

BULLETIN OF THE Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Vol. I

November, 1931

No. 1

Address all communications in regard to this Bulletin to the editor, E. V. Van Amringe,
1776 Homewood Dr., Altadena, Calif.

A Message from the President

The germ of a new idea sometimes takes a long time to sprout. Two years ago, on a collecting trip to the Mojave Desert, I visited the plant of the Natural Soda Products Co. at Keeler, as the guest of our director, Mr. David Scott. One evening, after a long day's search for specimens, the conversation naturally turned to rocks and minerals and their collection. Mr. Scott asked me if there was a collector's club in Southern California, and, upon my telling him that I knew of none, suggested that one be organized similar to an Eastern organization with which he had been most favorably impressed. Mr. Scott was the first man to offer his support to our club.

I gave no further attention to the matter until last spring, when a notice appeared in "Rocks and Minerals" asking if there was someone in Southern California who would organize a mineralogical club. Then I recalled Mr. Scott's remarks of two years ago, and wrote to the editor of "Rocks and Minerals" asking him to run a notice to the effect that all interested in organizing such a club should get in touch with me. While awaiting the next issue, I asked my good friend, Mr. Van Amringe, if he would help me to organize the club, and he agreed to devote a limited amount of time to it.

Not until the announcement finally appeared did I realize what I had started, for I immediately began to hear from prospective members. This enthusiasm really frightened me into calling the first meeting. Mr. Van Amringe and I made out a list of all we thought might be interested and I mailed about sixty-five announcements. We thought perhaps twenty might respond, and were pleasantly surprised when forty persons

appeared at the first meeting. Probably the greatest factor in our success, both then and now, has been the generous permission of the Pasadena Public Library for the use of their lecture hall. The attendance has grown to the capacity of the room, nearly 200.

It would be unfair if I failed, at this time, to give credit to our secretary, Mr. Van Amringe, for the many ways in which he has worked for the welfare of the society. Those of you on the outside may not know how generously he has given of his time and effort. As long as he is secretary, I am sure our organization will prosper. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking him and our other officers and my fellow members for their hearty support. I had never dreamed there were so many men and women interested in the study of the various phases of mineralogy.

Why not? For after all it is a great hobby; and where would our civilization of today be without minerals?

I would like to see more specimens brought to our monthly meetings for display and exchange. Have you noticed how they add to the life and spirit of the gathering? Please remember that by the rules of the Library, we are prohibited from selling specimens at the meetings. Also kindly refrain from starting a sale at the meeting to be consummated later. It is most important not to commercialize our club. We now have our monthly bulletin, and those who have minerals for sale may reach prospective buyers through the medium of advertising. The rates are reasonable and may be had by applying to the secretary.

JOHN A. RENSCHAW

MINERALOGICAL BULLETIN

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REGISTER OF MEETINGS AND PRINCIPAL
 SPEAKERS

No. 1-June 23, 1931. Attendance 40.
 E. V. Van Amringe, Pasadena Junior College, on "Mineral
 Collecting as a Hobby."
 No. 2-July 7, 1931. Attendance 60.
 11. G. Donnelly, California Institute of Technology, on
 "The Determination of Minerals."
 No. 3-Sept. 1, 1931. Attendance 175.
 Wm. Russell, Koke - Slaudt Co., on "Jade."
 No. 4-Oct. 2, 1931. Attendance 135.
 Dr. A. O. Woodford, Pomona College, on "Crystallography."
 No. 5-Nov. 9 1931.
 Park Turrill, Glendale High School, on "Mineral Resources
 of Death Valley, the Amargosa and Mojave Deserts."
 Next meeting-December 14, 1931.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

as of Nov. 1, 1931

Receipts.....\$96.50
 Disbursements 31.45
 Cash on hand\$65.05

**Evening School Class at
 Pasadena Junior College**

A class in mineralogy and geology, under the direction of M. K. Read of this society, is now meeting from 7 to 9 p. m. each Tuesday and Thursday in Room 200-A. The instruction is free to all and has already attracted an enrollment of over 30.

