

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Regular Monthly Meeting of January 21, 1925

A regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the East Assembly Room of the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of January 21, at 8:15 p.m. The Vice-president, Mr. George E. Ashby, presided, and there was an attendance of 28 members.

The following names were presented for membership by the recording secretary and were transmitted to the membership committee for report at the February meeting: Miss Grace M. Carhart, Hunter College, New York City; Mr. C. C. Lawson, Yale University, 124 Prospect Street, New Haven, Conn.; Mr. Frederick A. Sach, c/o Hallgarten & Co., 44 Pine Street, New York City.

The chairman spoke of the death, on January 2, of Dr. Daniel S. Martin, one of the original members of the Club, and one through whose activities the interest in local mineralogy has profited through the many years of his life. It was moved by Mr. Stanton that the Chair appoint a committee to draw up a suitable resolution upon the death of Dr. Martin. In seconding this motion the recording secretary asked that Mr. Ashby be included on this committee. The motion being carried the Chair appointed Dr. Kunz and Messrs. Ashby and Stanton to serve as a committee on the Martin Resolution.

Mr. Wintringham drew the attention of the Club to several recent papers of importance including one by Dr. Henry S. Washington on the Composition of the Earth's Crust, by Hodges on a Proposed Classification of the Igneous Rocks, and by Dr. E. V. Shannon on the Mineralogy and Petrology of the Triassic Diabase of Goose Creek, Virginia. Dr. F. I. Allen drew attention to the recent death of Dr. Horace L. Wells of Yale University, and spoke of some of his achievements in science as well as of his personality. The chairman then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Paul F. Kerr, of Columbia University, who read a paper on "*X-rays in the Determination of Ore Minerals.*" Dr. Kerr outlined the problem of the identification of metallic ore minerals in polished slabs and pointed out how the use of the X-ray has become a factor of importance in the determination of small amounts of metallic minerals. As a source of X-rays he described the Coolidge tube with a molybdenum anode. He explained the powder method and described the apparatus which he has adapted to the research work on the metallic minerals at Columbia. Using this apparatus the powder method can be applied to small amounts and a number of samples can be tested at once. This is an important factor since the time of exposure required varies from 12 to 20 hours.

In the discussion it was asked if the method was practical for mixtures. The speaker replied in the affirmative. Mr. Radu asked for a statement of the difference in method between the powder method and that devised by the Braggs. The speaker explained at length using concrete examples.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Kerr for his highly original and interesting paper. The recording secretary drew attention to the first minute book of the Club which, under the date of May 21, 1889, recorded the first meeting, among the names of those present being that of Dr. Martin. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary.*

NEWARK MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

The seventy-third regular meeting of the Society was held in April with President Miller presiding. Eighteen members were present. A letter from Ward's inviting the Society to visit Rochester on May 30 was read and the secretary instructed to reply that the Society regretted its inability to avail itself of the invitation.

The secretary was instructed to obtain estimates on having the By-Laws printed and also a membership list. Mr. Broadwell reported that his list of Franklin, N. J., minerals would be ready for distribution at ten cents per copy at the May meeting.

The application of Mr. E. A. Maynard, of Jamaica, L. I., was reported favorably by the membership committee and election followed. Ten members had on display the three minerals that were the most interesting to them and were given five minutes to explain why.

Mr. Walther spoke on native iron crystals from California, pseudomorphous quartz and dendritic sphalerite; Mr. Bates, on sentimental and intrinsic values of three quartz specimens; Mr. Thowless, on Ellenville quartz; Mr. Carpenter, on quartz and prehnite from Paterson. Mr. Rankin referred to his three minerals as the three milestones in his collecting experiences. Mr. Grenzig spoke on calcite basal planes and his dream leading to his finding an amethyst specimen. Mr. Broadwell referred to schallerite from Franklin, N. J., and sarkinite from Sweden and their similarity; Mr. Karlson, on a new and unnamed mineral from Sweden; Mrs. Miller, on aurichalcite, cobalt bloom and amazonite from Valhalla, N. Y.; Capt. Miller, on the physical properties of smithsonite-willemitite, uraninite and quartz inclusions in mica.

WM. H. BROADWELL, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, April 9, 1925

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, presided over by the vice-president, Mr. Trudell. Twenty-eight members and eleven visitors were present.

Dr. F. A. Cajori, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., was elected to membership. Mr. Cienkowski and others exhibited quartz crystals and limonite geodes from Henderson, Pa., and its vicinity. Messrs. Boyl, Arndt, and Clay exhibited natrolite from Moore, N. J.

The program of the evening consisted of a series of short talks on various topics of mineralogical interest by different members of the society. Mr. M. J. Biernbaum first discussed "*Mineral Freaks*." Some striking characteristics of certain minerals were illustrated by appropriate specimens. The improvement of crystal specimens by the careful removal of the surrounding matrix was described by Mr. H. W. Warford. Specimens were exhibited illustrating the results of both legitimate and illegitimate "development" of this kind. Mr. G. Faust and Mr. F. Speer told of the growth of the interest in mineralogy aroused by members of the society among the students of the Northeast High School of Philadelphia, and described the present activities of the students in this science.

Mr. H. E. Millson then demonstrated a number of simple chemical tests by which various minerals can be distinguished in the field. With but few reagents and little apparatus a number of minerals similar in appearance may be readily identified. Mr. H. R. Blank concluded the program with a discussion of the use of the flame colorations given by various elements as an aid to the identification of minerals containing them.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, May 14, 1925

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, with the president, Mr. Vaux, in the chair. Thirty-one members and seven visitors were present.

Mr. Oscar Schuck of Philadelphia was elected a junior member, and Messrs. George Urban and Charles R. Lorimer were proposed for junior membership. A trip to view the collection of Mr. Canfield, of Dover, N. J., was announced for May 24th.

Mr. Keeley announced the death, on April 19, 1925, of Mr. George W. Fiss, of Philadelphia. Mr. Fiss was a pioneer in the collection of mineral specimens for study under the microscope, and his enthusiasm in this direction was of great influence in promoting the use of this instrument among mineral collectors.

Mr. M. J. Biernbaum addressed the society on "*Crystal Twinning*." The different types were defined, and the distinctions between contact and penetration twins were illustrated. Some of the common laws of twinning in the different crystal systems were illustrated by means of drawings and models.

Mr. J. C. Boyle then discussed "*Methods of Mineral Study*," and pointed out the advantages of correlating minerals according to their occurrence and manner of formation. A knowledge of mineralogy from this standpoint is of great value to the collector in the field.

Mr. George Vaux, Jr., described his recent visit to the gem mineral localities of southern California. Very fine pink and green tourmaline and colorless beryl crystals from the Pala district were exhibited; also very beautiful transparent lilac crystals of kunzite over 10 cms. long. California garnet, lepidolite, topaz, benitoite, and neptunite were also shown.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*.

DOUBTFUL SPECIES.

CLASS: SULFO-SALTS. DIVISION: $RS:Bi_2S_3 = 5 : 3$.

Wittite

K. JOHANSSON: Ett par selenförande mineral från Falu Gruva. (Two selenium bearing minerals from the Falun Mine.) *Arkiv Kemi, Mineral., Geol.*, 9, No. 9, p. 2 (1924).

NAME: In honor of the Swedish mining engineer, Th. Witt.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A sulfo-bismuthide of lead. FORMULA, $5PbS \cdot 3Bi_2(S, Se)_3$. Analysis: Ag 0.19, Pb 33.85, Cu 0.08, Fe 0.28, Zn 0.26, Bi 43.33, S 12.14, Se 8.46, insol. 0.54; sum 99.13.