systems like charge-transfer complexes, crystalline polymers or crystals with layered structure would be expected. The technologically very important subjects of chapter 4 on crystal growth in thin film coatings, and chapter 6 on anisotropic precipitants, are somewhat under-represented. The chapters on properties and applications are unfortunately very short. Thus the book is restricted to scientists dealing with basic or applied research in the field of whisker growth mainly from the gas phase. For this community and particularly for newcomers in the field it represents an important summary of the present state of the art and can be expected to become a standard reference on the subject.

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Minerals of Mexico. By *William D. Panczer.* Pp. xiii + 459. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. Inc., 1987. Price US$44.95, £38.65.

Mexico is well known to mineral collectors worldwide as it has over the years produced a considerable variety and wealth of specimens of great beauty. Fine crystalline examples, particularly of silver minerals, lead, zinc and copper minerals as well as silicates, carbonates and halides, are to be found in all major collections. Mexico has also supplied, on a commercial basis, much of the world's silver and continues to do so with considerable potential for the discovery of further reserves in the future.

It is thus fitting that for a nation so well endowed with mineral resources, a comprehensive list of minerals and their locations should be produced. This book is basically a catalogue of the known mineral occurrences of Mexico.

The book is divided into six sections, of which the catalogue occupies by far the greater bulk. This is a listing of all the occurrences of minerals both rare and common which the author has been able to locate, arranged alphabetically by species. For each species there follows a list divided by Mexican states and further subdivided according to counties (*municipios*) in which the various locations are to be found. Each locality is then dealt with by providing an idea of the rarity of the species as well as specific notes on the mines or occurrence which the author knows from his own extensive experience. These notes are most interesting and provide a great deal of locality and general information and are essential reading for mineral collectors and curators.

The whole catalogue section is typewritten rather than type set, in contrast to the remainder of the book, and as such does contain a number of typographical errors. At various places throughout the catalogue section there are both line drawings of crystals and black and white photographs of specimens. The former have been adopted from other sources. Many of the illustrations are of crystals with a definite elongation (usually along the *c* axis) but have been printed rotated through 90° so that the *c* axis is horizontal. Drawings of scheelite and scorodite appear to have been transposed. The black and white specimen photos are not entirely successful; however, there are two sets of four colour plates which allow for a much better appreciation of the specimens.

The catalogue is preceded by some 40 pages of the history and brief geological details of the most important mining districts. Here again there is a great deal of interesting information. Black and white locality photos and maps are used to illustrate the section. The maps are very useful, although the small detail is at times hard to read.

Between the catalogue and historical sections is a four-page listing of the major discoveries and developments in Mexico and this is followed by a 20-page bibliography, which includes a section on less accessible Mexican sources.

The book concludes with some 50 pages of an appendix of Mexican states, counties and county seats, information not readily available elsewhere. Finally there is an index of mineral names.

A comprehensive book of mineral specimen information covering Mexico, one of the major mineral areas of the world, has long been awaited. As such, this book will be of considerable value to the mineral collector and curator alike.

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