

The "Societät für die gesammte Mineralogie zu Jena" – Members and minerals from Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary

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The "Societät für die gesammte Mineralogie zu Jena" is the first purely geoscientific society in the world. It was founded in 1797 by Johann Georg Lenz (Fig. 1) at the University of Jena, Germany, and its members were scattered all over the globe. Of the more than 2,500 known members, particularly many members came from the then Hungarian region (i.e. today's Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania). These members sent minerals and rocks from their home countries from localities that are often no longer accessible today. The members established networks and in Hungary a Hungarian Mineralogical Society was founded following the Jena model. Famous contemporaries such as Johann Rudolf von Gersdorff, Daniel Mihalyik, or Christian Andreas Zipsler can be found among the members. Not all members were mineralogists, many teachers, also theologians, and pharmacists were among them. But the occupation with the formations, parageneses, and formation conditions of the minerals united them.



Figure 1. Johann Georg Lenz (1745-1832).

Domokos Teleki de Szék was elected the first president of the Society. He died unexpectedly already in his first year in office. A gift collection of opals from Červenica, Slovakia, among others, which he had initiated, reached Jena only after his death.

When they arrived at the Mineralogical Collection in Jena, the gift collections received were arranged chronologically, according to their arrival. So were for example K-Feldspars from Karlovy Vary area with pyromorphites from different European areas and granites from Silesia side by side on display. Over the many years and after several moves, these gift suites were torn apart and systematically sorted into the collection that has now existed for more than 240 years. With the help of the catalogs and member letters, more than 6,500 specimen could be reassigned to the original suites in recent years.

Kreher-Hartmann B (2014): Die Mineralogische Societät zu Jena – Beiträge aus den Sammlungen der Universität Jena, Bd. 3

Lenz G Schwabe (1823): Neue Schriften der Großherzoglich-S. - Societät für die Gesammte Mineralogie in Jena 1, Neustadt, O