

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, November 13, 1919

A stated meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the president, Dr. Burgin, in the chair. Twenty-four members and visitors were present.

Mr. Frank J. Keeley addressed the society on "Gem-stones." The various characters of gem-stones: specific gravity, index of refraction, double refraction, dichroism, hardness, inclusions, and absorption spectra, were briefly described. The absorption spectra of certain gems—zircon, garnet, ruby, spinel, and peridot, were shown to be characteristic, and sufficient to identify them. Hardness should never be used to test gems excepting in stones suspected of being glass, in which case it is preferable to make a test of the conductivity of heat of the stone. The iridescence in opal, labradorite, and pearls is shown by the spectroscope and polarizing microscope to be due to the interference of light caused by the succession of thin laminae. In conclusion, the speaker described imitations and synthetic stones. Forty-one watch-cases of cut stones were exhibited, and the absorption spectrum of zircon was shown with a microspectroscope.

Mr. Gordon reported a trip to a cave at Redington, on the Lehigh River, exhibiting specimens of stalactites. He reported that the langfordite crystal-stalactites in the Academy collections were practically destroyed.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

November 19, 1919

The regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the American Museum of Natural History on November 19th, with the Vice-President, Mr. George E. Ashby, presiding and an attendance of 17 members and 3 guests.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The following names were submitted to the Nominating Committee for election to membership: Mr. J. B. Erickson, of 359 Mosholu Parkway, proposed by Mr. Wintringham and seconded by Mr. Whitman; Dr. John B. Ferguson, of the research laboratory, Western Electric Co., proposed by Mr. Whitlock and seconded by Mr. Ashby.

The Recording Secretary read a letter from a photographer, offering to make a group picture of the officers and members of the Club. It was moved by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Lee, that this offer be declined with thanks; and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Recording Secretary then read a letter from Mr. Mott describing his experiences on the Columbus Day field excursion to Franklin Furnace. Mr. Broadwell and Mr. Allen related the results of their participation in the excursion. Discussion brought out the fact that 12 members of the Club

had made the Franklin trip. The Recording Secretary suggested the desirability of opening some discussion relative to available objectives for future excursions. Mr. Allen, on behalf of the Excursion Committee, pointed out that the members of that Committee had found that neighboring localities are, in general, not now available for collecting. Mr. Ashby mentioned the dumps at Tilly Foster as well worth visiting. Mr. Hoadley called attention to the localities at Chimney Rock, Bound Brook and Somerville, N. J.

The Chair then introduced the discussion of the evening, on notable specimens brought to the meeting by members of the Club. In the course of this discussion Mr. Wintringham exhibited a miscellaneous series of minerals, all of them presenting features of interest which he pointed out. Mr. Whitlock exhibited three recently acquired specimens from the Tilly Foster mine, and a large quartz crystal from a new locality in the Borough of Bronx. Mr. Hoadley showed a large suite of specimens from a number of localities in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire, the results of his collecting trips, many of which were of marked interest.

Mr. Radu showed a series of lithia minerals from Maine localities of Mt. Mica and Mt. Apatite and explained their genetic relations. Mr. Lee exhibited several minerals from Franklin Furnace, including a small vial of minute crystals which he submitted to the members for determinative comments. Mr. Ashby showed a fine series representing the Tilly Foster serpentine pseudomorphs which he had collected from the dumps several years ago, drawing the attention of the Club to the possibilities of this locality as a profitable collecting field. Mr. Stanton read a letter from Dr. Hawkins relating to the staurolite from Patrick Co., Va., a subject which had been discussed at the Club meeting of October, 1918. The Recording Secretary distributed copies of a list of the minerals occurring at Franklin Furnace, prepared by Mr. Hoadley.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary*

NEWARK MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

The December meeting of the Newark, N. J., Mineralogical Society was held at the Newark Technical School, Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 P.M., and attended by twelve members and one visitor.

The subject for study was Hematite. A splendid exhibit of about one hundred specimens of the specular, kidney and needle varieties was made. Mr. C. W. Hoadley, of Englewood, N. J., called the attention of the Society to a specimen of quartz sandstone from Gambelli's Quarry, near Alpine, N. J., in which a "vug" held minute crystals of specular iron very neatly arranged.

The topic assigned for the January meeting was: The minerals of the Tilly Foster Mine at Brewster Station, N. Y., accompanied by an exhibit of specimens.

CHARLES A. COLTON, *President*