CHROMIUM-COLORED MARGARITE FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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An old and long abandoned chromite mine located 1 mile west of Etchison Post Office, in the northern tip of Montgomery County, Maryland, is interesting mineralogically, as having furnished the fuchsite and chromium-bearing tourmaline described by Gill.[2] This locality was visited by the writer in November, 1923, in company with Messrs. W. F. Foshag, Edward Sampson, and Waldemar T. Schaller. No difficulty was experienced in locating the old mine and a search of the dumps resulted in the finding of a few typical specimens of chromiferous tourmaline and some especially good specimens of fuchsite.

In addition to these minerals a third green substance was obtained which has been found, upon examination, to be margarite. Since margarite has not heretofore been mentioned from any Maryland locality the present note is published to record the occurrence.

The margarite forms narrow branching veinlets, seldom exceeding 2 mm. in width, in a dark chocolate-colored serpentine which contains minutely disseminated chromite. It is finely foliated and, in the specimen, has a deep emerald-green color with somewhat pearly luster. By hand picking and separating with heavy solutions and an electromagnet a pure sample was prepared and, when ground, this was found to have a pale nickel-green color. Upon analysis this purified sample gave the following results:

SiO_2	30.74
Al_2O_3	50.24
Cr_2O_3	0.72
CaO	10.68
MgO	2.70
$H_2O+110°C.$	4.90
Total	99.98

The composition is that of margarite, the green color evidently being due to the chromium content. Optically the mineral is biaxial and negative with 2V medium small, averaging about 30°.

[1] Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. A second preliminary paper on the minerals of Maryland being studied in cooperation with the Maryland State Geological Survey.

[2] A. C. Gill. *Johns Hopkins Univ. Circular* No. **75,** 1889.

Dispersion $\rho < \nu$ strong; crossed dispersion likewise strong. The indices of refraction are approximately $\alpha = 1.625$, $\beta = 1.633$, $\gamma = 1.635$. Plates on edge show extinction inclined 4° to 9° to the trace of the cleavage. The thicker grains seen under the microscope are faintly colored and seem to show pleochroism in pale blue-green tints across the lamination and blue parallel to the elongation.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Regular Monthly Meeting of March 12, 1924

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 Wednesday, March 12th, at 8:15 P.M. The President, Dr. George F. Kunz, presided and there was an attendance of 26 members.

The President read a letter from the secretary of the Museum of the City of New York asking for contributions of local minerals to be added to the Museum's Collection. It was moved that the Club take action individually on this request and that donations of minerals be brought to the next meeting. The motion was carried.

The President then appointed a nominating committee consisting of Messrs. Manchester, Wintringham and Whitehouse to report at the next meeting on nominations for officers for the ensuing year. The recording secretary reported on behalf of the Gratacap Memorial Committee and read a tentative draft of the inscription for the tablet which was submitted to the members present for comment and discussion. On motion of Mr. Stanton, duly carried, the Gratacap Memorial Committee was requested: (1) to obtain information as to the size, position and character of the tablet; (2) that sketches be obtained and submitted for the joint approval of the Club and the Museum; and (3) that the club treasurer be authorized to solicit subscriptions toward defraying the cost of this memorial.

The President announced the death of Dr. Wallace Goold Levison, corresponding secretary and delegate to the council of the New York Academy from the Club, and read the following sketch of his life:

> Dr. Wallace Goold Levison was born at his late residence, 1435 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, on the 27th of November, 1846. He graduated from the public schools of Brooklyn and from Cooper Union in 1865. He also obtained the degree of B.S. from Harvard in 1870. He was director of the Cooper Union Chemical Laboratories from 1871-1884; and a fellow and life member of the New York Academy of Sciences. He was one of the earliest members of the New York Mineralogical Club, and for years its secretary, 1903-1918, and corresponding secretary, 1918-1924. He was a member of the Brooklyn Institute and was connected with the Mineralogical section as long as that was in existence. He was a member of the Brooklyn Academy of Photography, and its President from 1887-1890.