

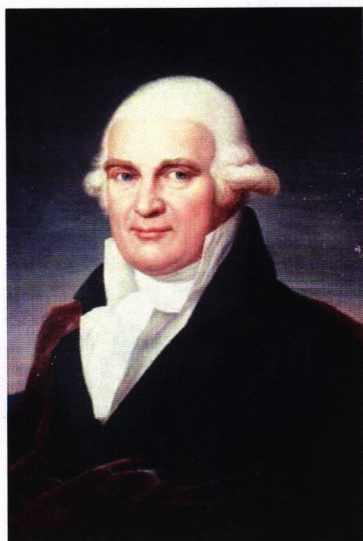
The mineralogical collections of the TU Bergakademie Freiberg

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Three mineralogical exhibits can be found in the centre of the university and mountain town of Freiberg, each complementing the other. Along with the Mineralogical Institute, the Abraham-Gottlob-Werner building houses one of the oldest and largest mineralogical collections in the world, built up under scientific criteria. Although it was only opened in 2008 in Freudenstein Castle, the terra mineralia exhibit has become much more popular, having already been visited by over 500,000 guests. The mineralogical world tour on which you can embark in the terra mineralia exhibit will be expanded in October 2012 by yet another building block – a mineralogical journey through Germany in the 'Krüger Haus', also located in the castle square.

On the history of the mineralogical collections

After the Seven Years' War, the flatlining Saxon economy was in need of a kick-start. The commissary general of mountain troops F. A. v. Heynitz (1725-1802) and the chief mining officer F. W. v. Opper (1720-1796) convinced Prince Xavier to create an independent educational establishment to educate experts in mining and metallurgy. So as to be able to educate the students as practically as possible, Heynitz and Opper, the founders of the Bergakademie mining college, combined their private collections into a 'cabinet of specimens' which was situated in Opper's home. The former education building now houses the administration of the TU Bergakademie Freiberg in Akademiestrasse. J. F. W. T. v. Charpentier (1738-1805) expanded this initial collection into a suite and minerals collection. A few years later, the Saxon mining office initiated the 'storage of marketable minerals' at the Bergakademie. It lasted until 1956 and was mainly designed to supply the collection with new material from Germany and abroad. Its first administrator, C. H. Lommer (1735-1787) acted at the same time as the steward of the Bergakademie's collection of specimens, which was already open to the public at set times. When Lommer left office in 1772, J. F. Scheuchler (1740-1791) took over his tasks and carried them out until the functions were taken over by A. G. Werner (1749-1817) in 1775.



Abraham Gottlieb Werner (1749-1817).