"HISTORY OF MINERALS, ROCKS AND FOSSIL RESINS DISCOVERED IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION" – A NEW HANDBOOK

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Not only mineralogy has a long tradition in the Carpathian region but mineral species, first described from here, also have their own, sometimes a long and eventful, history. A classic example is nagyágite: first found in 1747, described at the end of the 1760s, obtained its present name in 1845 but had the first reliable structural model only in 1999. Discredited species may also have their exciting story, even if it has already been ended. Synonyms, language and spelling variants of a given mineral name are also of interest. A comprehensive review of the history of Carpathian minerals, however, had not been published earlier. To fill this gap a long-term research was begun in the 1990s. A bilingual list of valid and discredited species and names (PAPP & SZAKÁLL, 1996) and a paper containing brief case studies (PAPP, 1997) embodied preliminary results of this project. Publication of the first comprehensive topographical mineralogy of the Carpathian region (SZAKÁLL, 2002), including a geological background and some mining history, made it possible to concentrate even more on the historical aspects of the minerals of the area and to write a book that can be regarded as a kind of "historical companion" to that excellent topographical mineralogy. The first version of the book was published in Hungarian (PAPP, 2002), and now an updated, corrected and slightly rearranged English version is available (PAPP, 2004).

The book discusses the minerals (and rocks, fossil resins and hydrocarbons) that were first described from the Carpathian region (*i.e.* their type locality is in the region). Information is arranged alphabetically into 230 entries corresponding to mineral names. They include modern scientific names (terminated by -ite or -ine), outdated scientific names (like descriptive, systematic or chemical names), "popular" or "trivial" names and miners' terms and their spelling variants or misspellings, collected from international handbooks and papers.

For each entry the chemical formula and symmetry of the mineral (or an explanation of non-species or invalid species names), a reference to the first publication of the name, history of the mineral, type locality and etymological data are given. The historical part of the entries summarises the most important steps of the research history of the mineral from its discovery and reviews the subsequent changes of its status. Details of the descriptions taken from the original papers (given in PAPP, 2002) are omitted but a selection of their data (chemical analyses and basic crystallographic data) is given in tables. 592 synonyms and spelling variants are listed as cross-references and their data are appended to the relevant entry. The chapters on rocks and fossil resins contain 23 and 21 entries plus 19 and 32 cross-reference entries, respectively. The text is illustrated by 85 black and white (mainly crystallographic) drawings.

Localities mentioned in the entries are listed in a table with their co-ordinates and most of them are shown in a sketch map. Type localities are briefly described in a separate chapter containing 10 historical pictures.

Biographical data of 59 eponyms of minerals (persons, whose name was given to the species) along with 49 portraits are given in a special chapter. Further 12 portraits are included in the second page of the volume.

Detailed bibliographical data of ~1270 references cited in the text can be found in the reference list.

Advice and help was given by many colleagues of the countries of the region, among them A. Gawęda (Poland), Gh. Damian, V. Gorduza, Gh. Ilinca, D. Pop, Gh. Udubaşa (Romania), M. Chovan, R. Ďuďa, M. Orvošova, D. Ozdín (Slovakia) and V. M. Kvasnytsya (Ukraine) can be mentioned first. Some of the chapters were reviewed by F. Pertlik (minerals), F. Koller, Gy. Lelkes-Felvári, Gy. Szakmány (rocks), M. Hámor-Vidó, N. Vávra (fossil resins and hydrocarbons), J. Földessy, I. Gatter (locality descriptions). Special thanks are due to C. J. Stanley (NHM, London) for the English editing. Publication of the book was sponsored by the grant of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the National Cultural Fund of Hungary (2312/0348) and by the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Further data on the book together with downloadable pages, list of corrections and additions are available at http://www.nhmus.hu/~pappmin/pg_hp_studia15_1.html.

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