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To the 100th Anniversary of the Death of VICTOR LEOPOLD Ritter von ZEPHAROVICH

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*Mineralogy
Biography*

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Zur hundertsten Wiederkehr des Todestages von VICTOR LEOPOLD Ritter von ZEPHAROVICH

Zusammenfassung

Der Artikel beschäftigt sich mit den Lebensdaten und den wichtigsten Stationen der Karriere des berühmten Mineralogen.

Abstract

The paper deals with the biography and the most important data of the career of the famous mineralogist.

1. Short Curriculum Vitae

He was born on April 13, 1830, in Vienna as the eldest son of the Court secretary at the Ministry of Finance, DANIEL Ritter von ZEPHAROVICH. He passed through a grammar school in Vienna. He started the study of law at the Vienna University in 1848, since he was predetermined by his father for a clerical career. Nevertheless, in the meantime he had already been interested in mineralogy and he attended a course on mineralogy given by WILHELM HAIDINGER. After two years he left his study of law and came to the famous Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica (Schemnitz). He completed his study there with excellent results after only two years, while normally it had lasted for

four years. In 1851 he came back to Vienna where he was working at first as a volunteer in the Court mineral cabinet and since 1852 till 1857 he had been working as a geologist in the Imperial Geological Institute (Geologische Reichsanstalt) under the leading of Wilhelm HAIDINGER. During that period he made a number of geological maps of a great part of southern and southwestern Bohemia, mainly the neighbourhood of the towns Písek and Klatovy. He described in detail the geological situation in the vicinity of the towns Strakonice, Nepomuk, Kašperské Hory and others. In the year 1857 he was named the professor of mineralogy at the Cracow university in Poland on the basis of a HAIDINGER's recommendation. In 1861 when this university became quite Polish, ZEPHAROVICH moved to the

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Graz University in the same position. He took part there in the founding of the Natural History Club in Styria (Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein für Steiermark) and in addition he was the first secretary of that club. In 1864 he came to Prague, to the Charles-Ferdinand University, where he was professor of mineralogy till his death on February 24, 1890.

2. His Activity at the Prague University

In 1864 when ZEPHAROVICH started his activity in Prague, the Department of Mineralogy was a part of the Faculty of Philosophy and the courses on mineralogy were only parts of the medical and pharmaceutical teaching programmes, not an independent subject of study. The university was at that time in the building of the former Jesuitical College called Klementinum (now the seat of the National Library in Prague). ZEPHAROVICH obtained for the Department of Mineralogy new rooms in that building and some new scientific instruments as well. In addition, he began to organize a special reference mineralogical library. He founded and together with his co-workers built up a rich crystallographical collection with bigger models, as a supplement to a plaster models collection bought previously from F. X.M. ZIPPE's inheritance. He founded a terminological collection as well.

He was an excellent teacher, his lectures were clear and intelligible and he always used minerals, crystals, models and wall pictures as teaching aids. The wall pictures made for his courses were published in Prague in 1877 under the title: "Krystallographische Wandtafeln zu Vorträgen über Mineralogie". He used for his lessons mostly the textbooks of C.F. NAUMANN (*Elemente der Mineralogie, Lehrbuch der Geognosie*). In 1872 he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. His lectures dealt with general mineralogy, special mineralogy, crystallography, morphological and physical properties of minerals, crystallographical projections and mineralogical exercises. He attached talented students to mineralogy and he chose some of them as his assistants. The most important persons among them were EMANUEL BOŘICKÝ (1840–1881) and KAREL VRBA (1845–1922), his later successors in the Czech part of the already divided university. BOŘICKÝ was an excellent petrographer and one of the founders of a new discipline, microchemistry. VRBA was a mineralogist, later the first professor of mineralogy at the Czech University in Prague and the curator of mineralogy at the National Museum in Prague. The mineral collection of the National Museum is up to now arranged near the original shape made by VRBA for the new museum building in 1891. In 1880 the university moved to a new building in Viničná street, where the conditions were far better for the work and for the collection than in Klementinum. Here it is necessary to say that at the Prague University all the lectures were held in German till 1871, when the first Czech professorships were founded (BOŘICKÝ). In 1882 the university was divided into two parts, the Czech one and the German one. ZEPHAROVICH stayed with all the material (buildings, collections etc.) at the German part, while VRBA became the first professor of mineralogy at the Czech university.

