

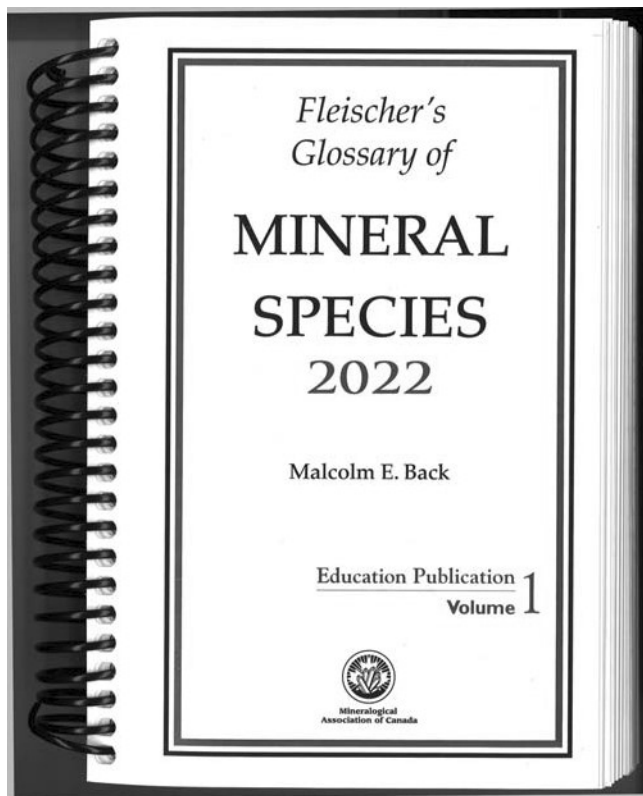
# BOOK REVIEWS

## *Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species 2022*

By Malcolm E. Back

This latest edition of Fleischer's Glossary has the familiar feel of an old friend, admittedly much heavier with age, as well as sporting a new production organization. The Mineralogical Record is no longer the producer, but rather the Mineralogical Association of Canada has fortunately taken on the mantle.

The first edition, published back in 1971, was a skinny affair, compiled by Michael Fleischer. It was a mere 103 pages, plus a 17 page appendix, perfect bound, and relatively inexpensive, listing just accepted mineral names and chemical formula. Under Joe Mandarino, it evolved into "the species collectors' bible", with little boxes to check adjacent to each mineral name, with more and more data added.



The current edition is weighty, spiral bound, and 431 pages! There are seven pages of journal abbreviations, as well as brief discussions about groups and series. Each mineral now has chemical formula, crystal system, type locality, at least one published reference, and an indication of what mineral group/supergroup to which it belongs. The explosion of new minerals has contributed to the 2022 edition's size, but so has the amount of data presented for each mineral. Thankfully, that little box to check is still there, too.

Other improvements include recently discredited mineral names, those minerals that are considered as questionable, six pages (!) of approved but as yet unpublished new minerals, and an astounding 107 page appendix devoted to the latest rendering of mineral groups, as approved by the IMA.

I am delighted that MAC has taken over the publication of the glossary, presented to the world as their Education Publication Volume 1. The 2022 edition is available from the Mineralogical Association of Canada via their website for \$45.00 (Cnd in Canada, US\$ in USA) plus shipping: (<https://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/publications/education-publications/fleischers-glossary-of-mineral-species-2022/>), and MAC members qualify for a 20% discount, or from the Mineralogical Record ([https://mineralogicalrecord.com/book\\_list/fleischers-glossary-of-mineral-species-2022/](https://mineralogicalrecord.com/book_list/fleischers-glossary-of-mineral-species-2022/)) at the same \$45.00 plus shipping price.

While one might argue that on-line resources such as Mindat.org have rendered paper unnecessary, I still find comfort in having a quick reference at my side without the need of a computer. The Glossary is a viable and useful reference work, easily carried to shows, and an essential tool when curating or cataloging one's collection.

Tony Nikischer

## **Mineral Identification Manual** *Clues from Their Geological Provenance*

By George W. & Susan M. Robinson  
and Jeffrey R. Chiarenzelli

This is the Mineralogical Association of Canada's Volume 2 in its newly launched Education Publication Series. Like Fleischer's Glossary 2022 (which was Volume 1), this title is a MAC exclusive, and an important step in expanding MAC's outreach to collectors. Numbering just over 200 pages, it is spiral bound in an 8 x10 inch format, with glossy cover and color images throughout. The work takes a new approach to an old issue of mineral identification, adding the logical and critically important step of adding geological context to the usual equation of common physical properties.

