

SHORTER COMMUNICATIONS

SODALITE FROM LATIUM, ITALY MISLABELLED "LAZURITE"

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Specimens from Laticum, Italy, labelled "Lazurite" or "Lapis Lazuli", found their way into mineral collections throughout the world following the publication of the Sixth Edition of Dana's "System of Mineralogy" in 1892. The Redpath Museum collection, for example, includes specimens from all five of the lazurite localities listed in this edition. Dana described the Laticum lazurite as being found "in limestone inclusions in the peperino of Laticum" (Dana 1892, p. 433) and gave as reference J. Strüver's article, "Die Mineralien Latiums", which was published in Volume I of the *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie und Mineralogie* (Strüver 1877).

Our recent studies of Redpath Museum lazurites included specimen 2919F, which appears to be typical of that described by Strüver and Dana as Laticum lazurite. However, it turns out to be sodalite, as shown in Table 1.

Although such material does not appear to have been offered for sale in recent years, it is probable that a number of older collections still have specimens of a blue mineral from Laticum

mislabelled "lazurite". In catalogues and on specimen labels the locality may be given as: Ariccia, Rome; Larricia, near Albano; or, the Albano Hills near Rome. It is suggested that curators of collections containing specimens acquired shortly after the publication of the 1892 Dana, check the identification of "lazurite" from the Laticum location.

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TABLE 1. CRYSTAL DATA OF "LAZURITE" SAMPLE FROM LATIUM, ITALY, COMPARED WITH LITERATURE DATA OF SODALITE AND LAZURITE

	"Lazurite", 2919F (Redpath Museum)	Sodalite	Lazurite=sulphur-rich haüyne†
	On the basis of 12(Al+Si)*		
Formula written as cell content	(Na _{6.97} Cl _{1.01} Ca _{0.01} Fe _{0.01}) _{Σ=8} (Al _{6.26} Si _{5.74}) _{Σ=12} (O _{23.45} Cl _{0.55}) _{Σ=24} (Cl _{1.28} □ _{0.72}) _{Σ=2}	Na ₈ (Al ₆ Si ₆) ₂₄ Cl ₂	(Na,Ca) ₈ (Al ₆ Si ₆) ₂₄ (S,SO ₄ ,Cl) ₂
D(measured)	2.26 g/cm ³	2.27-2.33 g/cm ³ †	2.38-2.45 g/cm ³ **
D(calculated)	2.225 g/cm ³	2.273-2.335 g/cm ³	
n	1.490(5) (white light)	1.483-1.487†	1.496-1.505 (Haüyne†)
α(Å)	8.857(5) at 20°C	8.91-8.83††	9.08†††
Space group	F43m	F43m††	F43m(?)†††

*Calculated from electron probe analysis which gave the following weight per cent oxides to ±4%: SiO₂ 36.38, Al₂O₃ 33.74, Na₂O 22.81, FeO 0.07, CaO 0.03, K₂O 0.01, Cl⁻ 6.87, S⁰ 0.01, total 98.38 after correction for anions.

**Dana (1892) †Deer, Howie & Zussman (1962) ††Donnay & Ondik (1973) †††Strunz (1970)