

## REFERENCES

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- FORSTNER, WILLIAM (1903), The quicksilver resources of California: *California State Mining Bureau, Bull.* **27**, 157-159.

HYDROCUPRITE DISCREDITED<sup>1</sup>

GEORGE SWITZER, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The name hydrocuprite was proposed for a supposedly new mineral from Cornwall, Pennsylvania by Genth.<sup>2</sup> It was described by Genth as follows:

"Peculiar orange-colored coatings associated with cuprite and magnetite from Cornwall, were first noticed by Prof. W. Th. Roepper, of Bethlehem, who showed them to me several months ago. On a visit to the mines, a short time ago, I secured a considerable number of specimens from the 'big hill' at Cornwall, and proved them to be a new mineral."

"Amorphous; orange yellow to orange red; forms very thin, sometimes raglike coatings upon magnetite; soft."

"On heating looses water and becomes black; contains water and cuprous oxide. It is impossible to obtain from the quantity that I have noticed, enough for analysis; its composition is probably  $H_2O$ ,  $Cu_2O$ ."

This is the entire description of the mineral and no subsequent work has been done. In Dana's "System of Mineralogy," 7th edition, it is listed as an "ill-defined, supposedly amorphous, form of  $Cu_2O$  with an indefinite amount of water."

Specimens in the U. S. National Museum labelled hydrocuprite from Cornwall, Pennsylvania, fit Genth's description perfectly, and it seems quite certain that they are identical with his "hydrocuprite." This material, on the basis of its x-ray powder photograph and optical properties, has been identified as cuprite, variety chalcotrichite. Likewise, specimens in the collection labelled hydrocuprite from Somerville, New Jersey, have been found to be cuprite. The indefinite amount of water found by Genth is not essential water, but rather is surface-held, due to the fine-grained, felt-like nature of the material.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY  
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The International Union of Crystallography has accepted the invitation of the National Research Council of Canada to hold its Fourth General Assembly and International Con-

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

<sup>2</sup> Genth, F. A., Prel. Rep. Mineral. Penn., *2nd Geol. Surv. Penn. Rept. of Progress*, **B**, p. 46 (1875).

gress in Canada from the 10th July to the 17th July, 1957, followed by two Symposia on the 18th and 19th. At the Congress papers will be presented on all aspects of Crystallographic research; the subjects of the Symposia will be "Physical Techniques of Crystallographic Interest" and "Electron Diffraction." Through the co-operation of McGill University and the University of Montreal, the meetings are being held in the City of Montreal. Technical excursions are being arranged. These include a four-day excursion to the iron deposits of the Labrador Trough, a two-day excursion to the asbestos and copper deposits of southeastern Quebec, and a seven-day excursion to the Bancroft and Sudbury areas in Ontario.

The Canadian National Committee on Crystallography is acting as the Local Committee of the Congress and has prepared a brochure giving details of the technical programme topics, and accommodation for the Congress. Copies of this have been forwarded to the Secretaries of the National Committees of the Member Countries of the Union. Copies may be obtained from them; from the General Secretary of the Union, Dr. D. W. Smits, Laboratorium voor Anorganische en Fysische Chemie, Bloemsingel 10, Groningen, The Netherlands; or from the Secretary of the Canadian Committee, Dr. W. H. Barnes, Division of Physics, National Research Council, Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada (envelope to be clearly marked "Personal"); or from the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. W. N. Lipscomb, School of Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U. S. A.

The Secretary of the U. S. National Committee on Crystallography is Dr. G. A. Jeffrey, The Chemistry Department, The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13.

#### WORLD DIRECTORY OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHERS

The International Union of Crystallography is considering the possibility of preparing a World Directory of Crystallographers. This list would contain the names and addresses of all practicing crystallographers, including advanced graduate students. It is planned to compile a preliminary list in time for the Fourth General Assembly to be held in Montreal, July 10-17, 1957. The secretaries of the national committees (*Acta Cryst.* **8**, 857, 1955) have been asked to prepare a list of crystallographers in their countries. In many countries a Crystallographic Society does not exist and the compilation of the list becomes difficult. In certain instances a Crystallographic Society does exist, but some mineralogists, ceramists, biologists, etc., who carry on crystallographic work are not members and hence might not be listed in the directory. If there is a possibility that your name may not be included because your country does not adhere to the International Union of Crystallography, or you are not a member of your national Crystallographic Society, or the latter does not exist in your country, send your name and address to the undersigned as soon as possible. Please use English printed letters.

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Professor Arthur L. Parsons, President of the Mineralogical Society of America in 1929 and former head of the Department of Mineralogy at the University of Toronto, died on Jan. 6, 1957, at the age of 83 years.

#### ERRATUM

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The mineral name *niocalite* is misspelled twice in the annual index of Vol. 41 of this journal, on page 969, and also in the "Contents of Volume 41" on page vi, in the November-December issue for 1956.