

Preface

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The manuscript, which constitutes the core of this volume, is the catalog of the mineralogical collection belonging to Archduke Peter Leopold of Habsburg-Lorraine, written at the end of 1765 after he was appointed as reigning Grand Duke of Tuscany.

Originally written in German, the text is now accessible in English, thanks to this work edited by Giovanni Pratesi, along with Annarita Franza and Johannes Mattes, the latter belonging to the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

This edition—curated by Firenze University Press—is an expression of the commitment of our University, and its publication was supported by our Museum System, whose staff also contributed with an opening essay.

The Florentine academic tradition also transpires from the dedication of the volume, entitled to the memory of Curzio Cipriani (1927–2007), who was, among his various prestigious positions, Director of the Natural History Museum, Italian representative in the “Commission of Museums” of the International Mineralogical Association, and Full Prorector of our University.

Cipriani was a reference figure in the national and international panorama of mineralogy, devoting part of his scientifically industrious and highly successful career to the enhancement of the mineralogical collections in Florence. Therefore, it is not by chance that in 2001, the species CIPRIANIITE $\text{Ca}_4(\text{ThCa})_{\Sigma 2}\text{Al}(\text{Be}_{0.5}\square_{1.5})_{\Sigma 2}[\text{B}_4\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{22}](\text{OH})_2$ was named after him. This would be enough to value Cipriani’s commitment to mineralogy, not to mention his deep involvement in the broader field of scientific museology.

For these reasons, I greatly appreciate the fact that this publication—which represents the mineralogical collection catalog of Grand Duke Peter Leopold, later Emperor Leopold II—has been dedicated to Cipriani’s memory, and his scientific activity, underlining his commitment to the enhancement of scientific museums, to which he gave new and powerful meanings.

Curzio Cipriani is also to be credited for today’s rich Museum System of the University of Firenze that preserves various kinds of naturalistic, scientific, and artistic

collections according to precise criteria of conservation, and following the principles of modern museology.

Many of the authors who signed the introductory essays of this volume were directly or indirectly students of Cipriani. Therefore, to all who contributed to this publication, and in particular to the editors, goes the gratitude of our University for having realized a work of great scientific value, and for remembering the example of a great Master.

Rector of the University of Firenze