THE MINERAL COLLECTION

The Baroque hall that houses the collection today was created around 1720 as a private library for Abbot Berthold Dietmayr. The inception of the mineral collection in 1767 can be attributed to Abbot Urban II Hauer, and in 1803, under Abbot Isidor Payrhuber, it was subsequently placed here in its three original Baroque display cabinets near the doors. These cabinets are easy to distinguish from the eight simpler cabinets created in 1803. The other showcases were either built in the middle of the 19th century, or in 2004 to accommodate the larger specimens when the current display of the collection was planned.

Melk Abbey's mineral collection is a scientific collection and is therefore presented in nine main groups following the original classification of minerals created by the German mineralogist and university professor Hugo Strunz.

Of the approximately 5900 different types of minerals and their varieties globally discovered until 2024, about 1500 can be found in Melk Abbey's collection. The complete collection comprises approximately 6400 specimens, about five times the 1300 specimens that can be seen here.

While it would be possible to calculate the material value of the complete collection, the monks believe its historical and scientific value far outweighs its monetary value, so their motivation in continuing to collect minerals systematically is to get to know types of minerals which are not yet part of the collection.

CONTACT:
P. Petrus Lehninger OSB
mineraliensammlung@stiftmelk.at
t +43 2752 555 384

Stift Melk | Mineraliensammlung
Abt-Berthold-Dietmayr-Straße 1
A-3390 Melk

Current opening times and information can be found at **mineralien.stiftmelk.at**

Please note that the mineral collection is not wheelchair-accessible.

STIFT MELK

MINERAL COLLECTION

SINCE 1767

mineralien.stiftmelk.at

CABINET 1:
Group I Elements
e.g. a gold cluster which was found about 200 years ago in Transylvania (then part of the Austrian Empire / today in Romania). The gold in Melk Abbey's church originates from the same site.
Group II Sulfides and Sulfosalts

CABINET 2:
Group II Sulfides and Sulfosalts

CABINET 3:
Group III Halides
Group IV Oxides and Hydroxides

CABINET 4 a:
Group IV Oxides and Hydroxides

CABINET 4:
Group IV Oxides and Hydroxides
e.g. the mineral quartz in all its varieties: amethyst, cairngorm (smoky quartz), rock crystal, prase, citrine etc.

CABINET 5:
Group V Nitrates, Carbonates and Borates
e.g. a calcite rose which was found in Paris around 1890 during the construction of the metro.

CABINET 6:
Group VI Sulfates, Chromates, Molybdates and Tungstates

CABINET 7:
Group VII Phosphates, Arsenates and Vanadates

CABINET 8:
Group VIII Silicates and Germanates

CABINET 9:
Group VIII Silicates and Germanates

CABINET 10:
Group VIII Silicates and Germanates
Group IX Organic Compounds

WALL CABINET:
Large specimens from all over the world

SHOWCASES 1-6:
Large specimens from all over the world

DESK SHOWCASES 1 & 2:
Minerals from Austria

DESK SHOWCASE 3:
Group V Nitrates, Carbonates and Borates
Group VIII Silicates and Germanates

DESK SHOWCASE 4:
Group II Sulfides and Sulfosalts
Group IV Oxides and Hydroxides

DESK SHOWCASE 5:
Minerals from Lower Austria
the province where Melk Abbey is located

GEM SHOWCASE:
Precious Stones and Gems
in their raw state as well as in different cut and facetted varieties