

## INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The First Congress of the International Mineralogical Association was held at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland, on August 28 to September 4, 1959. Delegates attended from 19 of the 21 countries presently members of the Association. The Executive Committee of the IMA is composed of R. L. Parker (Zürich), President; F. E. Wickman (Stockholm), First Vice-President; D. P. Grigoriev (Leningrad), Second Vice-President; J. L. Amorós (Madrid), Secretary; D. J. Fisher (Chicago), Treasurer; T. Ito (Tokyo), E. Onorato (Rome), J. Orcel (Paris) as Councilors; and G. F. Claringbull (London), Advisory Member.

The work of the IMA centers about its Commissions. At the present time four Commissions have been formed: on Abstracts (E. Onorato, Chm., and N. F. Henry, Secy.); on Mineral Data (H. Strunz, Chm., and A. Pabst, Secy.); on New Minerals and Mineral Names (M. Fleischer, Chm., and C. Guillemin, Secy.) and on Museums (C. Frondel, Chm., and F. Leutwein, Secy.). The Commissions include representatives (in some instances also committees) from each of the countries that are members of the Association. The Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names is primarily concerned with setting forth criteria for the definition and naming of new species and varieties and with the resolution of existing problems of nomenclature. The Mineral Data Commission presently is concerned with questions of the symbolization of the physical properties and the chemical and structural formulae of minerals. The Museum Commission has started the compilation of a World List of Mineral Collections, that will briefly characterize all permanent collections as to size and content; a following objective is to prepare finding-lists of type material and of analyzed and described material in these collections.

Following the business meetings of the Association, two Symposia of invited papers were held on the subjects of Twinning (participants: H. Curien, J. D. H. Donnay, M. J. Buerger, T. Ito, A. Neuhaus, F. Laves, I. Sunagawa, W. T. Holser) and on Alpine Fissure Minerals (participants: R. L. Parker, D. P. Grigoriev, G. Fagnani, K. Lietz). Two four-day field trips were taken by bus through the eastern and the western Alps after the close of the meeting.

Copies of the detailed proceedings of the Zurich meeting will be available from the Secretary, Prof. J. L. Amorós, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Castellana 84, Madrid, Spain. The next meeting of the IMA will be held in Copenhagen in 1960 in conjunction with the XXI International Geological Congress. At that time round-table discussions will be held on proposals for the formation of Commissions on the nomenclature of petrology and on education in mineralogy and related sciences.

## THE FRIEDRICH BECKE MEDAL

The Friedrich Becke Medal of the Mineralogical Society of Austria was presented to Professor Clifford Frondel of Harvard University at the Zurich meeting of the International Mineralogical Association.

## MINERALOGICAL ABSTRACTS

The councils of the Mineralogical Society of America and the Mineralogical Society (Great Britain and Ireland) are jointly sponsoring the publication of Mineralogical Abstracts as a separate publication, commencing with volume 14 for 1959.

The new journal has a two-column format with a page size of  $(10\frac{3}{8} \times 7\frac{1}{8})$  and will contain at the outset about twice the number of abstracts in the present issues. The journal will be published quarterly and the fourth number will include an index for the year.

Mineralogical Abstracts will be grouped under the following headings:

Age-determination  
Apparatus and techniques  
Bibliographies  
Clay minerals  
Crystal structure of minerals  
Experimental mineralogy  
Geochemistry  
Gemstones  
History and biography  
Meteorites and tektites  
Mineral data  
New minerals  
Notices of books  
Ore deposits and economic mineralogy  
Petrology  
Physical properties of minerals  
Topographical mineralogy  
Various topics

The price of the new journal to subscribers other than personal members of the two sponsoring societies will be \$9. U. S. per calendar year issue of 4 numbers. There will be a special price of \$6. for educational institutions.\*

It is proposed to make the journal available to personal members of the Mineralogical Society of America at \$3. per calendar year. Members of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, who already receive the abstracts as part of their privileges of membership, will continue to receive Mineralogical Abstracts for an increase in the annual membership fee of 10s.

\* The price of the Mineralogical Magazine when separated from Mineralogical Abstracts will be reduced to £2 10s. 0d. per calendar year issue of 4 numbers.

AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION  
SECTION OF VULCANOLOGY, GEOCHEMISTRY AND PETROLOGY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The planning for the meeting of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Helsinki, Finland next summer has begun. The American Geophysical Union will participate in the sessions of the I.U.G.G. as a member organization. Although the I.U.G.G. will meet from July 25 through August 6, we are planning to have our sessions during the first week (July 25-30) to allow time for these who plan to attend field excursions of the International Geologic Congress. (Copenhagen August 15-25).

In order to facilitate the presentation of a program to the I.U.G.G., a committee has been set up with the Section of Vulcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology to assemble such a program. This committee is composed of A. O. Nier, T. Aldrich, I. Friedman, S. Goldich, F. Schairer, and R. L. Smith.