

BOOK REVIEW

THE TOURMALINE GROUP. By R. V. Dietrich. Published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1985. Hardcover, xiii, 300 pages, 8 color plates. \$34.95.

This very useful contribution about the tourmaline group successfully refines a large amount of information from diverse fields into a book with a very readable style. It is this type of book in which a reader can rapidly gain much of the background necessary for a solid understanding of tourmaline or can readily refer to specific aspects of tourmaline. This book is also of interest because it summarizes the long and varied history of tourmaline including such aspects as its development as a gemstone, its interest to mineral collectors, its role in the development of hypotheses on heat, electricity, and magnetism, and its utility as a navigational device.

This book draws on information from more than 2500 publications in chemistry, crystallography, gemology, geology, metallurgy, mineralogy, pedology, and physics. The bibliography has nearly 1000 entries (primarily before 1981). In addition, there are three useful appendixes that include information on tourmaline forms and interfacial angles, ideal midpoint tourmaline analyses, and localities of noteworthy tourmaline specimens. The book contains many illustrations that compliment the text. There are also eight color plates predominantly of gem tourmalines that, although they may not be the quality of photographs from publications such as *Mineralogical Record*, certainly add much to the impact of the book. Despite the comprehensive literature base, the text has been written so that mineral collectors and students as well as professional mineralogists and petrologists can develop a broader appreciation for tourmaline.

The main body of the work consists of 11 chapters that cover (1) nomenclature, (2) symmetry and morphological crystallography, (3) crystal structure, (4) chemistry and alteration, (5) in-

clusions and intergrowths, (6) color and optical properties, (7) physical properties, (8) synthesis, (9) uses and recovery, (10) tourmaline as a gemstone and in the decorative arts, and (11) occurrence and genesis. These topics are covered in more depth than merely duplicating the data and plots generated in previous papers. Based on published and unpublished data from the extensive background literature, a number of new compilation diagrams of crystallographic parameters and chemical data of "good" tourmaline analyses are included. In addition, there are attempts to correct misconceptions that have crept into the literature (especially those concerning the nomenclature of tourmaline). Furthermore, throughout the text there are a number of personal observations and anecdotes from many years of interest in the subject that contribute to the informal style of the book. Finally, Dietrich has offered suggestions for further research.

Perhaps the most serious drawback of the book is the paucity of post-1980 literature that is used. Nonetheless, there was an attempt to cover a few selected recent papers on tourmaline. Another unfortunate feature is the brevity of the chapter on occurrences and genesis. Even though an extensive coverage of this topic would "treble" the size of the book, a more expanded version certainly would be useful. In terms of errors, there are a few typographical errors and repetitive discussions in the text and bibliography, but they do not appreciably detract from the book.

In summary, this book is a very readable storehouse of information on tourmaline that should be included on the shelves of crystallographers, mineralogists, petrologists, gemologists, or mineral collectors with any interest in tourmaline.

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ERRATA

Thalenite from Arizona by Joan Fitzpatrick and Adolf Pabst (v. 71, p. 188–193). Page 190, right column, 10 lines above the bottom of the page, should read *appends*, not *appendix*.

Proceedings of the Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America in Orlando, Florida. Report of the Financial Advisory Committee for 1985 (v. 71, p. 860–861). Two numbers are incorrect in Table 3 (Crystallography Fund).

The correct numbers are Government securities—\$2600.00 and Liberty Cash Management—\$772.00. Two numbers are incorrect in Table 4 (Mineralogy-Petrology Fund). The correct numbers are Government securities—\$2600.00 and Liberty Cash Management—\$924.00. **List of 1986 Officers and Committees** (v. 71, p. 867–868). Under the heading "MSA Representatives on IMA Commissions," Pete J. Dunn should have been listed as the representative to the IMA Commission on New Minerals and New Mineral Names instead of F. C. Hawthorne.