

NOTES AND NEWS

NOTES ON MINERAL LOCALITIES IN MAINE

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CHRYSOBERYL

Many museums in the United States have crystals of chrysoberyl that were found in the Ragged Jack Mountain locality in the town of Hartford, near the Peru line. Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy, 3rd ed., p. 424, lists chrysoberyl in Maine from Norway, where it is associated with garnet in granite; from Stoneham, with fibrolite; and from Buckfield, Greenwood and Topsham. No mention is made of the Ragged Jack Locality although Palache described the area in this journal.¹ Mr. Dudley, of Buckfield, is given the credit of being one of the original discoverers of the ledge. The area was visited July 1933 by the writer in company with T. Wilson Bonney, discoverer of the ledge,² and others. During this visit numerous small and fairly clear pieces of chrysoberyl were found.

Ragged Jack Mountain is composed chiefly of gneissoid biotite granite. Its western cliff, easily noted on the Buckfield (Maine) quadrangle, faces Black Mountain, the outstanding topographic feature in the immediate vicinity. Many good specimens of chrysoberyl have been found in the talus material at the base of the sheer cliff. The chrysoberyl-pegmatite is exposed at the base in a vein about four feet wide. The vein continues in a diagonal line up the full height of the cliff, about 125 feet. Attempts have been made during the past year, 1933, to work the pegmatite. A shaky ladder has been placed from the talus slope to the cliff face.

The pegmatite near the base of the cliff shows a segregation of milky quartz in which there are some large schorl crystals and feldspar, the latter being abundant on one side of the vein. Quartz is the chief constituent of the lower part of the exposed vein. A rich development of muscovite mica in books reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thick-

¹ Palache, Charles, Chrysoberyl pegmatite of Hartford: *Am. Mineral.*, 9, pp. 217-221, 1924.

² Communication from S. C. Simms, Field Mus., Chicago:—"Three specimens of chrysoberyl from Ragged Jack Mountain were sold the Field Museum in 1908 by T. W. Bonney, of Buckfield, who described the location about 15 miles northeast of Mount Mica near the townline of Hartford and Peru."

ness and intimately associated with biotite occurs on the lower left side of the vein. The biotite forms large patches locally in the dike. The muscovite is characterized by a peculiar curved cleavage and, in mass, resembles amber mica. Almandite garnets in the feldspar are three-quarters of an inch in size and in well developed trapezohedrons. Quartz occurs in several varieties—milky, smoky, amethystine and iron stained—but the glassy vein quartz is most abundant.

Chrysoberyl is more abundantly associated with quartz than with feldspar. The largest piece found measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ " by $2\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{3}{16}$ ". Most of the pieces of chrysoberyl are badly shattered. One piece in quartz is bordered by a thin strip of schorl and is coated with a secondary micaceous product. Most of the chrysoberyl is not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick.³ It breaks from the enclosing quartz or feldspar with marked facility. The specimens are wine yellow, although some with a definite greenish cast were seen. Twinned and simple crystals of both colors were found. The twinning striations are impressed on the feldspars and are seen where the chrysoberyl crystals have been broken out.

Tourmaline, schorl variety, is also quite abundant. One small partial crystal with a perfect rhombohedral-like termination measured $1\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter and 1" in length. Several broken prisms of tourmaline are rehealed by quartz. Portions of milky quartz carry the impressed striations of the schorl.

The writer is not aware that apatite has ever been listed from this locality, although it is abundant in nearby quarries. A fairly well developed apatite crystal was found. It measures about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length and the side of the prism measures $\frac{3}{8}$ " at the base. It is probably later in crystallization than the feldspar with which it is associated. One prism face of the apatite has entered the cleavages of the feldspar. A portion of the crystal is broken and rehealed by quartz. A smaller, nearly perfect hexagonal outlined crystal was found in the same specimen entirely enclosed by quartz.

³ The largest specimen now in Mr. Bonney's collection is $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick, and 2" by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Some of it is of gem quality.

GRAPHITE

The writer is preparing a paper* on an occurrence of graphite in a pegmatite near Lewiston, Maine, and while studying the litera-

* Article will appear in a future issue of the Journal.

ture on Maine mineral localities, encountered the following statement:¹

"About twelve years ago quite an excitement was caused by developments in the vicinity of Oak Hill in Wales. Thomas Barr's farm, at Ray's Corners, had rock in 1876 bearing \$25 of pure silver to the ton. Plumbago had earlier been mined there, and sulphuret of silver was said to exist in the same mine and its vicinity."

The area referred to is located in the Lewiston quadrangle, central rectangle, on the western slope of a low hill bordering Sabattus Lake on the west. A road leads northwesterly from the village of Sabattus and at a point one and two-tenths miles from the village an old logging road enters the woods to the east. The old mine prospect is located on the continuation of this road near the top of the hill.

The country rock of the area is quartz-mica schist dipping at a steep angle to the west. The schists carry considerable graphite. They are intruded by a fairly coarse grained granite pegmatite which contains black tourmaline. In none of the rocks examined were any traces of silver ore found.

The mine was worked by trenching. A long trench cut down the hillside slope is now overgrown with brush but it can be traced for more than 100 feet. Several smaller trenches branch off from this main one. Large piles of rocks on the dump indicate past mining activity. None of the rocks on the dump showed any black minerals except graphite and schorl.

A resident in the immediate section for over 35 years was questioned. He (a Mr. Wakeley) stated that the mine had not been worked during his residence there. The materials obtained from the mine during its period of operation were sold to a firm that made shoe and stove polish.

Gold was reported from another locality at the forks of the road—Ray's Corners—beyond the logging road leading to the old silver prospect. Quartz veins, pegmatite intrusions, materials in the walls and boulders in the fields were examined but no gold was found. Old residents in the area knew nothing about the "gold" occurrence.

¹ Merrill, G. D., *History of Androscoggin County, Maine*, p. 31, W. A. Ferguson and Co., Boston, 1891.