THE EDITOR'S CABINET

It is our aim for this little paper to be entertaining as well as instructive. If this issue is too serious or too technical, please let us hear your wishes. Contributions, too, will be most acceptable. We hope to please all our members, for it is your money which keeps us going. Some day we may have enough advertisers to make this publication self-supporting. When you patronize the pioneers of this issue, be sure and tell them of the BULLETIN. Although we now have eighty-six members, we have barely scratched the surface. We know many members who feel that the initiation fee of \$1.00 and the \$1.00 annual dues are insignificant compared to the benefits of membership. We ourselves know how these benefits will in-crease with increasing numbers. How about every present member bringing in a new membership by Dec. 14?

*A Summary of California's
 Mineral Production for 1930*

In 1930, California produced commercially fifty-one different mineral substances (including gems as one item) from all but one of its counties (Sutter). There was however a decrease of over 15% from 1929, the total values being as follows:

1930 \$365,604 695
 1929 \$432,248,228

This decrease is accounted for in the main by a decrease of 15% in the value of petroleum and natural gas, which make up 81% of the state's total production of minerals. Other notable decreases were: cement (31%) ; brick, tile and pottery clay (25%) miscellaneous stone (8%); copper (42%); salt (56%). These losses were partially offset by increases in the value of gold (11%); mineral water (41%); borax (11%); quicksilver (5%); lead (96%); lime (8%); and potash.

Figures for the 1930 values follow:

Los Angeles	\$171,616,329
Kern	42,987,977
Ventura	31,952,052
Orange	26,335,290
Santa Barbara	24,368,374
San Bernardino	10,657,301
Riverside	3,220,636
Inyo	2,260,766
San Diego	1,303,047
Imperial	368,023

Bibliographies of Mineralogy.

- Nicides, J. M. - Geologic Literature on North America, 1785-1918. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletins 746-747.
- Nickles, J. M. - Bibliography of North American Geology, 1919-1928. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 823.
- Shed, S. - Bibliography of the Geology and Mineral Resources of California to the end of 1929. California State Division of Mines (Ferry Bldg., S. F.), Bulletin 104, prelim. ed. Free.

Recent Magazine Articles of Interest

NATURAL HISTORY MAGAZINE

- Whitlock - How Atoms Build. Vol. 29 no. 6, p. 629. Nov.-Dec. 1929.
- Reed - Land Erosion. Vol. 30, no. 2, p. 131. Mar.-Apr. 1930.
- Whitlock - Desert Roses. Vol. 30, no. 4, p. 421. July-Aug. 1930.
- Reeds - How Old is the Earth? Vol. 31, no. 2, p. 129. Mar.-Apr. 1931.
- Whitlock - Modern Methods of Carving Jade. Vol. 31, no. 5, p. 511. Sept.-Oct. 1931.

SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

- Ebbutt - The Search for Mineral Deposits. Vol. 29, no. 6, p. 515. Dec. 1929.
- Kovarik - The Age of the Earth. Vol. 32, no. 4, p. 309. Apr. 1931.
- Sabsay - Whence our Metals? Vol. 33, no. 2, p. 142. Aug. 1931.

SCIENCE

- Kunz - Origin of South African Alluvial Diamonds. Vol. 72, 515. Nov. 21, 1930.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

- Heitzler - Photography Identifies Gems by their Flaws. Vol. 143, p. 94. Aug. 1930.

COLLIER'S

- Ray - Jewels of Little Price. Be your own Gem Expert. (etc.) Vol. 83, p. 28. Jan. 12, 1929. Vol. 85, p. 19. Jan. 25, 1930. Vol. 86, p. 30. Dec. 13, 1930.

ASIA

- Enriquez - Fire-hearted Pebbles of Burma. Vol. 30, p. 722. Oct. 1930. Parry - The Jewel-box of Russia. Vol. 31; p. 206. Apr. 1931.

"OUR FIRST FIELD TRIP"

About 75 members and friends gathered at the Crestmore Quarry of the Riverside Cement Co. on Oct. 25, and led by Mr. T. F. Mullan, Chief Chemist, and Mr. J. W. Daly, added many fine specimens to their collections. An excellent group picture may be obtained for fifty cents postpaid upon advance payment to the treasurer. That this is one of the world's great mineral deposits may be seen from the list below. Since it's compilation, our attention has been called to a somewhat similar list by Prof. A. F. Rogers of Stanford University. As Dr. Rogers' list is not generally available to our members, it was thought inadvisable to abandon publication.

