

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES
NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

*Regular Monthly Meeting of October 19, 1932,
and
Memorial Meeting for George Frederick Kunz, Ph.D.*

A regular meeting of The New York Mineralogical Club was held at The American Museum of Natural History on the evening of October 19th, 1932. A familiar figure, one so familiar that it seemed almost impossible to hold a meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club without him, was missing when the members reconvened after the summer vacation. The enthusiastic youth of 46 years ago who issued the call for the first meeting of the Club, the earnest student of mineralogy, the mineral collector extraordinary, the foremost gem expert in America, Dr. George Frederick Kunz had passed away during the summer (on June 29th, 1932), and it was in his memory that this first meeting of the Club after his death was held.

Between 7 and 8 o'clock on the evening of the meeting, the Morgan Memorial Hall of the American Museum of Natural History was open to the members of the Club, where an opportunity was given them to view Dr. Kunz's collection of New York City minerals. This collection is now the property of the Club under the terms of Dr. Kunz's will and was formally transferred by The Bankers Trust Company, executors of his estate, on Sept. 30th, 1932.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by President Hawkins. The attendance was 76.

The minutes of the May meeting were read, corrected and approved. The Committee on Membership reported favorably on the name of Mr. Ian H. Parsons, The Wychwood, Great Neck, L. I., who was proposed for membership at the May meeting. On motion he was duly elected. Mr. J. W. Baker, R.F.D., Wrentham, Mass., was proposed for membership by Mr. Manchester and seconded by Mr. Stanton. Mr. Lucian M. Zell, 522 Fifth Ave., New York City, and Mr. Raymond S. Howell, 250 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, N. Y., were proposed by Mr. Stanton. These applications were referred to the Committee on Membership.

Mr. Manchester reported for the Excursion Committee that the Memorial Day, 1932, excursion of the Club to the Bedford Quarries was a success with the members arriving chiefly in autos (18 in number) and a total attendance of about 60. The Election Day excursion to Paterson Quarries will again be led by Mr. Morton and will follow the same program of a year ago.

Communications were read by the Secretary from:

American Section, Societe de Chimie Industrielle, J. Alexander, Secretary,—requesting copies of addresses, etc., on Dr. Kunz given at the Memorial Meeting to be included in a biographical note on Dr. Kunz to be sent to France. Dr. Kunz was President of this section.

Bankers Trust Company, executors of Dr. Kunz's estate—informing the Club that the title to Dr. Kunz's collection of the minerals of Manhattan Island has passed to the New York Mineralogical Club. A legal document in evidence of same accompanied the letter.

The following reports were received and placed in the hands of the Secretary as custodian:

1931 Annual Report of the Government Mining Engineer, Union of South Africa.

1931 Annual Reports issued by Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Ltd.

Mr. Varni called attention to the Fortieth Anniversary of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Club on Nov. 3d, 1932, and Dr. Whitlock moved that the Secretary forward a suitable resolution to the Philadelphia Club on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary which was so ordered.

President Hawkins began the series of addresses and reminiscences which revealed the many interests and achievements of Dr. Kunz by introducing Dr. Whitlock, who spoke on "Kunz the Mineralogist" (appended). Dr. Raymond Torrey reviewed the work of Dr. Kunz as President of the Historic Scenic and Preservation Society, and mentioned his efforts to save the Palisades which resulted in the present Palisades Interstate Park. He also advocated Nature Museums in the National Parks.

The most touching and impressive address was made by Mr. John Rosche of White Plains, N. Y., one of the eight original members present at the first meeting of the Club held in the old 23rd Street Building of The College of the City of New York, at the call of George Frederick Kunz in November, 1886. The others besides Kunz and Rosche were Washington A. Roebling, J. H. Hunt, B. B. Chamberlin, D. S. Martin, William Nevins, and B. G. Amend, then all young men just beginning their careers. Roebling became Col. Roebling of cable fame, Hunt became a distinguished physician, Nevins is a mine-owner and mineral dealer, Kunz graduated from minerals to precious and semi-precious gems, while Amend became a distinguished chemist of the well-known Eimer and Amend firm in New York City. Rosche remained a photographer but became a patron of the White Plains High School and advisor to all on the minerals of his locality.

Mr. Rothschild of the American Gem and Pearl Company gave testimony from the standpoint of a dealer in precious stones on Dr. Kunz's standing as a great gem expert and an author of authoritative works on "American Gems," "Rings," "Pearls," and the "Bischof Jade Collection." He pointed out Dr. Kunz's long connection of 51 years with Tiffany & Co. He also recalled his work in connection with the introduction of the metric system and the standardizing of the carat at 1/5 gram or 200 milligrams.