ZEPHAROVICH has had a credit for the university mineral collection. He revised and arranged it newly according to the J.D. DANA system (1868). He kept carefully the inventory of that collection (written by his co-workers). He enriched the collection, the largest acquisition was a pur-

chase of a lot of doublets from the well-known collection of the Abbot of the Strahov monastery, ZEIDLER. The collection under his leading reached the amount of 10.578 minerals and 3.300 crystallographical models (incl. ZIPPE's models made of plaster and KRANTZ's models made of cherry wood). This collection is now a part of the mineral collection of the Charles University in Prague. Friedrich BECKE (1855–1931) became the successor of ZEPHAROVICH after his death in 1890.

3. His Scientific Work

ZEPHAROVICH's scientific works are known for the precise and reliable data (of course, with regard to his possibilities at that time). He wrote more than 100 papers on mineralogy and about 22 papers on crystallography of chemical compounds. Most of his work dealt with crystallography and descriptive mineralogy. He described seven new mineral species, two of them remained valid up to now. There were: Strakonitzite (1853) described from Mutěnice, Bohemia, now discredited (talc pseudomorph after pyroxene); Jaulingite (1855) described from Jauling near St. Veit, Austria, now discredited (amber-like resin); Barrandite (1867) described from Cerhovice, Bohemia, now discredited (Al-strengite); Sphaerite (1867) described from Zaječov, Bohemia, now discredited (variscite); Diaphorite (1871) described from Příbram, Bohemia; Korynite (1872) described from Olsa, Kärnten, Austria, now discredited (a mixture of gersdorffite and ullmanite) and Syngenite (1873) described from Kalusch, Ukraine.

He published mostly in the following journals:

- Sitzungsberichte der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien.
- Lotos.
- Zeitschrift für Krystallographie und Mineralogie.
- Jahrbuch der k.k. Geologischen Reichsanstalt.

His largest work was the "Mineralogisches Lexicon für das Kaiserthum Österreich" in three volumes, which is very worth source of information up to now. In this work there are listed all the known minerals from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy together with their localities and with the list of literature. The first volume was published in 1858, the second one in 1873 (the data from the years 1858–1872) and the third one was completed and published by F. BECKE after the death of ZEPHAROVICH in 1893. BECKE except for supplements and critical comments compiled a very worth index of localities and minerals for all the three volumes.

Among many other papers of ZEPHAROVICH we mention here a series of papers on epidote (7 works). The work "Über die Krystallformen des Epidots" (Sitzber., 1859) is an outline of up to that time known epidote crystal faces (two new crystal faces discovered ZEPHAROVICH on the epidote crystal from Zermatt). It includes a table of the angle values and stereographical projection. In the work "Berichtigungen und Ergänzungen meiner Abhandlungen über die Krystallformen des Epidots" (Sitzber., 1862) he announced further two new faces discovered by more precise measurements of Zermatt epidote and he compiled a new table of angle values due to new discoveries of N. KOKSCHAROW in Russia. He mentioned 57 crystal faces and gave a stereographical projection. ZEPHAROVICH described epidote from some localities in the vicinity of Sobotín (Zöptau), Moravia. He measured 11 crystal faces on

the excellently developed crystals and twins from Storchberg. The crystals from Rauchbeerstein had an unusual habit, they were short tabular.

In Gastein he found epidote as a common mineral. The complex crystals of epidote associated with pyroxene he described from the Krimmler Achental and the Stubachtal.

In 1869 he published the first report of the famous epidote occurrence in Knappenwand, Untersulzbachtal. He got some excellent epidote crystals from Knappenwand from Andreas Bergmann, mineral dealer from Innsbruck for determination. There were crystals up to 6 cm long, biterminated, 2 cm thick. He measured and described them in detail at that paper.

4. Conclusion

ZEPHAROVICH's excellent educational and scientific activity was highly acknowledged. He was a member of numerous scientific societies, he became in 1865 a corresponding member and in 1885 a regular member of the Academy of the Sciences in Vienna, since 1864 he was a member of the Czech Learned Society (Česká učená společnost) and for 10 years he was the chairman of the Lotos club.

He was named in 1866 the Oberbergrath and in 1883 the Hofrath. BOŘICKÝ (1869) named on his honour a new aluminum phosphate from Třenice, Bohemia zepharovichite (now discredited, wavellite).

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