



Austrian Mineralogical Society



www.univie.ac.at/OeMG

HISTORY

The Austrian Mineralogical Society is one of the oldest mineralogical societies in the world. Initially founded as the Wiener Mineralogische Gesellschaft in 1901, this society was renamed the Österreichische Mineralogische Gesellschaft (ÖMG) in 1947.

The current membership of the ÖMG is spread throughout Austria, although an increasing number of members come from other countries, partly through scientific collaboration and partly due to the mobility of the Austrian members. Society members work in all disciplines of the mineralogical sciences. One of the ÖMG's major aims is to distribute knowledge of the mineralogical sciences to all interested persons; this is partly done by collaborating with mineralogical museums. Bringing together academic and professional mineralogists with mineral collectors and with the interested public is a special focus of the ÖMG. Mineral collectors' knowledge of mineral localities and finds of unique samples are highly welcome and too-often neglected by the scientific community. Lectures on mineralogical topics at different levels are regularly organized by university-based mineralogical institutes and museums, and the ÖMG sponsors joint meetings and field excursions.

Initially, news from ÖMG were printed in journals such as the *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie Mineralogische und Petrographische Mitteilungen* (later renamed *Tschermaks Mineralogische und Petrographische Mitteilungen* but now known simply as *Mineralogy and Petrology*). Since 1969, the *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Mineralogischen Gesellschaft* has been published yearly as a separate journal. This journal includes society news, abstracts of scientific contributions to meetings, and original contributions. (see www.uibk.ac.at/mineralogie/oemg/).

AWARDS

The ÖMG presents four awards to persons with special merits in the mineralogical sciences and in the society. Individuals of outstanding international reputation, who publish important contributions to the mineralogical sciences, as well as those who render outstanding services to the society, may be elected by the General Assembly as an **Honorary Member (Ehrenmitglied)**. Among the first in the long list of such members were Viktor Mordechai Goldschmidt, Rudolf Koechlin and Isidor Weinberger. Current Honorary Members of the ÖMG include Walter Postl, Anton Preisinger, Richard Tessadri, Ekkehart Tillmanns and Josef Zemann.

In 1955, the ÖMG introduced the **Friedrich Becke Medal** for internationally renowned scientists with strong links to the mineralogical sciences in Austria. The medal is awarded in memory of Friedrich

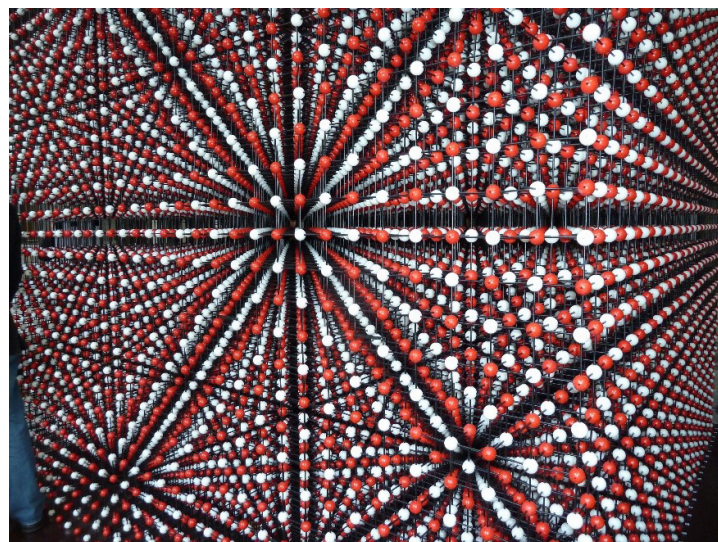


The Friedrich Becke Medal designed by Arnold Hartig (1878–1972; member of the Vienna Künstlerhaus)

Johann Karl Becke (1855–1931), who held a number of professorial appointments across the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Amongst other positions, he was Rector at the University of Vienna, and editor of the *Mineralogische und Petrographische Mitteilungen*. Becke's research focused on magmatic and metamorphic rocks and their classification. He improved the determination of rock-forming minerals by means of their light-refractive properties the Becke line technique for determining the relative refractive indices of two minerals. Those who have been awarded the Friedrich-Becke-Medal include Thomas Armbruster (Switzerland), Petr Černý (Canada), Dmitry Grigoriev (Russia), Wilhelm Heinrich (Germany), Klaus Langer (Germany), Emil Makovicky (Denmark), Dmitry Pushcharovsky (Russia), George R. Rossman (USA) and Friedrich Seifert (Germany).

The **Felix Machatschki Prize**, established in 1995, is awarded to young scientists who have demonstrated scientific potential early in their carrier. Recipients include Ronald Miletich (1998), Rainer Abart (1999), Peter Tropper (2004), Günther J. Redhammer (2004), Robert Krickl (2010) and Hannes Krüger (2012). The prize is named after the distinguished Austrian mineralogist **Karl Ludwig Felix Machatschki** (1895–1970). Machatschki studied at the University of Graz and joined the groups of Victor Moritz Goldschmidt in Oslo (Norway) and W. L. Bragg in Manchester (UK). He became professor at the Universities of Tübingen and Munich (both Germany) before he was appointed Professor of Mineralogy in Vienna (1944). He made great contributions to the study of feldspars and developed a concept of the atomic arrangement in silicates.

A special honour bestowed by the ÖMG is the title of **Honorary President (Ehrenpräsident)**. Although it was only formally included into the society's statutes in 1934, it had been previously awarded. Recipients of this honour have been Gustav Tschermak (1911), Friedrich Becke (1931), Josef Emanuel Hibschi (1932), Hermann Julius Tertsch (1969) and Hans Wieseneder (1971). On 24 May 2013, the title of Honorary President of the ÖMG was awarded to Josef Zemann, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.



This model of the structure of halite was built by Robert Krickl and exhibited in Vienna's Town Hall in 2015. At 3 m tall, it is recognized in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the largest 3D-model of an atomic structure.

ÖMG'S MINPET MEETINGS

Since 1987, members of the ÖMG meet every second year at what is termed the MinPet (for mineralogy and petrology) meeting. This meeting is organized in turn by the mineralogical institutes in Graz, Innsbruck, Leoben, Salzburg, and Vienna. In addition, joint meetings have been co-organized with the other European societies and several international conferences have been sponsored by the ÖMG. These include the EMC meetings, the 5th European Conference on Mineralogy and Spectroscopy (2004), the EMU School on Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy (2004), and the 2005 International Eclogite Conference.

A special event was the 100th anniversary of ÖMG's foundation in 2001, which was, appropriately, held in Vienna.

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