Mr. Stanton, the Treasurer, read letters from Mr. Shernikow an old member of the Club now living in San Francisco, and another letter from Mr. G. L. English, mineral expert of Ward's Natural Science Establishment who sold a collection of minerals to Thomas A. Edison which had been assembled by Dr. Kunz, the first installment of the payment of which was \$5000. This was in 1888-89.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the summary of the facts and reminiscences and papers presented during this meeting shall be published as a bulletin of the Club, using for that purpose a portion of the \$1000.00 bequeathed to Dr. Kunz to the Club. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

DANIEL T. O'CONNELL, *Secretary.*

GEORGE FREDERICK KUNZ, THE MINERALOGIST

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK

One of the most impressive reactions that I carried away from the funeral ceremonies of the late Dr. Kunz was the presence of the many and varied organizations which centered there to do him honor through their most prominent representatives. I dare say that few men in our community could evince such a catholic connection of interests, or draw together such a crowd of people of distinction.

And yet, wide though Dr. Kunz's interests undoubtedly were, there was one master interest which may be said to have dominated his career, he was essentially a mineralogist, this was his first and overwhelming scientific love, and the one which he followed with zeal and success until the day of his death.

Kunz was a field mineralogist since the days of his boyhood. His early home was in Hoboken, in close proximity to the then recently opened trap rock localities at Bergen Hill and Weehawken. These openings in the New Jersey diabase proved to be a veritable mineral collectors paradise, furnishing the showy and interesting zeolite specimens which are now represented in every collection of importance throughout the world. And it was through the efforts of the Hoboken boy that many of the finest of these first saw the light and travelled to their distinguished resting places.

At this time he brought together by assiduous field work and equally assiduous exchange, his first collection of minerals, the one which he sold to the University of Minnesota. He says in his reminiscences:

"Between working days and studying nights at Cooper Union, with a few holidays in the summer, I managed to complete my first collection, and whatever also may be said of it, it was from the point of sheer bulk and weight, the most considerable I have ever made. It contained 4000 specimens, and weighed two tons." This was in 1876 when Kunz was only twenty. In three years he had made a second collection which was purchased in 1879 by the Rose Polytechnic Institute of Terre Haute, Indiana.

Seven years later, after he had become associated with Tiffany & Company as an expert in gem minerals, he became one of the founders of the New York Mineralogical Club, and was its first Secretary (at that time it had no President). Subsequently and for many years he presided over this growing organization as its President, and of the many organizations and societies of which he was at various times President, he was wont to say that he valued the Presidency of the New York Mineralogical Club the highest.

During the last two decades of the Nineteenth Century, Dr. Kunz was an enthusiastic and active collector of New York City minerals, working either alone or with William Niven, and few indeed are the excavations of that period in the rocks of Manhattan Island, which did not yield their choicest mineral specimens to his persevering hammer. The Harlem River Speedway, the Kingsbridge Ship-Canal, Inwood, and in fact all of the classic localities of our island are represented in his collection of New York City minerals now bequeathed to the New York Mineralogical Club as part of their collection. Included in this is the famous garnet crystal from Broadway and 35th Street, which measures six inches in diameter and weighs nearly ten pounds.

It is both significant and fitting that the one distinctive gem mineral of the United States should bear his name. In 1903 there was discovered near Pala, San Diego County, California, a uniquely beautiful variety of spodumene, a variety at that time known nowhere else in the world. This stone was named Kunzite by Prof. Charles Baskerville in honor of his friend and co-worker.

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa., November 3, 1932

The Fortieth Anniversary meeting was presided over by the newly elected President, Mr. Harry W. Trudell, with 48 members and 35 visitors present. The President read congratulatory telegrams from Henry G. Ives, of Pittsfield, Mass., one of the three founders of the Society, and from the New York Mineralogical Club. Communications were also read from Mr. Howard R. Goodwin, of Columbus, Ohio, and J. Harlan Johnson of Golden, Colorado, former active members.

President Trudell then welcomed Mr. Henry Clay Borden another one of the three founders of the Society, who responded with gratification at the growth and activity of the Society since its beginning forty years ago. The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 1892, when Mr. Henry Clay Borden, Mr. Henry G. Ives and Mr. J. G. Richardson organized the Students Mineralogical Club. Personal reminiscences of the Society forty, thirty, twenty and ten years ago were given by Messrs. Elmer Benge, John Vanartsdalen, Dr. Edgar T. Wherry and J. C. Boyle, respectively, illustrated with lantern slides. Mr. Morrell G. Biernbaum gave a prophetic account of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary. A number of members exhibited some of their fine specimens. The Society then adjourned for refreshments.