MINERALS OF CRESTMORE QUARRY

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Andradite (i) | KAOLINITE (c) |
| Anglesite (c) | Labradorite (c) |
| Apatite (c) | Laumontite (c) |
| Apophyllite (c) | LIMONITE (c) |
| Aragonite (c) | Magnetite (d) |
| Arsenopyrite (c) | Malachite (c) |
| Augite (c) | *Merwinite (h) |
| AXINITE (c) | Microcline (a) |
| Azurite (c) | Monticellite (b) |
| Biotite (c) | Okenite (c) |
| Bornite (c) | Oligoclase (c) |
| BRUCITE (c, d) | Omphacite ? (i) |
| CALCITE (a) | Opal (c) |
| Centrallite (j) | *ORTHOCLASE (c) |
| Cerussite (c) | Periclase (n) |
| Chalcedony (g) | Phlogopite (c) |
| Chalcocite (c) | *Plazolite (s) |
| Chalcopyrite (c) | Prehnite (c) |
| Chondrodite (d) | Prochlorite (c) |
| Clinoclare (c) | Pyrite (c) |
| *CRESTMOREITE (c) | Pyrrhotite (d) |
| Custerite (m) | Quartz (a) |
| Datolite (c) | *Riversideite (c) |
| Deweyite (d) | Serpentine (c) |
| DIOPTASE (c) | Sphalerite (c) |
| EPIDOTE (c) | Spinel (d) |
| *Foshagite (ls) | Spurrite (e) |
| Galena (c) | Tetrahedrite (c) |
| Gehlenite (h) | Thaumasite (e) |
| Graphite (c) | Titanite (c) |
| Greenockite (c) | Tourmaline (a) |
| GROSSULARITE (a) | VESUVIANITE (a) |
| HEMATITE (c) | Waluewite (b) |
| HORNBLLENDE (c) | Wernerite (c) |
| Hydromagnesite (c, d) | Wilkeite (a, n) |
| *Jurapaite (g) | WOLLASTONITE (c) |
| | Zircon (c) |

* First named from this locality, and all but Merwinite found nowhere else. Abundant minerals in capital letters.

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- b. Eakle-J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 6, 332. (1916)
- c. Eakle-Bull. Dept. Geol. U. Calif. 10, 327. (1917)
- d. Rogers-Am. J. Sd. 46, 581. (1918)
- e. Foshag-Am. Mm. 5, 81. (1920)
- f. Foshag-Am. Mm. 5, 183. (1920)
- g. Eakle-Am. Mm. 6, 107. (1921)
- h. Larsen and Foshag-Am. Mm. 6, 143. (1921)
- i. Eakle-Bull. 91, Calif. State Min. Bur. (1923)
- j. Foshag-Am. Mm. 9, 88. (1924)
- k. Eakle-Am. Mm. 10, 97. (1925)
- l. Eakle-Am. Mm. 12, 319. (1927)
- m. Tilley-Geol. Mag. 65, 371. (1928)
- n. Rogers-Am. Mm. 14, 462. (1929)

Thumb-Nail Sketches of Our Members

JOHN ELIOT WOLFF, born in Montreal, Canada, on Nov. 21, 1857, received his bachelor's degree in 1879 and his Ph. D. in 1889 from Harvard University, also studying at Heidelberg in Germany. He was married in 1887. His first position was as Assistant in Geology at Harvard in 1881, rising through the ranks to become Professor of Petrography and Mineralogy, and Curator of the Mineral Museum in 1895. During much of this time he also served as Assistance Geologist for the U. S. Geological Survey. He retired from active teaching in 1923, spending the time since in research. Prof. Wolff is a member of many scientific societies both in this country and abroad, and has published forty or more studies in his field. The latest is an interesting historical pamphlet on the "Route of the Manly Party of 1849-50 in Leaving Death Valley for the Coast."

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Copper Found in Mine Timbers

The Geology Museum of Pomona College has recently added an interesting item to its collection in the form of a section from a Roman mine timber found 400 feet below the water level in the Mavravouni Mine, Mavravouni, Nicosia, Cyprus, in the course of the re-opening of the mine by the Cyprus Mines Corporation. This section shows the deposition of pure metallic copper in the medullary or radial rays of the wood from contact with the copper-bearing waters in the abandoned mine during the last two thousand years. The copper shows up as bright and shiny as bits of new copper wire.

This piece is all the more interesting, as it is native copper from the type locality, the island of Cyprus, from which name cuprum, the Latin term for copper, is derived.

H. Stanton Hill
MS. MSSC. #5

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Material on approval for selection.

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