

the upper shafts, corundum crystals may be found in boulders of disintegrating chlorite.

Aside from being a source of fine corundum crystals (a single one in the Shepard Collection at Amherst weighs 312 pounds), the deposit excited the attention of many early geologists, and its interest from a genetic point of view has not abated.

The corundum and peridotites of North Carolina have been described in detail in the admirable monograph of Pratt and Lewis.¹ The corundum veins consisted largely of chlorite and corundum, or locally of corundum-bearing plagioclase. In passing from an interior vein to the dunite, the following zones were encountered: 1. green chlorites; 2. grayish enstatite or anthophyllite, more probably the latter; 3. fibrous talc; 4. weathered dunite; and 5. normal dunite. Similar zones were found in the border veins.

Pratt and Lewis regarded the corundum deposits as magmatic segregations. However ingenious their theory, it may be regarded as untenable. The present writer² believes them to represent pegmatites intruded within or along the contact of the peridotite, and to owe their peculiar mineralogical composition to the reaction which occurred between the pegmatite solutions and the dunite, whereby the pegmatite was depleted of most of its silica, which was used in the formation of the chlorites and the minerals of the contact zones.

THE GEM MOUNTS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *American Museum of Natural History*

In the course of planning the installation of the Tiffany-Morgan Collection of gem stones, in the new Morgan Memorial Hall of the American Museum of Natural History, the problem of the effective display of cut gem stones was presented for solution.

In the former installation of this Collection the familiar type of wire mount, clamping the girdle of the stone, and terminating

¹ Joseph Hyde Pratt and J. Volney Lewis: Corundum and the peridotites of North Carolina. *N. C. Geol. Survey*, **1**, 1905.

² Desilicated granitic pegmatites. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 169-192, 1921.

in a pin for fastening the mount upright on the horizontal background was used. This device was open to criticism on several points. It permitted the display of too much metal, which materially detracted from the effective display of the stone, especially where many small stones were mounted in a close grouping. In this case the installation presented the appearance of a small forest of wires surmounted by the stones displayed, the latter being eclipsed by the preponderance of metal. Moreover the tightness of the clamp which held the stone in place formed a strong spring which tended to "shoot" the stone out of its mounting.

After some experimenting a group of seven types of *glass* mounts was devised to accommodate the display of gem stones ranging in weight from 500 to $\frac{1}{2}$ carats. These were made, in the case of the five larger types, of thin glass rods cross braced, and remarkably strong for such fragile material. The two smaller types were constructed in the form of steep cones, and were even stronger to resist vertical pressure. In the instance of the four smaller types, the mounts ended in steel pins, to be driven into the wood of the supporting case bottom by a slight pressure, after the manner of a "push pin."

Because a certain amount of originality in the use of glass for this purpose is claimed for these supports, the writer takes this occasion to designate the series, a sketch of which is shown in Fig. I, as the "gem mounts of the American Museum of Natural History."

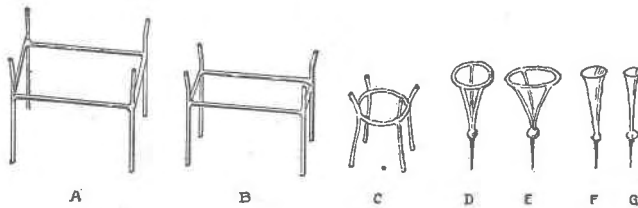


FIG. 1. Glass Gem Mounts of the American Museum

In all instances the stone is held in place by its weight alone; it was found to be unnecessary to attach it to the mount by any adhesive substance, such as Canada balsam, a distinct advantage, as the stone can be removed for test or comparison without disturbing the position of the mount in the case.

The chief advantage over the old form of gem mount, however, lies in the fact that the American Museum gem mounts are practically invisible. The stone so mounted has the appearance of floating in space above the supporting background, and it is necessary to examine them closely in order to detect the glass rods of the larger mounts or the tiny glass cones of the smaller ones.

This is in accordance with the idea which has been followed throughout the installation of the Morgan Memorial Hall, of emphasizing the specimens by rendering unobtrusive all the surroundings of them. Throughout the installation, cases, backgrounds, mounts and supports are merged into the general tone of the walls and ceiling, so that the eye is not diverted to unimportant accessories.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, September 14, 1922

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Nineteen members were present.

The following names were presented for membership in the society: Messrs. E. P. Wilkins, and James Henry Wilkinson. The following officers were nominated for the term 1922-1923; President, Mr. George Vaux, Jr.; Vice-President, Mr. Harry W. Trudell; Treasurer, Mr. Harry A. Warford; Secretary, Mr. Samuel G. Gordon.

Reports of summer trips constituted the program of the evening. Mr. Frederick Oldach gave an interesting account of a trip taken with Mrs. Oldach, and Messrs. Biernbaum and Hoadley to Bedford and Tilly Foster, N. Y., and Branchville and Middletown, Conn. Many fine specimens of rose quartz, beryl, and tourmaline were exhibited. Mr. Gordon reported on a trip to Avery, Mitchell, and Macon Counties, North Carolina, exhibiting specimens of transparent, bluish-green, aquamarine-like oligoclase, from Plumtree, Avery County, N. C. Mr. Boyle spoke of his trip to Unionville, Beryl Hill, and Poorhouse quarry, with Messrs. Frankenfield, Chalfont, Knabe, Trudell, Jones, and Biernbaum. Mr. Biernbaum described a trip taken with Mr. Hoadley to the Harlem ship canal, Hoboken, and Snake Hill. Mr. Vanartsdalen reported finding excellent amphibole asbestos at Easton, Pa. Mr. Frankenfield gave an account of a trip to Cornwall, Pa., with Messrs. Boyle and Gordon, exhibiting a specimen of yellow barite crystals on calcite from that locality.

Mr. Horace Blank presented an interesting report of the Society's excursion, August 31 to September 5, to Branchville, East Hampton, and Middletown, Connecticut, which was participated in by the following nine members: Messrs.