Crystallization of AlPO₄-SiO₂ solid solutions from granitic melt and implications for P-rich melt inclusions in pegmatitic quartz

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ABSTRACT

Aluminum orthoposphate (AlPO₄) has polymorphs isostructural with tridymite, cristobalite, and quartz. Berlinite is the low-temperature form that corresponds to α -quartz. We report berlinite-quartz solid solutions to crystallize from a synthetic P-rich peraluminous granitic melt, similar in composition to the most volatile-rich silicate melt inclusions found in pegmatites. The crystallization took place in experiments performed in cold-seal pressure vessels at 450–700 °C and 0.1–0.2 GPa H₂O pressure. At these conditions, the berlinite-quartz mutual solubility is limited to 5–7 mol% SiO₂ on the phosphate side of the solvus and to the maximum of 1 mol% AlPO₄ on the silica-rich side. The mutual solubility appears to decrease with falling temperature. At low *T* the crystals of berlinite-quartz solid solutions are strongly zoned and show complex intergrowths between the P-rich and silica-rich phases. They were studied by electron microprobe, transmission electron microscopy, and Raman spectroscopy. In the light of our new experimental results, the extreme P enrichment reported earlier for some natural quartz-hosted melt inclusions may be explained as a post-entrapment contamination by the berlinite-bearing host.