

Symposium on Sulfosalts, Binn (CH), August 9 & 10, 2014

Most attendees arrived already Friday evening to the historic hotel Ofenhorn in the remote Binn valley. The first International Symposium on Sulfosalts could start in time Saturday morning with three welcome messages from the original initiator of the event, professor Luca Bindi (Florence, photo on the right), from the mayor of Binn, Beat Tenisch, and from the present FGL president, Philippe Roth.



A series of talks followed on different aspects of the Lengenbach mineralogy. A special mention goes to the personal flashback given by professor Stefan Graeser on his 55-year long carrier, devoted to a large part to the study of this intriguing locality. At the end of his talk he was honored by the FGL (Thomas Raber) and received a large, glossy paper photograph of a nice graeserite specimen (photo on the left).



After lunch new sessions followed, both by collectors and by scientists on the Lengenbach mineralogy, with a special focus on the very complex crystal structures of Lengenbach sulfosalts. A series of talks on other famous thallium minerals localities closed the afternoon session. After dinner Luca Bindi held a fascinating evening lecture about the discovery of the first natural quasicrystals and its long reaching implications (Bindi

had given nearly the same talk in Florence: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCQ2lc58w00>).

Sunday morning was devoted to a strange anomaly in the Jura mountains and to other localities in and around the Binntal. The first participants with a long journey in front of them left the valley while the other enjoyed an aperitif offered by the community of Binn, taken – thanks to the improved weather – in the hotel garden (see photo on the right). The group then moved to the local mineral museum, located next door and later to the quarry for a short visit (see photo below).



The unanimous feeling, perceived by the organizers, by the speakers and by the more passive attendees, was that the event was a success. A few reasons can be identified which contributed to this success. (a) The location: the historic hotel shared during these two days with ‘normal’ guests enjoying their vacation away from stressful cities, (b) the informal and familiar character of the meeting with a limited number of persons

with different backgrounds, (c) the fact that many attendees met again for the first time after a long period (e.g. P. Berlepsch – D. Topa or S. Graeser – J. Brugger) and (d) a pan free organization.



Clockwise from the upper left picture: J. Brugger, St. Graeser and P. Berlepsch – L. Bindi, D. Topa and M. Ecker – J. Brugger, N. Meisser, B. Etschmann, F. Mouron and P. Grundler – M. Ecker, D. Topa and G. Tremmel – M. Crumbach, St. Graeser, A. Guastoni and St. Cuchet – Coffee break.



Clockwise from the upper left picture: Visit of the local mineral museum – J. Meyer, St. Graeser, D. Topa and R. Cannon – E. Drechsler and St. Graeser – Ph. Roth and G. Favreau – Visit of the quarry – St. Cuchet, M. Crumbach, A. Guastoni and C. Albertini.

Text: P. Roth, photos: T. Raber (but one by G. Favreau).