

In conclusion, these are interesting books, with some valuable features. They are somewhat idiosyncratic, but nevertheless should be on the shelves of all institutions involved with mineralogy. I doubt, however, if they will catch on as major teaching texts.

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Fleischer, M. and Mandarino, J. A. *Glossary of Mineral Species 1991*. Tucson, Arizona (Mineral Record Inc., PO Box 35565, AZ 85740, U.S.A.), 1991. vi + 256 pp. Price \$15.00 plus \$1.00 postage and packing (\$2.00 foreign).

This, the sixth edition of what has become a truly indispensable reference, contains some 200 new mineral names, bringing the number of valid species close to 3500. New published results since the 1987 edition have caused changes to be made in about 900 of the older entries, and six new mineral groups have been added. As before, the listing contains the formula and crystal system for each mineral, together with a reference, generally to the *American Mineralogist*, giving the first description, or to a significant recent paper.

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Nickel, E. H. and Nichols, M. C. *Mineral Reference Manual*. London (Chapman and Hall) and New York (Van Nostrand Reinhold), 1991. vi + 250 pp. Price £9.95.

This alphabetical listing claims to provide data for more than 3700 species, the names being based on the latest recommendations of the IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral names, including diacritical marks. Each entry includes the name, formula, currently accepted status (A approved by CNMMN, D discredited by CNMMN, G 'Grandfather' status, i.e. minerals introduced before formation of the CNMMN but generally accepted, P polytypes not specifically given approved species status, and Q questionable status), crystal system, hardness, measured and calculated density, type locality, classification (avoiding the use of mineral group names and based on a combination of letters and numerals), and selected literature references (including for the structure determination when available). There is also an abridged synonymy, mainly for recent changes; this, for example, includes sphene = titanite, but vesuvianite is in the main list. The style and price invites comparison with *Glossary of Mineral Species* now into its sixth edition (see above), but there are clearly a number of errors which will need to be rectified before the next edition (which we are promised will include a definitive list of type locality information).

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