

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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To the Commission on Museums of the International Mineralogical Association;

This letter is in support of the application by the Bulgarian Mineralogical Society to host the Ninth International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2020. I know that Bulgaria is a very active member country of the International Mineralogical Association through my association with Dr. Ruslan Kostov, member of the Commission on Gem Materials (and the Commission on New Minerals, Classification and Nomenclature) and National Representative for Bulgaria. As a member of the Commission on Gem Materials Dr. Kostov made large and important contributions to the IMA List of Gem Materials [[https://www.ima-mineralogy.org/docs/IMA\\_CGM\\_List\\_\(2016-08\).pdf](https://www.ima-mineralogy.org/docs/IMA_CGM_List_(2016-08).pdf)] which was published online in August 2016. He continues to play a role in updating the List and contributing to the upcoming List of World Gem Museums, which we plan to introduce at the 2020 International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums.

The Bulgarian application is supported by an impressive number of individuals and organizations in Bulgaria, and the venues and field trips are spectacular. I fully expect that it would be an extremely successful meeting.

Given the Bulgarian contributions to the International Mineralogical Association, the apparent depth of support within the country, and the spectacular venues and field trips, I recommend that the Committee award the Ninth International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums to Bulgaria.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee A. Groat', written in a cursive style.

Lee A. Groat  
Chair, Commission on Gem Materials