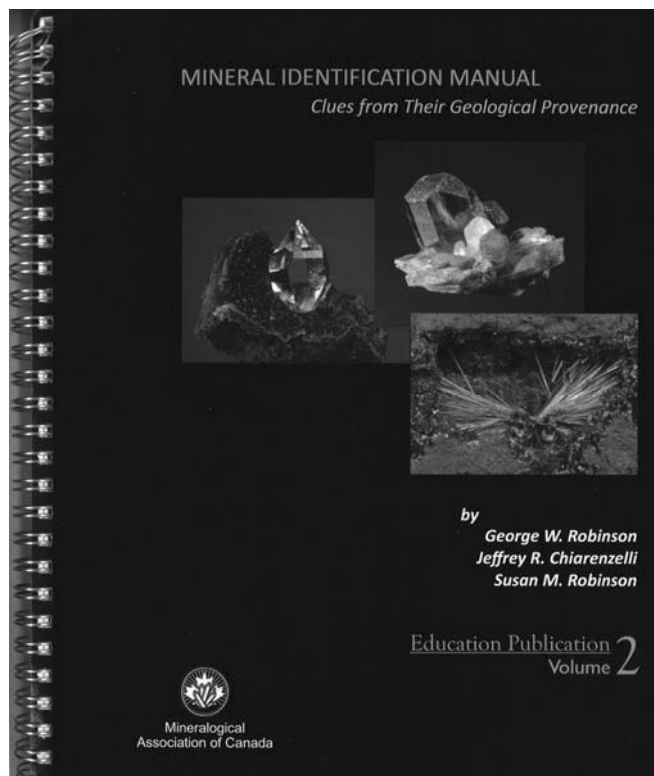
In the opening five-page preface, the authors note that understanding the physical and chemical conditions operative in different geological environments enables one to predict which minerals are likely to be present in a given rock, and which will not. This aspect of mineral formation understanding is typically missing in virtually all previous "process of elimination" attempts to provide collectors with tables of physical properties in order to reach a tentative identification of an unknown mineral.

The authors have compiled 15 different geological environments, resulting in 15 different physical property tables that  
(Continued on page 10)

## Mineral Identification Manual

(Continued from page 9)

offer hardness, specific gravity, cleavage, and “other” (color/fluorescence, streak, crystal shape etc.) characteristics of likely minerals to be found in that environment. An overview of rock forming minerals, and how to distinguish common species from one another (hematite vs. goethite vs. psilomelane, or graphite vs. molybdenite) are presented as illustrative uses of physical property tests. Instructions are provided for how to use the tables, and most importantly, enable one to describe and distinguish among the various geological environments so that the proper table is used. It is assumed that the collector knows the difference between a schist and a serpentine and can distinguish among broad ranges of common rock types, of course.



The tables consume some 174 pages. Beginning with granites and granite pegmatites, minerals commonly found in each environment are noted, as well as their associated species, and a table of physical properties is offered that will help differentiate the common minerals within that environment. Although far from being mineralogically all-inclusive, the most likely candidates can be found. Each of the 15 chapters is well illustrated, with images primarily from the St. Lawrence University collection, as well as images from Excalibur Mineral Corp., the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, and others. Over 475 color images are presented throughout the texts.

A six page glossary follows the last chapter, and an 18 page index (called a Mineral Locator Table and a Rock Locator Table), enables the user to locate where in the book the species or rock type is illustrated, its chemistry and or other important characteristics.

I found this interesting approach to “process of elimination” identification a refreshing, new way to deal with distinguishing common minerals found in the field without sophisticated analytical equipment. My only negative observation has to do with the paper used inside the sturdy covers: it is relatively lightweight, flat in its finish, and does the images little service. A slightly sturdier stock with a semi-gloss finish might have added some cost, but the improved long-term wear and tear and reproduction quality of otherwise useful images would have been better received.

This useful manual is available from the Mineralogical Association of Canada online store:

([https://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/devOnline/online\\_order\\_form.php?display=Special+Publication+Series](https://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/devOnline/online_order_form.php?display=Special+Publication+Series)) for \$55 (Cdn in Canada, US\$ in the US), with MAC members receiving a 20% discount.

*Tony Nikischer*

### Advertise Here!

This space could be yours for as little as \$25.00 per issue. Call or email us:  
[info@mineralnews.com](mailto:info@mineralnews.com) 434-964-0875



### Best Portable 365 nm UV Ever!

These are the Way Too Cool high intensity LED UV flashlights, far superior in performance and power, with a full 6 watts of focused output.

Don't be fooled by the cheap knockoffs on eBay and elsewhere, these are the patented, second generation devices that will ignite your fluorescent minerals with surprising brilliance! We were amazed by the response from seemingly ordinary specimens. Each unit includes the compact metal, LED 365 nm UV flashlight, two rechargeable L-ion cells, and a charger as well, all for just \$69— plus shipping. Order from:



**Excalibur Mineral Corporation**  
 1885 Seminole Trl—Ste 202  
 Charlottesville, VA 22901-1160  
 T: 434-964-0875  
 E: [info@excaliburmineral.com](mailto:info@excaliburmineral.com)