

PREAMBLE

I am probably not alone in feeling frustrated when I want to consult an IMA-sanctioned report on nomenclature. I end up wasting time retrieving it. Such reports, published in several mineralogical journals over the past twenty years, contain the rules and regulations about all aspects of the nomenclature of minerals. Yet not all journals chosen by the IMA to disseminate these reports contain all of them. Wouldn't it be great if all such reports could be found bound between two covers? I have increasingly felt the urge to compile, in booklet form, and for largely selfish reasons, the reports that I routinely refer to in my work as editor. I proposed this project to the Executive Committee of the Mineralogical Association of Canada. What better timing than 1998, when the Mineralogical Association of Canada hosts the Seventeenth General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association? My project was approved, and here is the result. I hope that you also will find it useful in your work as author or editor.

In preparing this booklet, I had a regular exchange of correspondence with Dr. Ernest H. Nickel, outgoing Vice-Chairman of the Committee on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN). I thank him for his strong support, and for his suggestions about what should be included in the booklet. All but two reports selected for inclusion have appeared in *The Canadian Mineralogist*. The other two are reprinted from *American Mineralogist*. I thank Dr. J. Alexander Speer, Administrator, Mineralogical Society of America, for permission to reprint these. In one of the reports, that on pyrochlore-group minerals, Dr. Donald D. Hogarth provided an appendix that brings his 1978 report up-to-date.

In addition to the IMA reports on mineral nomenclature, this booklet contains a table of the Kretz symbols of commonly encountered minerals. Ralph Kretz recognized, in his widely quoted paper in *American Mineralogist* in 1983 (volume **68**, pages 277-279), that it was counterproductive for individual authors to coin their own set of symbols, such that among individual articles in a single issue of a journal, one could find a half-dozen symbols for the same mineral. The Kretz symbols have largely eliminated this problem, and new "Kretz-type" symbols keep cropping up in papers that I edit. I present here a compilation of symbols for convenience, and with the approval of the author, in the hope that they will be found helpful in the design of tables and figures.

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