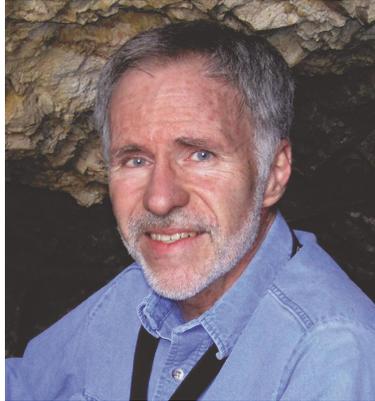


Friday February, 12 2021 ZOOM Presentation

The Journey from an Unknown to a New Mineral



Presented by Dr. Anthony R. Kampf

There are now more than 5600 known mineral species and that number is growing by more than 100 each year. The long-held notion that there is a limit to the number of mineral species does not account for the existence of exotic geologic and geochemical environments (some extraterrestrial), which continue to come to light and others that have only recently been explored. Mineralogy books tell us about some of the basic tests (streak, hardness, cleavage, density, etc.) that can be used to identify a mineral; while such properties are important in characterizing minerals, they have limited usefulness when it comes to unambiguously identifying an exotic phase, or determining that it is a new mineral. Tony Kampf will lead us on the journey from the finding of an unknown mineral through its description as something new to Science – a journey that he has now taken more times than anyone else in the world.

Dr. Anthony (Tony) R. Kampf discovered mineralogy and crystallography as an undergraduate chemistry major at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He received his B.S. in chemistry (1970) and his M.S. in mineralogy and crystallography (1972) from that institution. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago under the mentorship of the inimitable Prof. Paul Brian Moore who introduced Tony to the thrill of discovering and characterizing new minerals, using both classical and modern techniques. After receiving his Ph.D. in mineralogy and crystallography in 1976, Tony joined the staff of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County at the beginning of 1977. He has spent his entire 44-year professional career at the museum, serving more than 34 years as Curator (including 31 as head of the Mineral Sciences Department) and the past 10 years as Curator Emeritus. Tony has more than 450 publications and has authored the descriptions of 289 minerals (more than anyone else). Since 2008, he has served as the U.S. delegate to the International Mineralogical Association's Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classifications.