

## **UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED, THE “SÁNDOR KOCH MINERAL COLLECTION”**

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The “Sándor Koch Mineral Collection”, one of the most important and, at the same time, least known mineral collections of Hungary, is located in the long-standing building of the University of Szeged at the Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology.

During its eighty-year-long history, the collection has often been enlarged through donation, purchase from abroad and exchange; nevertheless, the greatest improvement is related to Professor Sándor Koch (Head of Department) whose own collection was received by the department in 1965. At the institution new mineral species were classified and wrote down by him. These are the following: fülöppite, csiklovaite, matraite and “kiscellitite”.

The collection counts approximately 4000 pieces and bears the name of this outstanding personality of Hungarian mineralogy. The systematic unit is presented in 19 glass fronted cupboards from the point of view of geochemical classification. More than half of the specimens originate from the quarries of Central Europe.

Four large glass cases shelter the irreplaceable Carpathian Basin collection, which forms the essence of the collection. The minerals, in a rather unusual way, are arranged according to the genetics of their quarries, covering the magmatic, sedimentary and metamorphic geophases one by one. The collection is significant because it gives an overall view of the mineral world of the already classic quarries of the Carpathian Basin, located in present Hungary, Slovakia and Transylvania (Romania). Most of these quarries have been closed down or worked out, and the minerals originating from them are precious members of all collections.

Hereby, we would like to present the treasures of the collection with special regards to the tellurides (hessite, nagyagite, krennerite, sylvanite) of the Apuseni Mountains, the contact metamorphic minerals (garnet series, wollastonite, hematite, sylvanite) of Bánát area, the varied mineral world of the Szatmárian mining district (sulphides, sulphosalts, barite series) and the minerals of the oxidation-cementation zone of Rudabánya. The collection also contains fascinating minerals of several quarries exposed during the baleful era of World War II.

We have already re-examined several specimens of the collection, while other problematic ones are under continuous revision.