

The American Petroleum Institute of Dallas, Texas, has published Preliminary Report No. 1, *Glossary of Clay Mineral Names* by Paul F. Kerr and P. K. Hamilton of Columbia University. This useful compilation gives definitions, brief descriptions, histories, and main references to 246 minerals and mineral substances belonging to the clay group and to closely allied groups.

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NEW MINERAL NAMES

Koktaite

JOSEF SEKANINA, Koktaite, a new mineral of the syngenite group: *Acta Acad. Sci. Nat. Moravo-Silesiaca* **20**, No. 1, 26 pp. (1948) (Czech with French summary); through *Mineralog. Abs.*, **10**, 352 (1948). Pseudomorphs after gypsum were found, associated with gypsum, mascagnite, and ammonium alum in a lignite mine at Zeravice near Kyjov, south-east Moravia. X-ray photographs are similar to that of syngenite. The optical data agree with those determined on artificial ammonium syngenite, $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Ca}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. The crystals are monoclinic, acicular, with the forms: {100}, {110}, {001}, {011}, and {101}, no cleavage, twins on {100} frequent. Optically biaxial, neg., $\alpha=1.524$, $\beta=1.532$, $\gamma=1.536$, $2V\ 72^\circ$. Sp. gr. 2.09. Decomposed by water with precipitation of gypsum. Origin of name is not stated in abstract; perhaps named for J. Kokta, who analyzed the artificial salt.

MICHAEL FLEISCHER

Dervillite

R. WELL, La dervillite, espece minerale nouvelle: *Rev. sci. nat. Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand*, **7**, 110-111 (1941); through *Mineralog. Abs.*, **10**, 353-354 (1948).

"Small (0.3 mm.) crystals found in a cavity in native arsenic from Gabe Gottes mine, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, Haute-Rhin (=Markirch, Alsace) are brownish-black with metallic luster, black streak, low hardness, very brittle, and show at least one direction of cleavage. They are soluble in HNO_3 , and contain Sb, Pb, perhaps also Bi, and little sulfur. A crystal measured by H. Ungemach, monoclinic, $a:b:c=1.0691:1:1.4853$, with 8 forms, has been lost, and no more material has been found. The x-ray powder pattern is distinct from that of lautite and other minerals from the locality."

DISCUSSION: It is regrettable that the literature should be burdened with a name for such incompletely described material.

M. F.

Varlamoffite

H. BUTTGEBACH, Les mineraux de Belgique et du Congo Belge 1947, pp. 182-183; from unpublished work by DeDycker.

Name given to a yellow, earthy, porous mass of density 2.52 to 2.61 and supposedly H_2SnO_3 . The average of three analyses by Mlle. Gastellrei gave H_2SnO_3 59.22, SnO_2 25.55, SiO_2 1.68, Fe_2O_3 9.45, Al_2O_3 2.22, H_2O 2.12; sum 100.24%. Occurs in tin-bearing veins of Kalima and other regions of Mamiema, Belgian Congo.

DISCUSSION: Compare the similar souxite (*Am. Mineral.*, **32**, 372, 1947).

M. F.

Phosphoscorodite

T. N. SHADLUN AND Y. S. NESTEROVA, Phosphoscorodite from Blyav (southern Urals): *Zapiski Vserossi Mineral. Obshchestva* (Mem. soc. russe mineral.), **76**, 212–215 (1947); through *Chemical Abstracts*, **43**, 2898 (1949).

Analysis of finely crystalline white material in the oxidation zone of the pyrite deposits of Blyav gave: As_2O_5 26.12, P_2O_5 16.03, SO_3 1.82, Fe_2O_3 40.32, H_2O 16.46%. $G. = 3.35\text{--}3.5$; $\alpha = 1.758\text{--}1.762$, $\gamma = 1.777\text{--}1.789$; biaxial, positive.

DISCUSSION: The composition, as given in the analysis above, corresponds to 50.2% scorodite, 49.8% strengite, but the optical data indicate a composition closer to that of scorodite. The new name is unnecessary; phosphatian scorodite should be used.

M. F.

Paraguanjuatite

PAUL RAMDOHR, Las especies mineralogicas guanajuatita y paraguanajuatita: *Comite Direct. Invest. Recursos Minerales Mexico Bol.* **20**, 1–15 (1948).

A portion of some specimens of guanajuatite, $\text{Bi}_2(\text{Se}, \text{S})_3$, from the type locality, the Santa Catarina Mine, Guanajuato, Mexico, were found to be rhombohedral paramorphs after the original orthorhombic mineral. The rhombohedral mineral, named paraguanajuatite, corresponds to Bi_2Se_3 synthesized by Carpanese, *Periodico Mineral.* (Roma) **8**, 289–290 (1937). Optical and x-ray data are given. From powder photographs, $a_0 = 4.076 \text{ \AA}$, $c_0 = 54.7 \text{ \AA}$. The structure is similar to those of tetradymite and tellurobismuthite.

M. F.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL NEWS RELEASE

Appointment of Dr. David M. Delo of Washington, D. C., as the first Executive Director of the American Geological Institute, was announced today (June 3, 1949) by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, Chairman of the National Research Council.

The American Geological Institute is a new organization established in November 1948 which will represent the profession of geology. It is composed of a union of eleven geological societies whose members total more than 10,000 professional geologists. Headquarters will be located in the National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C., and the activities of the Institute will be carried on in conjunction with those of the Division of Geology and Geography, NRC.

The primary objectives of the new Institute are the advancement of geology and its application to human welfare by providing a means for the cooperation of organizations active in the fields of pure and applied geology. Membership is open to all non-profit organizations concerned with the earth sciences—geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy, etc. The initial member organizations are:

American Association of Petroleum Geologists	Paleontological Society
American Geophysical Union	Seismological Society of America
American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers	Society of Economic Geologists
Geological Society of America	Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists
Mineralogical Society of America	Society of Exploration Geophysicists
	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

The Institute is organized as an instrument of the National Research Council, in this way uniting geologists with all other American scientists who are seeking solutions to problems which can be attacked best through group or united action. Initially its functions will be concerned primarily with the non-research activities of the Geological profession, and will supplement the work of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council which is chiefly concerned with the coordination of research in geology and geography and its interrelationships with allied sciences.

Officers of the Institute are A. I. Levorsen, Dean of Mineral Sciences, Stanford University, president; W. B. Heroy, Beers and Heroy, Dallas, Texas, vice-president; and Earl Ingerson, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Delo began his duties on 1 June. He has served for the past three years as Chief of Scientific Manpower for the Research and Development Group, Logistics Division, General Staff, U. S. Army. During the World War II he was a Technical Aide in the Office of Scientific Research and Development and prior to that time was Chairman of the Department of Geology and Geography, Knox College.

The new Executive Director is a graduate of Miami University (Ohio) and received his doctorate degree from Harvard University. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.