written in Croatian, by Vladimir Bermanec, professor of mineralogy at the Faculty of Science of the University of Zagreb. The book is of great importance for Croatian mineralogists, crystallographers and geologists in general since the last textbook in systematic mineralogy was published in Croatia in 1957 (as the second, revised, edition of a textbook originally published in 1929). This formidable time-gap has now been filled with the present work, based on Bermanec's experience of 25 years of teaching mineralogy in Zagreb. It is therefore also to be appreciated that the book has been accepted by the Senate of the University of Zagreb as an official textbook of the university (*Manualia Universitatis Studiorum Zagrabienensis*).

The book is designed as an undergraduate and graduate course text for students, but is also a very useful reference for researchers as well as amateur mineral collectors. It is a traditional systematic treatment of mineral groups, as pointed out by the author in the prologue and introduction.

The Introduction explains the classification of minerals and mineral groups as used throughout the book. This classification is based on the structural and chemical similarity of minerals, and is a somewhat modified system of that used by J.D. Dana and E.S. Dana (Palache, Berman and Frondel, editors, *The System of Mineralogy*, John Wiley and Sons Inc. and Chapman and Hall Ltd., 1951). The following physical and chemical characteristics – as given for individual non-silicate minerals are explained: mineral name, formula, crystal symmetry and space group, unit cell dimensions, structure, morphology and twinning, optical constants, colour, lustre, hardness, specific gravity, cleavage, fracture characteristics, chemical composition, formation and paragenesis, occurrences, transformations and alterations, derivation of the mineral name and synonyms.

Chapters 1 through 12 then deal with the following mineral classes, including the main groups and subgroups: (1) native elements, (2) sulphides, selenides and tellurides, (3) oxides, including oxyhydroxides and hydroxides, (4) halogenides, (5) carbonates, (6) nitrates,



(7) iodates, (8) borates, (9) sulphates, including oxysalts of Se, Te and Cr, (10) phosphates, including oxysalts of As and V, (11) molybdates and wolframates, (12) organic minerals. The book ends with a mineral index of minerals mentioned in the text. There is clearly no pretence of listing all known non-silicate mineral names.

Unlike earlier textbooks and research papers written in Croatian, this work uses terminology (i.e. mineral names) in accordance with the proposals of the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) of the International Mineralogical Associa-

tion (IMA), based on the original spelling of the names of persons, localities etc. Only a few exceptions have been made in those cases where traditional Croatian names have been in frequent use for a long time.

Most of the 140 photographs have been taken and carefully edited by the author and are a highlight of the volume.

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