W. H. FLACK, *Secretary.*

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY, November 1st, Anniversary Meeting. SIR JOHN S. FLETT, President, in the chair.

PROF. H. H. READ AND MR. B. E. DIXON: *On stichtite from Cunningsburgh, Shetland.* Stichtite is found at the above locality as rose-pink patches, partly replacing chromite in a serpentine-rock. Characters determined include: $D=2.19$, refractive indices $\gamma=1.559$, $\alpha'=1.543$. Probably biaxial. Chemical analysis and discussion of earlier analyses give as the most probable formula,



PROF. H. H. READ. *On quartz-kyanite rocks from Unst, Shetland Islands, and their bearing on metamorphic differentiation.* Quartz-kyanite rocks occur as veinlike bodies in kyanite-chloritoid-schist, also as blocks scattered over the slopes. They are intimately associated with rocks much poorer in silica and richer in alumina than the normal country rock. The main component of these associated rocks is kyanite, with chlorite, and iron 'ore.' The origin of the rocks and certain general problems connected with metamorphic differentiation are discussed.

DR. J. L. SPENCER: *A new meteoric iron found near Kyancutta, South Australia.* A mass of iron weighing 72 lb. was found in June 1932 just below the surface in a

sandy paddock, 28 miles E.S.E. of Kyancutta. It shows the characters of the common type of medium octahedrites, and is very similar to the numerous masses of iron found around the meteorite craters near Henbury, in Central Australia, 630 miles distant from Kyancutta.

MR. C. A. SILBERRAD: *List of Indian meteorites*. The places of fall of the 106 meteorites that have been recorded in India since 1795 are located as accurately as now possible, and plotted on a map. Percentages are given for the day and night falls, and of the monthly falls.

MR. W. CAMPBELL SMITH: *Meteoritic stone from Suwahib, Arabia*. Within 30 miles of Buwah in Suwahib, where Mr. Bertram Thomas found a chondritic meteoritic stone in 1931 two other stones were found a year later by Mr. Philby. They closely resemble the Buwah stone and may belong to the same shower. Sixty miles to the south a third stone was found at Umm Tina, near Shanna well. This is a chondrite of Baroti type and differs from the other two which belong to the Cronstad type.

MR. ARTHUR RUSSELL: *An account of British Mineral collectors and dealers in the 17th, 18th, and 19th, centuries* (continued). Sir Charles Lewis Giesecke, K.D. Born April 6, 1761 died March 5, 1833, was christened Johann Georg Metzler. Wrote the libretto of Mozart's "Magic Flute" (1791) also other operas. In 1794 he began the serious study of mineralogy and travelled extensively. Later he settled in Copenhagen. In 1806 he undertook a mineral collecting trip to Greenland and remained there seven years, amassing a large collection. The specimens collected during the first two years were captured by an English frigate on their way to Denmark, and were brought to Leith, where they were bought by Thomas Allan. On his return from Greenland in 1813 Giesecke landed at Leith and traced his collection to Allan, with whom he became very friendly. In 1814 he was appointed Professor of Mineralogy to the Royal Dublin Society, which position he held until his death.

MR. ARTHUR RUSSELL: *Note on an occurrence of witherite at the Morrison North Pit, Stanley, Co. Durham*. Pure massive witherite fills a fault fissure cutting coal at this pit.

MR. M. H. HEY AND MR. F. A. BANNISTER: *Studies on the zeolites*, Part IV. Ashcroftine (Kalthomsonite of S. G. Gordon). The pink zeolitic mineral described by S. G. Gordon in 1924 as a potassiferous thomsonite (kalthomsonite) is shown by X-ray and optical data to be an independent species in no way related to thomsonite, and the name Ashcroftine is proposed for it. Ashcroftine is tetragonal with cell-sides $c=17.49$, $a=34.04\text{\AA}$. a unit-cell content about 40 NaK(Ca, Mg, Mn) $\text{Al}_4\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18} \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and $D\ 2.61 \pm 0.05$. The refractive indices ($\epsilon\ 1.545$, $\omega\ 1.536$) are much higher than those of artificial potassiferous thomsonites, and the optic orientation is different.

MISS W. C. A. GUTHRIE AND DR. CHRISTINA C. MILLER: *The determination of rock constituents by semi-micro-methods*. The ordinary course of the analysis of an igneous rock can be very considerably expedited by the use of smaller amounts of material throughout, the necessary accuracy of weighing being attained by means of a microbalance. Numerous experiments show that such a procedure is reliable and involves no loss of accuracy.